

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
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022 at 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

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Doug Johnson (excused); Sigvanna Tapqaq (excused); Paris Hebel (excused)

Also Present: Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (telephonic); Mike Heintzleman, Police Chief; Cliff McHenry, Building Inspector

In the audience: Diana Haecker (Nome Nugget); Rhonda Schneider; Sean Milligan; Paul Kosto; Stephanie Nielson; Jessica Farley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to amend the agenda by removing Unfinished Business A.

At the roll call:
Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Brown; Henderson
Nay:
Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:
Aye: Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Brown
Nay:
Abstain:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. June 27, 2022 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Brown; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Email Chain Between Clerk Hammond & Tina Yi Ending June 30 , 2022 re: SJ Gold Tax Forgiveness.
- The Council asked and Clerk Hammond answered questions about the personal / business property account.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to waive the tax billings for the years after the asset was sold, specifically 2020, 2021, and 2022.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Brown; Henderson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. Letter of July 8, 2022 from Nome Rotary Club to City Council re: Thank You for Support at East End Park.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Stephanie Nielson explained to the Council a recent ambulance call was toned out 6 times and no volunteers showed up. She explained there was a group of "power users" that has burned out volunteer responders by abusing the system, calling for non-emergent situations. She noted that responders no longer show up to calls for "chest pains" in the Council members' demographic in the vicinity of City Hall. She suggested paid responders as a means of not burning out volunteers. She suggested a two-week on, two-week off schedule with scheduled hours during the day and on call at night might work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. R-22-06-05 A Resolution Approving a Contract Between the Nome Chamber of Commerce and the City of Nome of Operation of the Nome Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

Removed from the agenda

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-22-07-01 An Ordinance of the Nome Common Council, Nome, Alaska, Temporarily Suspending Certain Fees for Building, Remodel, Mechanical and Electrical Permits for Projects with Values Under \$500,000, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to advance O-22-07-01.

Discussion:

- Council Member Henderson asked what circumstances this ordinance would address that the three housing ordinances do not.
- Council Member Brown explained that the other ordinances addressed rentals only. His intention was to address business and owner occupied housing. He noted this would also stimulate residents in using the permitting process.
- Manager Steckman noted that would-be builders would need still to obtain a permit, despite not having to pay for them.
- Council Member Henderson asked about the character of the permits, whether they were small or big commercial. He noted he supported the intent, as it would incentivize fixing properties up. He asked the fiscal impact.
- Manager Steckman noted the ordinance would decrease revenue by \$50,000 - \$60,000.
- Council Member Brown explained the reasoning behind the expiration date.
- Council Member Henderson suggested no expiration date at all, seeing no need for it.
- Manager Steckman suggested re-examining incentives to determine if the policy goals are being met. He noted that fees helped fund the code enforcement and planning functions of City government. He discussed expenses incurred by the City and suggested keeping an expiration date on the ordinance.
- Council Member Henderson asked if there were other non-monetary challenges and suggested removing all barriers to improving properties. He argued that the ordinance would theoretically be improving the tax base.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- B. R-22-07-01 A Resolution of the City of Nome Supporting Co-Applicant Nome Community Center's Homeplate Nome, LLC Application for Community Development Block Grant Funding.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-22-07-01.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-22-07-02 A Resolution Approving A Contract with Legislative Consultants in Alaska (LCIA) for State Lobbying Services for the Fiscal Year 2023.

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

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to amend R-22-07-02 by changing \$75,000 to \$85,000.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Brown; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

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

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: June 28 - July 8, 2022.

none given

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: June 28 - July 8, 2022.

- Manager Steckman gave his verbal report noting the City would begin to address abatement again. He noted that some of the properties have been on the abatement list for years and the City is determining whether or not to bid out to local contractors.
- Council Member Mark Johnson asked if the opportunity is given to the property owner to abate it themselves.
- Council Member Henderson clarified the overall approach and asked what happens to the property next.
- Manager Steckman explained a lien would attach and that in some communities they would go up for sale. He noted the City tries to work with the property owners, citing the new ordinances.
- Council Member Henderson expressed concern over the City abating properties and not getting reimbursed, setting the City up for people to repeat the pattern.

- Manager Steckman noted the crew stained the mini and it didn't come out the color he expected and noted that they would try a darker color. He discussed a full time EMT, saying that the City was almost at the point of being big enough for a paid department. He noted issues brought up at Citizens' Comments and discussed some of the frequent flyers, not necessarily the Front St folks, and the possibility of implementing ordinances to penalize the abuse of ambulance services. Manager Steckman noted that with previous municipalities he has worked in, the hospital set up a ride service to get these folks to the hospital. He discussed options for paid EMTs and the schedules. He noted the call out fees were increased this year for the first time in a decade. Manager Steckman discussed a different schedule of fees to incentivize people taking calls. He noted the lack of interest to merge the fire and ambulance departments. He also discussed a service fee structure whereby no payment, no service.
- Council Member Henderson, suggesting this is a critical issue, requested a work session to address it.
- Manager Steckman asked for time to discuss with the Chief and get back to the Council.
- Council Member Brown suggested Manager Steckman report back to the Council in August.
- Council Member Mark Johnson said he'd support it, asking for the hospital and their substance abuse staff to attend. He discussed the complicated nature of the issue.
- Council Member Hendereson suggested focusing on the ambulance crew for the time being.
- Manager Steckman agreed with Council Member Johnson saying the issue needed a holistic approach and discussed some of the issues in enacting an ordinance that penalized abuse of the 911 system.
- Manager Steckman discussed the City's strategy to fill the basketball needs in Nome and current discussions with the Nome Winter Sports Association on moving the ice rink to its new location.
- Council Member Henderson asked about progress or follow up after the AMCO meeting on package store restrictions.
 - Manager Steckman noted that the AMCO board has kicked the issue back to the licensees to sit down with the City to discuss options. He suggested a meeting would occur sometime before the end of July.
- Council Member Brown noted the lack of a work session related to the election process. He opined it was too late for it this year, again, but he would still like to see one. He asked if the City could expand the number of precincts in Nome and what the process would be. He expressed hopes that there would be several work sessions with this one focused primarily on brainstorming ways to make the election process better. He explained his goals were to increase participation in the voting and serving processes.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Rhonda Schneider asked if the City could do something about the trash that remained in people's yards after the Spring Clean up.
2. Sean Milligan noted that he was leaving KNOM and commended the Council on their work, doing their best for the people of Nome.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Mark Johnson – no comments.
2. Council Member Martinson – no comments.

3. Council Member Brown noted the City normally does a fall clean up, saying any residual trash could be dealt with then. He noted that at some point in the past, NSHC had proposed taking over the ambulance department. He suggested finding a copy of the proposal to review, noting the primary reason the City didn't agree before is that it would have precluded the receipt of a large grant. He suggested the Planning Commission reviewing the permitting process to identify efficiencies and streamline it.
 - Manager Steckman discussed the new permitting software, noting the process had already been streamlined somewhat.
4. Council Member Henderson opined that Council Member Brown wasn't acting like a lame duck. He wished good luck to Sean in his future endeavors. He noted some positive feedback on the new online process, discussing the growing pains in improving processes.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: June 28 - July 8, 2022.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters the immediate knowledge of which may have adverse impacts on city finances.

The Council entered into executive session at 8:13 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 8:28 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 8:28 PM.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 27th day of July 2022

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk