

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland

**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman

**Deputy Clerk**  
Jeremy Jacobson



**Nome Common Council**  
Scot Henderson  
Mark Johnson  
Adam Martinson  
Doug Johnson  
Cameron Piscoya  
M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023 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

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**ROLL CALL AT 7:04PM**

Members Present: Scot Henderson; Mark Johnson; Cameron Piscoya; M. Sigvanna Tapqaq (virtual)

Members Absent: Doug Johnson (excused); Adam Martinson(excused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy City Clerk; William Crockett, Acting NPD Chief, Sergeant Le; Investigator Nguyen; Thomas Simonsson, NJUS Field Superintendent; Officer Chelsea Griffin, NPD; Officer Leighton McNabb, NPD

In the audience: Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget Newspaper; Anna Lionas, Nome Nugget Newspaper; Andrew Lee; Jo Cappeto, USDA; Theresa Johnson, USDA RPN; Jennifer Rachels, USDA RPN

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Discussion:

- Mayor Handeland advised that City Manager request for item (B) *R-23-07-03 Resolution approving an employment agreement between the City of Nome and Joy Baker to serve as a Project Manager for the Arctic Port for the City of Nome* be stricken from this evening for further discussion.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to approve agenda as amended.

At the roll call: C. M. Johnson; C. Piscoya; C. Tapqaq; C. Henderson

Aye:

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

- Swearing in of Officer Chelsea Griffin and Officer Leighton McNabb by Mayor Handeland.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- None

### **PRESENTATION BY RURAL PARTNERS NETWORK**

- Rural Partners Network is an all-of-government program that helps rural communities find resources and funding to create jobs, build infrastructure, and support long-term economic stability on their own terms. They will be in town for the next week to learn about the different needs of Nome and the surrounding area.
- Mayor Handeland welcomed Rural Partners Network team to Nome. He expressed that often times various local organization are unable to utilize government funds and programs due to the strenuous documentation process. It would be hugely beneficial if Rural Partners is able to be a liaison and provide administrative assistance/guidance to these organizations.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

- None given

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. R-23-07-02 A Resolution approving an employment agreement between the City of Nome and Cheryl Thompson for the position of Museum Director.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya to adopt R-23-07-02.

#### Discussion:

- Manager Steckman requested support for this resolution. Cheryl comes with experience and understanding of our collections having worked at the museum as an assistant for many years. She is also well rooted in the history and community of Nome.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Piscoya; C. Tapqaq; C. Henderson; C. M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: July 10 – July 21, 2023.  
Thomas Simonson, NJUS Field Superintendent
  - Ken is out doing upgrades to the waterlines in preparation of pressurization of the moonlight waterline.
  - Equipment issues are being addressed with the sewage lagoons.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: July 10 – July 21, 2023.
  - The Police Report and the Recreation Report will be presented in the next packet.

- National Night Out (a nationwide program to have the community interact with the first responders) will be held at the Rec Center from 5pm to 8pm.
- 3D Housing paperwork is being signed.
- There will be a voluntary reduction of alcohol hours by Quickstop and Hanson's, and potentially AC.
- Statistically the volume of assault calls has declined from last year. There has been an increase in calls from the Courts for delivery of judicial court documents.
  - o Chief Crockett explained that previously the Court Service Officer provided service to the Courts and the judge (subpoena service). Currently the burden has shifted from the State to the City due to State staffing issues.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

- Andrew Le expressed that Cheryl is coming onboard as Museum Director.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

- Council Member Mark Johnson also reiterated Cheryl being a great fit for the Museum. He also welcomed to the new reporter as well as Mr. Simonsson to the Utilities.
- Council Member Adam Martinson gave appreciation for everyone who assisted with the New Year's Eve firework show.
- Council Member Cameron Piscoya: No comments.
- Council Member Sigvanna Tapqaq: No comments.
- Council Member Henderson stated he was glad to see two new police officers join the city and inquired about their certification process. He also agreed that Cheryl is a great fit for the Museum.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: July 10 – July 21, 2023.
  - Mayor Handeland expressed excitement for the arrival of the first cruise ship.
  - He discussed the memorial service for Sandra Maderas. The archives of the Nugget are filled with her articles. Sandra did a great job ensuring our history and activities were well documented.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Discussion of Personnel, Legal, and Financial Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which May Have Adverse Impacts on City of Nome Finances.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to enter into executive session to discuss Personnel, Legal, and Financial Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which May Have Adverse Impacts on City of Nome Finances.

The Council entered executive session at 7:38pm.

The Council came out of executive session 8:02PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 8:03PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

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**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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**Jeremy Jacobson**  
Deputy Clerk