

**MINUTES  
NOME CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 22, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 7:03 PM by Mayor Richard Beneville in Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Mark Johnson (telephonically); Doug Johnson; Adam Martinson; Jennifer Reader; Meghan Topkok

Members Absent:

Also Present: Richard Beneville, Mayor; John Handeland, Acting City Manager; Bryant Hammond City Clerk; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager; Joe Horton, Public Works Director; Julie Liew, Finance Director

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Sandra Medearis (Arctic News); Lisa Ellanna; Darlene Trigg; Brandon Ahmasuk; Keith Morrison; Triada Stampas, (ACLU of AK); Dani & Shane Smithhisler; Austin Ahmasuk; Adeline Ahmasuk

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Beneville asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

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

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader; Topkok; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. April 8, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the April 8, 2019 minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Letter of April 17, 2019 from AMCO to Local Governments re: Change of Regulations Concerning Local Government Protests.
- Council Member Reader asked if the new regulations changed any processes at the City.
  - Manager Handeland explained that it didn't change the City of Nome processes; rather, it clarified the AMCO process of granting licenses in light of conditional protests made by municipalities.
- B. Letter of April 18, 2019 from Nome Community Center to Nome City Council re: XYZ Kitchen Renovation.
- Council Member Reader asked if the request was part of the capital improvement budget.
  - Manager Handeland explained that Nome Community Center had requested NSEDC funds for kitchen maintenance at the XYZ Center. At the January meeting, administration suggested funding the repairs through the general fund, as XYZ is a City-owned building.
- C. Flyer re: Pathways & Parks Project Summary.
- Council Member Reader asked if the flyer was just informational.
  - Clerk Hammond explained the project process to the Council.
  - Manager Handeland characterized the effort as mapping hot spots and the routes in between.
- D. City of Nome FY 2020 Budget Calendar.
- E. Flyer re: City of Nome 2019 U-Call, We Haul.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- 1) Darlene Trigg expressed concern that ACLU's correspondence concerning O-19-02-02 was not included in the packet and that there was a lack of documentation on the proposed amendments.
- 2) Lisa Ellanna also expressed concern the correspondence from ACLU was not included. She stated that she agrees with the amendments proposed by the ACLU and that she disagrees with City Attorney Brooks Chandler's edits.
- 3) Triada Stampas of the ACLU of Alaska distributed her letter again.

### **PLANNING & ZONING**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. O-19-02-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.30 of the Nome Code of Ordinances to Create a Public Safety Commission, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:23 PM.

Discussion:

- Darlene Trigg expressed her appreciation for the work session on April 16, 2019 and stated the ordinance will bring the community together and help avoid future situations Nome found itself in last summer. She suggested striving to include people who have experience working with victims on the commission and stressed the importance of commissioners receiving adequate training.
- Triada Stampas of ACLU-AK thanked the Common Council and expressed her appreciation for the changes already made or underway. She went through amendments one by one suggesting that events from the summer of 2018 may have been different had the ordinance with her suggested amendments been in place.
- Manager Handeland thought the meeting went well; though felt the Anchorage Daily News article characterized the tone as not nice.
- Mayor Beneville noted that domestic violence was not gender specific; men, though to a lesser extent, are also abused.
- Lisa Ellanna reiterated her agreement with the ACLU's proposed amendments and disagreement with the City of Nome administration's proposed amendments.
- Keith Morrison noted that the ACLU proposed amendments were in line current research and efforts elsewhere in the country.
- Adeline Ahmasuk explained that a peace circle might be beneficial to the City of Nome and gave the community of Kake as a model for the peace circle process.
- Manager Handeland took down her phone number for additional information.

The Council reconvened at 7:36 PM.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. D. Johnson to postpone 0-19-02-02 to the May 13, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Discussion:

- Council Member Brown requested the substitute ordinance be emailed to interested parties. He noted his disappointment in the ordinance not being ready, but opined that it was important to get it right.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Reader; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

B. 0-19-03-01 An Ordinance Amending Section 17.20.020 Exemptions, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:43 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:43 PM.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt 0-19-03-01.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. D. Johnson to amend O-19-03-01 by striking "Whereas, declaration of value of snow machines and ATVs is done on the honor system with uneven participation and poor enforcement resulting in unfairly taxing the honest few while ignoring the dishonest majority; and."

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader opined the recital was mean spirited and didn't belong in the ordinance and stated the need for a comprehensive discussion on personal property taxation.
- Council Member Doug Johnson concurred.
- Council Member Brown suggested eliminating the exemption for aircraft, but creating an exemption for property designated for personal use.

At the roll call:

Aye: Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion:

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. D. Johnson to postpone O-19-03-01 to the June 24, 2019 Regular Meeting.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader

Nay: Brown; Topkok

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

**UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

A. Activity Report: April 9 – April 19, 2019.

- Assistant Utility Manager Morton presented his written report highlighting the NJUS App as available and running, another potential geothermal project at Pilgrim Hotsprings, and a recent school delay caused by a water outage.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

A. Activity Report: April 9 – April 19, 2019.

- Manager Handeland noted that more budget work sessions were around the corner and that Mayor Beneville did great at his recent TV appearance. He noted that Public Works would soon be retrieving the wooden school bus stops as they were becoming an attractive nuisance for both children and adults. Manager Handeland congratulated Jamie Burgess on being hired as the new Superintendent for Nome Public Schools,

opining that she is an asset to the community. He summarized the memo from NPD Chief Estes concerning the ongoing sexual assault case audit.

B. Departmental Quarterly Reports.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

1. Austin Ahmasuk stated that he had been bringing up the issue of dust in Nome since 2008 and that he had received a recent response from DEC concerning dust. He stated the issue is in the City's lap, though he had little faith in it getting addressed. He argued that ruins equipment and gets into people's houses and affects their health.
2. Sandra Medearis asked for clarification on statistics of the sexual assault case audit occurring at NPD.
  - Manager Handeland noted he would follow up.
3. Emily Hofstaedter asked for an update on body cams and the NPD Operations and Procedures Manual.
  - Manager Handeland noted the body cams were up and running and the public copy of the OPM was available at the Clerk's Office.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

- 1) Council Member Doug Johnson – no comments.
- 2) Council Member Mark Johnson stated that he was glad there were more budget work sessions ahead and asked that more time be scheduled for them in the future. He expressed discomfort with statistics from NPD and information coming from the Public Works department and suggested the information be discussed further during the budgeting process.
- 3) Council Member Martinson – no comments.
- 4) Council Member Reader asked if the ACLU comments were required to be in the packet and requested a work session on dust control.
  - Manager Handeland noted that he was unaware of the discussions going on between the Planning Commission and DEC concerning dust since November. He noted that the City had already spent \$40,000 - \$50,000 on calcium chloride attempting to address the problem. He noted that vacant private lots also contributed significantly to the issue.
- 5) Council Member Topkok requested a work session with the Planning Commission on snow removal and dust control as they seemed to be recurring issues. She stated she was looking forward to the substitute ordinance to O-19-02-02 and the discussion on exemptions.
- 6) Council Member Brown clarified the NPD memo and noted his disappointment in the two ordinances on the agenda not yet being fully addressed.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

A. Activity Report: April 9 – April 19, 2019.

- Mayor Beneville suggested timing the dust mitigating water application to roads be coordinated with the times of peak traffic so as to increase its efficacy and noted that Nome has many large open areas and areas that have previously been mined that can produce airborne dust.
- Mayor Beneville discussed the Port of Nome, noting the Port will not be the only arctic port, but will be the first of many as momentum gathers in the region.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Martinson that the meeting be adjourned.

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 8:41 PM

**APPROVED and SIGNED** this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2019.

---

**JERALD BROWN**  
Acting Mayor

**ATTEST:**

---

**BRYANT HAMMOND**  
City Clerk