

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland

**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman

**Deputy Clerk**  
Jeremy Jacobson



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

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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

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**WORK SESSION** - 6PM

A. Ambulance Service,

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Scot Henderson; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Maggie Miller;  
Cameron Piscoya; M. Sigvanna Tapqaq (virtual- Microsoft Teams)

Members Absent:

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager;  
Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy City Clerk; Jim West Jr., NVAFD Chief;  
Nickie Crowe, Finance Director; Hunter Bellamy, NVAFD; Rose Reale, NVAFD;

In the audience: Angie Gorn, NSHC; Dr. Mark Peterson; Megan MacKiernan;  
Danielle Slingsby (virtual); Kallie Paniataaq; Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget,  
Ken Hughes; Rodney Green

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the agenda as presented.

At the roll call:

Aye:

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Flier re: Nome Community Center Invitation to HomePlate Open House,
- B. Nome Community Center FY24 Q1 Report,
  - Mayor Handeland noted both communication items for the Council, opining attendance to HomePlate open house if available.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

(2:15)

- Rodney Jones, owner of Nome Checker Cab expressed opinions regarding transportation business competition in town.
- Eugen Ryals Jr. expressed a lack of business within cab industry.
- Clifton McHenry described speeding traffic on E. 4th Ave. and his concerns with safety in a densely populated residential area.
- Ken Hughes, chair of the Nome Planning Commission, addressed O-23-11-02 on the evening's agenda, an ordinance to reduce the size of the Nome Planning Commission. He described Nome Planning Commission's recent contributions for the City of Nome, additional responsibilities given to the commission as a result of their contributions, Nome Historic Preservation Commission. He opined there might be more support for the Nome Planning Commission rather reducing the Commission, requesting addressing to current pending commission applications and or an aggressive campaign to fill vacant seats on the commission.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. O-23-11-01 An Ordinance Retaining Lot 4, Block 61 of Nome Townsite For A Public Purpose, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE,**

(21:48)

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt O-23-11-01.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:39 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:39 PM.

Discussion:

- Council Member Henderson inquired into the development of the lot and the City's future plan with the lot.
- Manager Steckman described the lot as recently demolished the structure on the lot, leaving it currently vacant and plans for future development of a 3D printed home.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Miller; Henderson; Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. O-23-11-02 An Ordinance Amending Section 11.10.020 of The Nome Code of Ordinances, Changing the Composition of The Planning Commission from Seven Members to Five Members, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION,**

(23:34)

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-23-11-02.

## Discussion:

- Council Member Johnson stated his opposition toward reduction of the Nome Planning Commission. He opined the development with the Port of Nome expansion project and development still needed around town was reason to consider further recruitment toward the Nome Planning Commission and their assistance.
- Council Member Henderson inquired into why the Nome Planning Commission was being considered for reduction.
- Manager Steckman stated the Planning Commission had recently missed an important pre-planned meeting, among other meetings due to a lack of quorum.
- Council Member Johnson inquired into the other commissions and their commission size.
- Manager Steckman noted 7 members for Port, Planning, and Public Safety Advisory Commissions.
- Council Member Piscoya questioned whether there were any other vacancies on any of the other commissions.
- Manger Steckman noted one vacancy currently with the Public Safety Advisory Commission.
- Council Member Miller initially asked why applicants might be denied a seat on a committee. She later rephrased her question as to requirements to sit on the Planning Commission.
- Mayor Handeland noted the requirements could be found in the Nome Code of Ordinances.

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; Martinson

Nay: Piscoya; Tapqaq; Miller; Johnson

Abstain:

The motion **FAILED**.

B. O-23-11-03 An Ordinance Authorizing The Disposal of Municipal Property By Lease to Atlas Tower 1, LLC, **First Reading/Discussion**,

(34:48)

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-23-11-03.

## Discussion:

- Manager Steckman noted Atlas Tower 1, LLC will perform testing at the site prior to locating the exact location for their tower.

At the roll call:

Aye: Tapqaq; Henderson; Johnson; Martinson; Piscoya

Nay: Miller

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-23-11-01 A Resolution Rejecting All Bids for the NACTEC House Siding Repairs and Exterior Painting Project and Directing the Manager to Negotiate With Low Bidders, (37:05)

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-23-11-01.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman stated both bids came in substantially higher than the City Engineer’s estimate. He noted the City’s legal team had already provided findings to allow the City’s decision to negotiate given the circumstance.
- Council Member Henderson expressed concern with the City potentially undermining the bidding process, diminishing interest in an already limited area of interest.

At the roll call:

Aye:

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. R-23-11-02 A Resolution Rejecting All Bids For the City Hall Heating & Ventilation Project and Directing the Manager to Negotiate With Low Bidders, (43:50)

A motion was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to adopt R-23-11-02.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman declared the project bid at \$400k over City’s Engineer’s estimates as well as RSA Engineering estimates. If the project received an additional round of bidding, securing supplies and logistics would further push out the project to 2025.
- Council Member Henderson opined the City rejecting outright all bids and returning to negotiate with just one bidder may undermine the customary bid process.
- Council Member Johnson noted page 2 of 3 of the ordinance, “all bids rejected” and “with the two bidders who submitted bids”, pointing out negotiations with both bidders.

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; Johnson; Martinson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Miller

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

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

- A. Activity Report: October 25 - November 11, 2023, (51:45)

No major updates at this time.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

A. Activity Report: October 25 - November 11, 2023,

(52:10)

- Manager Steckman described a prospective uber driver and state regulations. He noted Nome Checker Cab Co. which was not meeting the requirements of the city. The Historic Preservation Plan has stalled.
- Council Member Henderson requested an update of the Chief of NPD search.
- Manager Steckman stated the candidates list is narrowing. At the next meeting, the PSAC would likely be a part of vetting finalist candidates.
- Council Member Johnson questioned how many applicants applied for the NPD Chief.
- Manager Steckman stated there were 30 or more applicants.
- Council Member Johnson opined the need for the locally trained staff.
- Manager Steckman described obstacles to the City's hiring over other agencies, scheduling flexibility, housing, and benefits.
- Council Member Piscoya inquired into the Nome swimming pool status.
- Manager Steckman stated a late discovery occurred in the pool planning process, the part needed is custom which will take an additional 6-8 weeks.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

(1:13:50)

- Ken Hughes, Nome Planning Commission Chair corrected earlier comments made by City Manager regarding a lack of advance notice to November's meeting. He commented the Historic Preservation Plan's delay would hold up availability to grant funds.

**COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

(1:26:00)

1.) Council Member Johnson suggesting an economic event, suggesting a 100-year anniversary to the Nome serum run, originally in 1925.

Mayor Handeland opined perhaps some form of small celebration or recognition of the event.

2.) Council Member Martinson no comment.

3.) Council Member Piscoya no comment.

4.) Council Member Tapqaq no comment.

5.) Council Member Miller no comment.

6.) Council Member Henderson gave recognition to the City road crew and the recent snowplowing. He expressed gratitude toward addressing the ongoing ambulance service in Nome.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

A. Activity Report: October 25 - November 11, 2023,

Mayor Handeland noted the newest student council representative would be sworn in at the next Common Council meeting.

- B. Reappointment of Jim West Jr. to Seat "C" of the Nome Port Commission,
- C. Reappointment of Charlie Lean to Seat "B" of the Nome Port Commission,
- D. Reappointment of Carol Piscoya to the Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission, Seat "A",
- E. Reappointment of Shauntel Bruner-Alvanna to the Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission, Seat "F",

(1:29:00)

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the Reappointment of Jim West Jr. to Seat "C" of the Nome Port Commission, Charlie Lean to Seat "B" of the Nome Port Commission, Carol Piscoya to the Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission, Seat "A", and Shauntel Bruner-Alvanna to the Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission, Seat "F".

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Miller; Henderson; Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 8:45 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023

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**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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**JEREMY JACOBSON**  
Deputy City Clerk