

Mayor
John K. Handeland

City Manager
Lee Smith

City Clerk/Treasurer
Dan Grimmer



Nome Common Council
Kohren Green
Scot Henderson
Mark Johnson
Maggie Miller
Adam Martinson
Cameron Piscoya

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
WORK SESSION, BOE & REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025 at 5:30/7:00 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

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

BUDGET WORK SESSION START at 05:37pm

- A. May 16, 2025 Memo from the City Manager to the Mayor and Common Council,
- B. FY26 Budget Memo,
- C. FY26 Other Funds
- D. 10% Reduction
- E. Sales Tax Projected at 6%,

ROLL CALL at 07:12pm

Members present: C. Henderson, C. Johnson, C. Martinson, C. Green, C. Miller, C. Piscoya.

Also Present: Lee Smith, City Manager; Chip Leeper, Recreation Director; Brad Soske, Deputy Clerk; Cole Cushman, Public Works Director; Joy Baker, Port Director; Jim West, Fire Chief; William Crockett, Chief of Police; Marguerite LaRiviere, Library Director; Cheryl Thompson, Museum Director; Cliff McHenry, Building Inspector; Cynthia Gray, HR Director; Megan Onders, Assistant City Manager for Economic Development; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director; Aaron Cooper, Public Works.

In the Audience: Jeff Snyder, Celia Jennings, Dustin Koehler, Paul Kudla, Stephen Sherman, Michael Hahn Jr., Ken Hughes, Andrew Lee, Michelle Harvey, Francois Haba, Jovan Dull, Angie Nguyen, Thomas Simonsson, Bridy Trainor, Larry Pederson, Veronica Alviso, Shane Smithhisler +1, Molly (Mary) Naaktgeboren, Valerie Fuller, Dan Pardee, A.R. MacArthur, Shaun Pomrenke, Rexodus Pomrenke, Rodney Jones, Steve Longley, Ryan Martinson, J. Reed, Andrew James +1, Kate Osborn.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by C. Green and seconded by C. Martinson.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Johnson, C. Martinson, C. Green, C. Miller, C. Piscoya, C. Henderson.

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HEARING

- A. Board of Equalization Decision on NSHC Appeals,

NSHC 7-Plex, Block 91 Lot 3&4 (001.221.05A)
NSHC 20- Plex, Block MS 1298 (192.1.085)
NSHC Nome Duplex, Block 118 Lot 7 (001.118.07)
NSHC Kusqii House, Block 33 Lot 19 (001.131.01A)
NSHC Main Hostel, Wellness Center, Operations Building, Block 116 Lot 1A (001.115.01)
NSHC Prematernal Home/Patient Hostel West, Block 110 Lot 1-2 (001.211.03A)
NSHC HAT Building, Block 110 Lot 3A (001.211.03B)
NSHC West Campus, Block 127 Lot 7 A (001.201.05)

A motion to postpone NSHC Appeals until Tuesday, May 27th @ 7pm, due to lack of Legal counsel on behalf of the City of Nome Tax Assessor, proposed by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Green. C. Piscoya withdrew vote due to conflict of interest.

At the Roll call:

Aye: C. Martinson, C. Green, C. Miller, C. Henderson, C. Johnson

Nay:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 28, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes,

A motion to approve Minutes proposed by C. Henderson, and seconded by C. Miller.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Green, C. Miller, C. Piscoya, C. Henderson, C. Johnson, C. Martinson

Nay:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letters received in support of the Nome Preschool,
- B. 2025 U-Call, We-Haul and Spring Clean-Up Flyer,
- C. May 13, 2025 Community Vision Survey from Mr. Wharry's Government Class,
- D. March 4, 2025 Nome Planning Commission Meeting Minutes,
- E. May 16, 2025 Press Release re: Army Corps Nominee Commits to Sullivan to Prioritize Alaska's Nome Port Project,
- F. May 8, 2025 Public Notice of Application for Permit for Center Creek,
- G. May 2, 2025 Bureau of Land Management Letter to Mayor Handeland re: Seeking Public Input on Proposed Reauthorizations of Existing and New Reindeer Grazing Activities,

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- **Molly Naaktgeboren, Nome Preschool:** Asking for continued funding in the same amount as previous years.
- **Veronica Alviso:** Nome Community Center, Nest & Youth Programming, Cuts jeopardize eligibility of additional funds as well as operational costs. (50k)
- **Anna Rose MacArthur:** Resident of Nome, and a parent. Thanks to City Council for service. Asking as a parent, for robust public education funding. Without schools there is no community.

- **Thomas Simonsson:** Thanks to the council and city staff. Speaks on the importance socializing and activities at the library, to attending Kindergym, sporting events, and other events at the Rec Center. Quoting his words “I believe that we’re in a situation really with the budget, where we as a community expect to get a Tesla, with the budget of a ’98 Plymouth Breeze. It simply won’t work.”. With such high expectations, we will continue to be disappointed by what the city can deliver. Concerns about mining impact to quality of life and future residents. Asks for review of zoning and environmental impact.
- **Sean Pomrenke:** Representative of Northwest Gold Diggers, claims that their project does not cross into commercial zoning. There is a section that is industrial. Requests that the Planning Commission review the zoning area and a large amount of land that is owned by Arctic Gold, that is zoned industrial. Believes the land should be zoned as natural resource development, and later after it is mined, be transferred to industrial or commercial. States that according to the code, there needs to be roads, sewer, water, and power, for zone to be considered industrial. States that the section of land is in the middle of the tundra.

Mentions City’s budget issues, and that when there were 10-15 mines going in Nome, there wasn’t a whole lot of budget issues. States that mines do good for the community and lists what they provide, from resources to revenue.

- **Rodney Jones:** Has been in business for 32 years, is the “Last Survivor” in Nome’s cab industry. Deadline for cab inspections approaching. Looking at new vehicles. “Hatchet Man” doing his job really well. Business never been cleaner, keeping up to date with ordinances.
- **John Reed:** Showing support for Northwest Gold Diggers.
- **Brad Soske:** Resident, congratulations to C. Miller for graduation/degrees.
- **Steve Longley:** “Thorn in RJ’s side”, positions that Checker Cab is not legal, not in compliance with ordinances. Believes that RJ’s drivers are not remitting sales tax. Get rid of taxi licenses. Mining is part of Nome’s history, part of Nome. Believes it should be utilized. “Yea, mine it”.
- **Rodney Jones:** “So, I’d like to say, everything this guy says is a Stinkin ass lie.” Says it’s all unsubstantiated.
- **Steve Longley:** Addressing the council, “Look at your records.”
- **Ryan Martinson:** Here to show support for Sean Pomrenke, and Northwest Gold Diggers, fully supports mining jobs here in the communities. Pay allows for decent livelihoods. Has experience with Pomrenkes, and they have good reclamation activities and practices. Mining tailings and ponds have ways to support construction as well as wildlife.
- **Bridie Trainor:** “I think I’d rather have a Breeze than a Tesla.” Says More isn’t always better in regards to mining to support the City’s economy. Need healthy schools, land, and water to keep city population. Supports the NEST. Suggests that the MCC be rented to the community center and NSHC, for A 24hr NEST shelter, as another stream of income.
- **Valerie Fuller:** Support for schools, youngest community members, and educators. Pool provides positive activities for families.
- **Michelle Harvey:** Support for the pool, opportunities for children to learn lifesaving survival skills without the dangers of the open ocean and lakes. Able to go out on the water with confidence in swimming abilities thanks to learning to swim in the pool as a child. Nome Preschool teacher for almost 10 years, loves job, investing time into the future of the children. Asks that we support them as well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. R-25-05-01 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with AngelCom for Managed IT Services for the City of Nome,

Motion to approve this resolution made by C. Henderson, seconded by C. Martinson.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Green, C. Miller, C. Piscoya, C. Henderson, C. Martinson, C. Johnson.

Nay:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

- B. R-25-05-02 A Resolution Recognizing the Nome Police Department for Accreditation with the Northwest Accreditation Alliance,

Motion to approve this resolution made by C. Henderson, seconded by C. Piscoya.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Henderson, C. Martinson, C. Green, C. Miller, C. Piscoya, C. Johnson.

Nay:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- **Rexodus Pomrenke:** Referring to R-25-05-02, is there an opportunity to object? Believes that the safety of women is at risk. Believes that there are liabilities. Believes she was villainized and was mistreated by the police force. Has asked for Policies and Procedures, believes they should be available to the public. Asks why they've been accredited. Mentions that she's heard of officers tackling women and kicking them in the streets. Talks about investigators approaching women and coercing them to go to the hospital for supposed head injuries, that they supposedly don't have. No firsthand experience, surrounded by white people. Believes there is no accountability.
- **Dani Smithhisler:** Preschool support, only so much can be done without city support. Mining is in our history, not opposed to the mining. Not out in the middle of nowhere, in back yard, can see from my house. Can be disruptive.
- **Rexodus Pomrenke:** Crockett relationship is a liability, PD VS ADA office.
- **Molly Naaktgeboren:** Lifeguard, mother, basic water safety instructor. Support for pool. Swimming not just recreational skill. Drowning is a high risk in our region, especially for elders and children. Floatation devices not often used, do not fit properly, or used incorrectly. Swimming lessons necessary. Recommending continued funding for pool.
- **Kate Osborn:** Speaking on budget, mining. When dredge was operational, was extremely loud. Times are different, Mining brings in revenue. We need revenue to fund necessity programs. Needs to be a balance.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **NJUS Thomas Simonsson** : Congratulations to Perry Saito for Certification, water/sewer replaced fire hydrants. 1 more to fix. Assisting city and DOT in Jetting culverts & drainage, starting in June, block 113-114, in E 6th Ave project, probably be blocked off between N & Greg Kruschek Ave. Looking at new Lift station project on Front & N St, move from west to east side, estimated to be 2026 construction.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Port Director Report/Projects Status Update- May 2025,

CM Lee Smith: FY 26 sales tax projection, Considerations, 10% bed and sales tax exercise. Float/cash flow/receivable. Audit intentions for fall, for business/personal property tax review. Based on SITUS, AML tax workshop, training for Council in Robert's rules, law and procedures, in September or November. Attorneys working on opinion on sin tax for alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

- **C. Henderson:** C. Henderson: Thanks to everyone for attending. One of the most interesting meeting he can recall, a lot of passion, good ideas, valuable input. Work sessions are long, thanks to fellow council members for attending.
- **C. Martinson:** "I reiterate everything Scott just said" Boisterous laughter from all around.
- **C. Green:** Reiterate as well, and thanks for attending.
- **C. Miller:** No Comment.
- **C. Piscoya:** Congrats to NPD, Thanks for attending.
- **C. Johnson:** Thanks for coming out. Speaking to the agenda, NPD Accreditation, and PSAC. Budget is a work in progress.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT: N/A

ADJOURNMENT @ 8:41pm

APPROVED and SIGNED THIS 27th DAY OF May 2025

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

DAN GRIMMER
City Clerk