

**MINUTES
NOME PLANNING COMMISSION
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Nome Planning Commission was called to order at 7:05PM by Chairman Hughes in Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sue Steinacher; Kenneth Hughes III; Mathew Michels; Carol Piscoya; John Odden; Gregory Smith.

Members Absent: Sara Lizak (excused)

Also Present: Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Christine Piscoya, Deputy City Clerk; Eileen Bechtol, City Planner.

In the audience: James Mason, Nome Nugget Newspaper

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Hughes asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

A motion was made by C. Michels and seconded by C. Odden to approve the agenda.

At the roll call:

Aye: Hughes; Michels; Piscoya; Odden; Smith; Steinacher

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

A. Historic Preservation Commission Activities.

- Commissioner Steinacher stated it would be good to have a meeting with the King Island Elders to gain their stories and history for the King Island signage project. When the timing is right, she will meet with the elders, when it is safe.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Vacant Property Information.

- Deputy City Clerk Piscoya stated she has found an application and the ordinance for the vacant property registration.
- Commissioner Steinacher asked for the purpose of having an ordinance, to register a property and who is following up with this list.
- Chairman Hughes replied that it was to have the most recent property owner or who is managing the property so that in the event, someone could be contacted.

- Building Inspector Barron read the ordinance out loud to show what is considered a vacant property.
- Commissioner Smith suggested that if there is no enforcement than to change the ordinance and turn it into a \$50 property tax break if a property owner registers their property as vacant.
- City Manager Steckman explained that if the property owner could make the property livable, to tear it down, or to make it sellable to open up more housing options. CM Steckman stated the commission needs to focus on what is the priority to go after abated properties or to enforce vacant properties to get registered.
- Commissioner Smith explained that they are two separate issues and should be addressed separately; it comes down to safety.
- Commissioner Odden explained that the vacant property should be handled carefully because the City should not be telling property owners what to do with their vacant properties as long as the owner is maintaining their property.
- Chairman Hughes reiterated that there is no consequence for not complying with the vacant property registration; he suggested that the intent needs clarified before enforcing an ordinance. The main goal is to get the property owners contact information on file with the City in the event of safety issues.
- Deputy City Clerk Piscoya suggested that since assessments and tax bills have to go out why not add this vacant property registration in the documents to see what kind of compliance the city would even get for registration of vacant properties. 2021 could be a trial run and then in 2022 the ordinance could be revamped and try to enforce the non-compliance registration.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. City Planner Report.
- B. City Manager Report.
- Chairman Hughes asked for the status on the Over the Counter Sales language, if it had been sent to the city attorneys.
- City Manager Steckman replied that it had been sent to the City Attorney.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

- 1) Commissioner Michels appreciates how well the work session went, is an interesting topic of vacant property registration and thank you to city staff.
- 2) Commissioner Piscoya thanked city staff and would like to know more information so that the vacant property registration can work.
- 3) Commissioner Odden the vacant property issues need to be worked out more into detail
- 4) Commissioner Smith is happy with the work session and where the survey is moving, along with the vacant property registration that it needs to be worked on and hopes that Deputy City Clerk Piscoya's suggestion can be followed through. He also stated the Building Work spreadsheet is very well put and hopes that it can be a continuous line item on the agenda, Building Inspector Barron's work on this list is great and thanked city staff for their hard work.
- 5) Commissioner Steinacher stated she is on the fence about resigning from the commission and wants to be of help but would be more directed to outreach for the HPC.

- 6) Chairman Hughes stated he values each commissioner's opinion even if not all of us agree but the main goal is to work together even with diverse personalities. Chairman Hughes stated the building worksheet is great and great work to Building Inspector Barron for keeping this list ongoing.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 with a work session at 5:30PM and a meeting at 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Michels and seconded by C. Steinacher that the meeting be adjourned.

Hearing no objections, the Nome Planning Commission adjourned at 8:15PM

APPROVED and SIGNED this 2nd day of March, 2021.

KENNETH HUGHES III
Chairman

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk