

Mayor
John K. Handeland

Manager
Glenn Steckman

Deputy Clerk
Jeremy Jacobson



**Nome Public Safety
Advisory Commission**
Carol Piscoya, *Chair*
Justin Noffske, *Vice-Chair*
Jana Hoggan
Traci McGarry
Shauntel Bruner-Alvanna
Peter Travers
VACANT

**NOME PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 07, 2023 at 6:00 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: Shauntel Bruner-Alvanna; Traci McGarry; Justin Noffske; Carol Piscoya;
Members Absent: Peter Travers; Jana Hoggan;
Also Present: Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Mike Heintzelman, NPD Chief;
William Crockett, NPD Deputy Chief; Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by C. Noffske and seconded by C. Bruner-Alvanna to approve the agenda as presented.

At the roll call:

Aye: McGarry; Noffske; Piscoya; Bruner-Alvanna

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. April 3, 2023 Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission Regular Meeting Minutes,
- B. June 5, 2023 Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission Regular Meeting Minutes,

A motion was made by C. Bruner-Alvanna and seconded by C. McGarry to approve the April 3, 2023 and June 5, 2023 Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: McGarry; Noffske; Piscoya; Bruner-Alvanna

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No commentary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

(2:53)

A. Discussion of Police Chief Search

- Manager Steckman noted NPD Chief Heintzelman’s 5 years of service to the Nome community and the Nome Police Department, the change in the 5 years since being brought on board, and the recent NPD accreditation in process allowing future opportunity for the NPD and community.
- Commissioner McGarry inquired into the search venues the City would utilize in finding an NPD Chief.
- Manager Steckman noted Association of Police Chiefs, AML, ICMA, and all other previous sites used in the last round of NPD Chief hire. The Police Chief would also be a part of the pension system, now.

STAFF REPORTS

(6:42)

A. City Manager's Report,

- Manager Steckman identified a situation where two youth were driving recklessly, that he witnessed, at the Port of Nome. He noted that traffic safety toward ATV usage would increase in September.
- Chief Heintzelman noted there would be public notice provided well in advance.
- Commissioner Noffske opined, thorough notice to the public was important.
- Manager Steckman identified the lack of housing and resources for youth in detention. He stated there would be discussion brought to City Council soon.
- Commissioner McGarry drew attention abandoned vehicles.
- Vice-chair Noffske inquired on the department's current staffing and capabilities with current resources.
- Chief Heintzelman stated even with recent hiring, currently the department does not have adequate staff per capita. Newly recruited, yet to be brought aboard will elevate the department's staff beyond where it has been in a very long time.
- Manager Steckman added the Council has added pay incentives to newly hired Officers, and the addition of several leadership positions within the department.
- Chief Heintzelman emphasized, without adequate housing for youth-offenders they cannot be housed in Nome which is a disservice to the community and youth. Since joining the department, there has been a lot of changes for the better, training of staff, the onboarding of experienced officers, all has significantly improved.

A motion was made by C. McGarry and seconded by C. Bruner-Alvanna to review the situation toward finding youth detention facilities.

At the roll call:

Aye: McGarry; Noffske; Piscoya; Bruner-Alvanna

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

(50:00)

B. Nome Police Department Quarterly Report,

- Chief Heintzelman noted the department's accreditation requires securing a vehicle impound lot, that is secure itself. The communications officer has been a challenge to fully staff, one reason being the background requirements for security clearance purposes.
- Manager Steckman noted the NPD & EMS radio bid may go out in September of 2024. He noted attaining parts and supplies for the project likely are not readily available making the timeline more difficult to predict.
- Chair Piscoya inquired into place of notice for NPD staff openings.
- Manager Steckman stated the City website, City facilities, state website, and social media.
- Chair Piscoya questioned how the NPD & EMS radio is currently functioning.
- Chief Heintzelman noted the NPD & EMS radio is working, however, they know it needs addressing.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

(1:09:10)

- 1) Commissioner McGarry acknowledged NPD's efforts toward accreditation, and thanked everyone for the meeting.
- 2) Vice-chair Noffske expressed gratitude in NPD's efforts countering sexual assault within the community, and acknowledged NPD Chief Heintzelman's effort with NPD.
- 3) Chair Piscoya opined satisfaction with the direction NPD has been headed in, from where it had been. She identified importance toward community safety and planning for the community's future.
- 4) Commissioner Bruner-Alvanna thanked NPD Chief Heintzelman for his service and expressed eagerness toward the Commission's role in vetting the next NPD Chief.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Noffske and seconded by C. McGarry to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objections, the Commission adjourned at 7:04 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 6th day of February, 2024

CAROL PISCOYA
Chair

ATTEST:

JEREMY JACOBSON
Deputy Clerk