

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 & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025 at 05:30/07:00 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 at 05:39PM

A. Nome Common Council Work Session on City of Nome FY2026 Budgets,

ROLL CALL AT 07:02PM

Members Present: C. Johnson, C. Green, C. Henderson, C. Piscoya; Youth Rep, Steve Lopez

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Lee Smith, City Manager; Dan Grimmer, City Clerk; Joy Baker; Ben Townsend; Kate Osborn; Joseph Jennetten; Jacob Whitson; Bud Ward; Diana Haecker; Troy Walker; Steve Longley; Megan Onders

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. April 3, 2025 Nome Common Council Special Meeting Minutes,
- B. April 14, 2025 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes,

A Motion to approve April 3rd Special Meeting Minutes and April 14th Regular Meeting Minutes was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Marijuana Control Board Memo re: Removing Batch Limits for Clones or Cuttings,
- B. Marijuana Control Board Memo re: Tracking Requirements for Flowering Plants,
- C. Marijuana Control Board Memo re: Marijuana Handler Permit Education Course,
- D. Marijuana Control Board Memo re: Labeling Requirements for Marijuana Test Results,

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- 1. **Steve Longley**- Wondering why the city of Nome still has a taxi cab permitting system. If you look at the State of Alaska; Kotzebue and Bethel does not have them and having them is just a liability. He believes Mr. Jones is not legal and as stated in the Newspaper he was having problems with his insurance. He's been getting calls for pick up but has been telling them he is following the city's

direction. Steve's got his business license and is working on his sales tax license. He will get his chauffeur's license and if the city does not want to give out taxi permits; he will get a bus permit or a limousine permit. Checker Cab is not running as a cab company. There should only be one fare in the cab, not 12 or more. Nowhere else in Alaska do they do that. They have a number of people in the cab and going to 12 different places. When he ran his cab company, he never had no more passengers than his car can hold. Council member asked if he talked with their attorney and Steve says he did, looks like they did not come to an agreement. He reviewed the city ordinances and there are two separate parts for commercial vehicle for hire. He still doesn't think doing rides for donations is breaking an ordinance, because it is in the gray area and is not covered. He has two citations for running his donation cab rides but has not gotten a court date. Since checker cab became the sole company the rates have gone from \$4 in town and \$6 to airport to \$8 in town and \$14 to the airport. Some of the drivers charge an older person from the village \$20 for a one fare. Steve says he had some days when checker cab was not running, and he did his donations for rides and he made \$700 in a 12-hour day.

2. **Kate Osborn-** I have to say Steve brings some very good points. If he is asked not to conduct his business because of one avenue or another. Checker cab seems to be operating under shady or sketchy circumstances. She asks the council what they have been doing to investigate those circumstances? Other towns within our region have our similar demographics and operates under different rules; why aren't those rules investigated and used in our town. Why can't we amend our city ordinances like other towns that are in the similar situation to help our community better itself?

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. O-25-04-01 An Ordinance Authorizing the Acceptance of the West Nome Tank Farm by the City of Nome From the United States of America (SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE)

Council went into Public Hearing at 07:19PM

Discussion: Mayor mentions that the West Nome Tank Farm is to be given to the City of Nome from the U.S. Air Force as per U.S Congress.

Steve Longley asks if that property is clean and ready to use? And yes, it is.

Council came out of Public Hearing at 07:21PM

A Motion to approve the Ordinance O-25-04-01 was made by C. Green and seconded by C. Johnson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- B. R-25-04-03 A Resolution Authorizing the City Attorney to Bring Suit for Injunctive and Other Relief Against Steve Longley for the Illegal Operation of a Taxi Cab Business,

Council member says that he did hear Mr. Longley say he will voluntarily cease his taxi rides for donation.

A motion to table the Resolution R-25-04-03 was made by C. Johnson and C. Piscoya.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Discussion: C. Henderson – Mr. Longley has agreed to stop doing what he’s doing. This can also be resurrected later down the road, but I do not like the idea of having something continually popping up every 90 days; my suggestion is just let this one die.

The council does not want to take any action, this goes to the tabled file.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. April 25, 2025 Memo to the Nome Common Council re: 2025 Spring Clean-Up T-Shirt Designs, Executive Assistant has five candidates for a spring cleanup T-shirt design.

City Clerk will collect the votes from the council.

- B. R-25-04-06 A Resolution to Name the Parties Qualified to Sign Depository Pledge Agreements, Orders for Payment, Warrants, and/or Checks Against the City of Nome Accounts,

A Motion to approve Resolution R-25-04-06 was made by C. Green and seconded by C. Henderson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. A Public Hearing re: An application from GeoCare/Seaside Center for a Correctional Center Permit,

The director of Seaside Correctional Center. Currently Seaside works with the correctional center here in Nome to bed 75 residents to help reenter society. Mayor says he has not heard any complaints or concerns for this issue. Council members asked a question about sex offenders, Director of Seaside says that they have had sex offenders in the building only for a transportation process and being in a place where they can be monitored instead of in a hotel for a night.

- D. R-25-04-07 A Resolution Approving the Renewal Application for a Correctional Facility Permit Within the City of Nome by GEO CARE, Inc. (Seaside),

Discussion: Kate Osborne mentions Seaside being on front street and is wondering if the center can be out of site for the tourism and the community. Superintendent Bud mentions that the residents are equal individuals just like you and me. They do not roam the community in jail clothes. They do community work services on a weekly basis. Mayor mentions putting it in downtown district in the past was the suggestion, so they won’t be in a residential community.

A Motion to approve Resolution R-25-04-07 was made by C. Green and seconded by C. Henderson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. R-25-04-08 A Resolution Authorizing Application, Approval & Acceptance of a Loan from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Alaska Drinking Water Fund to Provide Loan Financing for Improvements to Community Water System Infrastructure,

A Motion to approve Resolution R-25-04-08 was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Green.

Discussion: Tim Morton goes into detail about this application. DOT put its sights on Seppala and DEC was on board with that. Inflation accrued. The money they had slated was seemed to be insufficient. DOT is looking to advertise this coming summer for this project. When Seppala Drive is done we won't have to tear it up again. There is sufficient approval from this party. They will amend the Bering Street to include it in this project. Mayor says that these are unsecured loan.

- F. R-25-04-09 A Resolution Authorizing Application, Approval & Acceptance of a Loan from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Alaska Clean Water Fund to Provide Loan Financing for Improvements to Community Water System Infrastructure,

Discussion: It has managed to work. NSHC is looking to fix their Community Water System Lines. They are working with the hospital to rebuild the lift station and they'll split the cost with them. This could be quite a bit of a buffer.

A Motion to approve Resolution R-25-04-08 and R-25-04-09 was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Green.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- G. R-25-04-10 A Resolution Designating Daniel Grimmer as Acting City Manager in the Absence of the City Manager for April 28th, 2025 Through December 31st, 2025,

A Motion to approve Resolution R-25-04-10 was made by C. Piscoya and seconded by C. Green.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Walker says he has been watching the sea ice at the port. You have a rock to help prevent ice from hitting the port. This is an environmental problem as well.

Mayor responds that would be happy to go through what the DEC and EPA permitting is on this.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

NSEDC energy assistance has been received and posted on your account.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Revised FY26 Budget Calendar,

City Manager gives his report. For April 30th they will need people here for the BOE meeting. City Clerk says they had 53 appeals that came in. The assessor is here meeting with people and this number should go down significantly. City Manager mentions he appreciates this opportunity and thanks the council.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

- C.Piscoya encourages the community to engage in the budget reports and to attend the meetings.
- C.Johnson thanks Nickie and City manager on getting this budget started. Looks like if we are requested to look into different avenues to save money we will do just that. The more input we get from the public will help with ideas.
- C.Green appreciate what the city manager is doing and he would like to echo what the other council members said.
- C.Hendrerson thanks Megan for putting together the investment summit. Was a great turnout. Welcoming the City Manager. Looking forward in working with the manager. Echoing the other council members on giving input on how to move forward and to save money or to increase any budget items.
- R. Lopez a shout out saying thank you for being here.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Echo on the summit, great turnout. Received good information and we get an opportunity to network a little bit. Thanks Megan. Mentions it was great to have Senator Murkowski here. Graphite One will be going around the area and talking about what they have done. On May 22nd they plan to have a public meeting. Great to see how they've progressed. Congratulations to Graphite One on this feasibility.

ADJOURNMENT AT 8:05P.M.

APPROVED and SIGNED THIS 20th DAY OF May 2025

JOHN K. HANDELAND
MAYOR

DAN GRIMMER
CITY CLERK