

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland

**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman

**Clerk**  
Bryant Hammond



**Nome Common Council**  
Jerald Brown  
Scot Henderson  
Doug Johnson  
Mark Johnson  
Adam Martinson  
M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL**  
**WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022 at 5:30 / 7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL

102 Division St. ▪ P.O. Box 281 ▪ Nome, Alaska 99762 ▪ Phone (907) 443-6663 ▪ Fax (907) 443-5345

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**WORK SESSION - 5:30 PM**

A. Discussion on Ad Valorem Assessments in the City of Nome.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Scot Henderson; Doug Johnson; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Sigvanna Tapaqa

Members Absent:

Also Present: Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (Teams); Joy Baker, Port Director (Teams)

In the audience: Diana Haecker (Nome Nugget); Tracey Buie; Kaitlyn Sebwenna-Painter; Kirstin Timbers

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by M. Johnson to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to amend the agenda by adding "F. Emergency Services Support" to New Business.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapqaq; Brown;  
Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapqaq;  
Brown

Nay:  
Abstain:

The motion, as amended, **CARRIED**.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. July 25, 2022 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.
- B. August 10, 2022 Nome Common Council Special Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and C. Tapqaq to approve the minutes.

At the roll call:  
Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapqaq; Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson

Nay:  
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Memo of August 5, 2022 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: NCO Chapter Regarding Sales Tax Audits.
- B. Letter of August 12, 2022 from 2nd Chance Modifications Co to City of Nome Leadership re: Invitation to Homecoming for Bryce Warnke-Green.
- C. Letter of August 12, 2022 from Tom Vaden to Nome Common Council re: Failure of the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department (NVAD).

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

1. Kirstin Timbers provided a copy of her letter to the editor in the Nome Nugget and discussed it. She related a situation in which she stopped to assist someone having seizures on Front St. Despite calls to dispatch, no ambulance came. Ms. Timbers had to drive the patient to the ER herself. She expressed gratitude for the volunteers of the ambulance department, but opined that the volunteer department running the ambulance was no longer the best option.
2. Tracie Buie spoke about the ambulance service and discussed two situations she had recently heard of where an ambulance never showed up. She expressed concern that patients were not told that an ambulance was not coming. She asked the City consider how to respond to ambulance calls and make callers aware if an ambulance is not coming.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. O-22-07-02 An Ordinance of the Nome Common Council, Nome, Alaska, Adding Chapter 15.100 Abuse of 911 System to the Nome Code of Ordinances, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:11 PM.

Public Hearing

- Jim West Jr., Nome Emergency Services, discussed a number of people in town that have abused the system. He supported the ordinance in general as it put another tool in the toolbox to address the issue.

The Council reconvened at 7:12 PM.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to adopt O-22-07-02.

Discussion:

- Council Member Tapqaq asked if there was a report the Council was waiting for.
- Manager Steckman described the discretion the Department would have. He discussed the situation that is making people abuse the system, which leads to slower or no response from volunteers.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Tapqaq; Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

B. R-22-08-01 A Resolution Allocating the 2021 NSEDC End-Year Community Benefit Share Funds.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-22-08-01.

Discussion:

- Mayor Handeland summarized the current status of the pool repair project.

At the roll call:

Aye: Tapqaq; Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

C. R-22-08-02 A Resolution of the City of Nome Authorizing the City Manager to Increase the Bounty on Junk Vehicles Disposed of Through U Call, We Haul.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Tapqaq to adopt R-22-08-02.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman explained the reasoning for the increase.
- Council Member Henderson and Manager Steckman discussed the 12 bounties paid out so far.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson;  
Tapqaq

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. R-22-08-04 A Resolution Designation September 2022 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the City of Nome, Alaska.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to adopt R-22-08-04.

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapqaq;  
Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-22-08-05 A Resolution of the City of Nome, Alaska Providing for the Issuance of a Utility Revenue Anticipation Note of the City in the Aggregate Principal Amount of not to Exceed \$7,760,000 to Finance the Purchase of Diesel Fuel for the Nome Joint Utility System, Authorizing the Sale of the Note by Negotiation, and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Security Agreement Providing a Security Interest for the Purchaser of the Note.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-22-08-05.

### Discussion

- Council Member Henderson asked if the rate of 3 percent was fixed.
- Council Member Brown asked about the language concerning an addition of 5 percent.
- Mayor Handeland explained that increased rate was only in the case of default and the interest was 3 percent fixed.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapqaq; Brown;  
Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-22-08-06 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Contract Amendment No. 3 with PND Engineers, Inc., to Facilitate 95% Design Level to Completion for the Local Service Facilities within the Port of Nome Modifications Project and Arctic Port Expansion.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to adopt R-22-08-06.

Discussion:

- Port Director Baker discussed and advised the funds were ready as of July 1, 2022.
- Council Member Henderson clarified the \$1.1 million was in addition to the \$2.9 million already approved.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapqaq; Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. R-22-08-07 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with PND Engineers, Inc., to Facilitate Subcontractor Services to Prepare an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) Application Required to Allow for Solicitation and Construction of the Port of Nome Modifications Project and Arctic Port Expansion.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-22-08-07.

Discussion:

- Port Director Baker noted the permit was a requirement of the Corps to obtain. She noted this is considered work in kind for the City cost-share agreement with the Corps.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Tapqaq; Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson;

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. R-22-08-08 A Resolution Designating Bryant Hammond as Acting City Manager for September 14 to 25, 2022.

A motion was made by C. Tapqaq and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-22-08-08.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman noted he would be attending the ICMA Conference.

At the roll call:

Aye: Tapqaq; Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson;  
Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

F. Emergency Services Support.

- Council Member Henderson H discussed the position that was funded a few years back but never filled. He opined a support position might assist the volunteer departments. He explained he didn't mean to change any current levels of authority, but someone that could serve as a business manager for the departments.
- Manager Steckman responded, contending that there were inaccuracies in Mr. Vaden's letter and that there were a lot of things going on in the ambulance department. He opined that the problems the ambulance came down to the alcohol problem on Front St., which he described. He discussed the offer from the hospital to take over the ambulance department. He discussed various aspects of the ambulance department, public perception of the department and some of the challenges.
- Chief West explained the staffing – the part time tech and the current roster of volunteers.
- Manager Steckman discussed volunteer dynamics and a decreasing call volume. He discussed rules for the front of City Hall and use of the bathrooms in City Hall.
- Council Member Mark Johnson asked what changed.
- Mayor Handeland explained that most people are fed up with picking up the same person again and again.
- Manager Steckman discussed SAFR grants and the emergency services support position.
- Council Member MJ advocated again for community service officer recruitment.
- Mayor Handeland suggested approaching Kira Eckenweiller to discuss treatment.
- Council Member Tapqaq suggested a work session.
- Council Member Henderson noted his first instinct was to see if NSHC could do a better job. He recommended the City put the position out to hire right away to get a handle on the issue.
- Council Member Mark Johnson said he supported the solution but he didn't know what that was.
- Council Member Doug Johnson noted it wouldn't be solved around the table. He suggested staff getting a functional model together and bring it back to the Council.
- Council Member Brown discussed the blowback from the departments when the position was introduced the first time. He opined the service should be performed by the hospital as it is a health care function.
- Manager Steckman and Council Member Brown discussed specifics that would have to be addressed if the service were passed to NSHC.

**UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

A. Activity Report: August 9 - 19, 2022.

- Assistant Utility Manager Morton presented his verbal report, discussing fuel prices and the upcoming fuel lift. He discussed the process of cleaning the sewage lagoon sludge. He discussed recent meetings raising the possibility of a micro nuclear reactor sited in Nome. He noted the Utility Board's interest in learning more and pursuing an economic study. He noted a third meeting scheduled for the last Monday of the month at the University.
- Council Member Brown discussed a study about 10 - 15 years ago looking at alternative sources of energy. He opined Gwen Holdman was a good resource.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: July 26 - August 19, 2022.
- Manager Steckman presented his written report, highlighting a recent hazmat training for public works and partner agencies around town. He discussed the HVAC repair project for City Hall, which is at 65% design. He noted the pricing is far higher than what was budgeted three years ago. He reminded the Council and the Public about the Nova Gold meeting on Friday.
  - Council Member Henderson thanked staff's help in setting the public notice for the Nova Gold meeting and expressed his appreciation for Cole's Crews's work on the Visitor Center Building.
- B. 2022 (& Updated 2021) Abatement Report.
- The Council set the abatement hearing for September 12, 2022.
- C. May 19, 2022 Nome Port Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.
- D. Nome Port Commission Motion of July 28, 2022 Recommending the Council Request Corps take Congressional Action to Permanently Authorize East/West Harbor Bulkheads & Dredging Portion as Federal Infrastructure.
- Council Member Brown discussed and noted the district was waiting on a letter from the City.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to direct staff to request the U.S. Corps of Engineers to pursue congressional action authorizing east / west harbor bulkheads & dredging portion as federal infrastructure.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson;  
Tapqaq

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

*none given*

**COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

1. Council Member Henderson – no comments.
2. Council Member Doug Johnson – no comments.
3. Council Member Mark Johnson – no comments.
4. Council Member Martinson – no comments.

- 5. Council Member Tapqaq reminded the Council and the Public there was a lunch time panel on how to run for and the duties of public office in Nome, held at Northwest Campus.
- 6. Council Member Brown – no comments.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: August 9 - 19, 2022.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Discussion of Personnel Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which Could Have Adverse Impacts on City of Nome Finances.
- B. Discussion of Legal Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which Could Have Adverse Effects on City of Nome Finances.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and C. Brown to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters the immediate knowledge of which could have adverse effects on City of Nome finances.

The Council entered into executive session at 8:58 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 9:34 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 9:34 PM.

**APPROVED and SIGNED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022

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**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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**BRYANT HAMMOND**  
Clerk