

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland

**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 14, 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

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**WORK SESSION WITH NOME PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

- A. FY26 Nome Public Schools Draft Budget,

**ROLL CALL AT 7:06PM**

Members Present: C. Johnson, C. Green, C. Henderson, C. Miller, C. Martinson

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Dan Grimmer, City Clerk/Acting City Manager; Joy Baker; Ben Townsend; Brad Soske; Jamie Burgess; Elizabeth Johnson; Marjorie Tahbone; Cheryl Thompson;

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. March 21, 2025 Nome Common Council Special Meeting Minutes,  
B. March 24, 2025 Nome Common Council Meeting Minutes,

A Motion to approve the March 21, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes and March 24, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Green.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. April 8, 2025 Letter from the Institute of Museum and Library Services - Action Memorandum/Notice of Grant Termination, \$100,000 grant amount.

Ms. Thompson explains this more in detail. Another part was supposed to bring elders from St. Lawrence Island to go through the collection but no one was identified.

B. Norton Sound Health Corporation Narcan Letter,

Mayor Handeland mentioned that him and the former manager were starting work on a secondary place to have a Narcan machine. It does take power and internet. If anyone has any ideas it would be good to get this out and accessible to the community.

C. FY26 KNOM Quote for Meeting Sponsorship,

This is basically to provide full coverage for full sponsorships for FY 26.

D. City of Nome Investment Summit Agenda,

Mrs. Onders gives a quick summary of the summit. Senator Murkowski will be here in person, along with a number of others. When there is strong relationships and partnerships we usually see a thriving community, thriving development.

E. March 20, 2025 NSEDC Grant Award Letter for the Community Employment Program,

F. Letters of support to the City of Nome re: NSEDC outside entity funding,

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

1. Kate Osborn talked about the Nome Public School insight. She worked for the school as a special ed professional from 2017 to 2023. Also known as a classified staff for the union. The highest paid employee, the superintendent, is not paying rent while the teachers are struggling with paying rent and finding homes. The school district has had the same director, Mary Donaldson, for a couple of years and we've seen an increase in services.
2. Casey just wanted to let the council know that there is an event next May and he will be putting this together to recognize this event.
3. Steve Longley, got a call from KNOM reporter telling him he was a subject of a resolution. He was sighted twice for driving without a taxi license. He has been doing rides for donation for the high school. He also talked to Mr. Grimmer; checker cab has been issued 3 permits. For one and half year's checker cab did not have insurance. He will be digging into this a little more.
4. Mr. Walker wrote a letter about the bypass road, asking the city to put up a yield sign.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **April 2, 2025 Memo to the Nome Common Council re: An Audit on Account 190.1.071,**

Discussion: Mayor Handeland read the information for a write off on a property for a deceased party of \$25.68.

A Motion to approve the audit for number 190.1.071 was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED.**

**B. R-25-04-02 A Resolution Authorizing the Participation of The City of Nome in the Alaska Public Risk Alliance,**

Discussion: The City Clerk mentioned that the APRA information follows this resolution that's in the packet. It was put together by AMLJIA.

A Motion to approve the Resolution R-25-04-02 was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**C. 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,**

Discussion: Alex Foot is the City Attorney and was on the phone. He says this resolution authorizes them to pursue matters in this lawsuit against Mr. Longley. Daily violations can be given and Mr. Longley can be liable for the attorney fees.

A Motion to table Resolution R-25-04-03 until next Nome city council meeting was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**D. R-25-04-04 A Resolution Approving the Employment of Brandon Ford as a Pool Clerical Helper,**

A Motion to approve the Resolution R-25-04-04 was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Miller.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**E. R-25-04-05 A Resolution Approving an Employment Agreement Between the City of Nome and William Lee Smith for the Position of City Manager,**

Discussion: Mayor Handeland had handed the proposed contract with Mr. Smith, with the council's direction to negotiate an agreement. This was the final agreement. Mr.

Smith should be here Wednesday. This contract is for 5 years at \$210,000 with standard benefits.

A Motion to approve the Resolution R-25-04-05 was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

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

Mayor Handeland asked Ken Morton to be here for an update. Ken says on March 26<sup>th</sup>, the NJU had a sudden surge in water usage. Leaked about 250-300 gallons per minute. The crew fixed it and all is well. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of March had a power outage in and around Dexter bypass.

The NJU has openings for mechanics and operators. The block 113/114 project on the east end, to install water main. DOT Seppala Drive will be rehabilitating between Seppala and Bering Street towards the airport. NJU got awarded a USDA high energy cost grant at \$2.9 million.

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

A. Nome Economic Development Strategy and Public Information Plan,

The City Clerk introduced Stephanie Queen on the phone. She is teaming up with the city staff, mayor, team leaders, and community to improve the economic development strategic plan in Nome. Goal is to encourage investment opportunities. Once there is a vision they will start working with goals and objectives. And to see what those strategies looks like. Going to put special efforts to engage in the community; along with elders, which is important.

B. March 3, 2025 Public Relations Build Out,

C. 2025 State and Federal Legislative Priorities Update,

D. Fiscal Year 2025 Quarter 3 City of Nome Department Reports,

Building Inspector

Clerks

Economic Development & Public Relations

Finance

HR

IT

Library

Museum

Nome Volunteer Fire Department

Parks and Recreation

Police Department

Port

Public Works

Visitors Center

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Brad Soske thanked everyone for voting Mr. Smith. He also personally thanked The City Clerk for acting as City Manager and Interim Manager without training.

Mrs. Thompson was happy to see that the apartment building for teachers is being addressed.

Mr. Longley asked that the council do something about the signage for Checker cab.

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

C. Green – No Comment

C. Miller – Would like to thank Stephanie and Megan for considering the darker months that the activities can be facilitated in.

C. Martinson – No Comment

C. Henderson – would like to congratulate KNOM and Nome Nugget. Also wants to thank the staff for some detailed reports.

C. Johnson – No Comment

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

The Mayor Thanked Mr. Grimmer for stepping in and keeping the ship going forward while waiting for a City Manager. The Mayor Thankede his family as well. He also Thanked Mrs. Onders for putting together the Investment Summit.

#### **ADJOURNMENT AT 8:51p.m.**

APPROVED and SIGNED THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April 2025

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**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
**MAYOR**

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**DAN GRIMMER**  
**CITY CLERK**