

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland  
**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman  
**Clerk**  
Dan Grimmer



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

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**  
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024 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 07:01PM**

Members Present: C. Johnson, C. Martinson (phone/Zoom), C. Piscoya, C. Henderson, C. Miller  
(Excused), C. Tapqaq (Absent/Unexcused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Dan Grimmer, City  
Clerk; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (Zoom);

In the Audience: Thomas Simonsson, Drew McCann, Diana Haecker, AC Lee

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A Motion to Approve the Agenda was made by C. Henderson and Seconded by  
C. Piscoya.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. 24-06-10 Nome Common Council Meeting Minutes,

A Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes was made by C. Johnson and  
Seconded by C. Henderson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. May 23, 2024 Letter to Mayor John K Handeland re: 2024 DOT & PF Projects,
- B. Arctic Gold Properties for Sale,
- C. Milano's Pizzeria AMCO Renewal Notice,
- D. Alaskan Grown Cannabis AMCO Renewal Notice,
- E. Nome Grown AMCO Renewal Notices,
- F. June 21, 2024 Memo to Mayor Handeland and the Nome Common Council re: Estimated Tax  
Revenue After Removing Exemption for Commercial Aircraft,

- Comment and Discussion was made by C. Henderson explaining how the tax would work and be implemented and answering questions from other members of the council. It was decided by the council that they would like to see a draft ordinance that shows a 50% exemption wrote out and presented.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

There was a comment by Thomas Simonsson about his concerns that taxing the aircrafts would result in the local air carriers to promptly change their rates to exceed what would actually be needed to absorb the cost incurred by the implementation of the tax. There was discussion back by C.Henderson about the alternative revenues in lieu of not having this tax.

Drew McCann- Mr. McCann gave thanks to all those that participated in welcoming visitors into Nome from the cruise ship last weekend. He talked about positive comments through social media, in person and through the Nome Nuggett on Nome's response to these visitors.

Dan Grimmer-Mr. Grimmer also expressed satisfaction and pride for how our community responded to having visitors from the cruise ship to our community and the positive financial and tourism aspects of having been prepared for the ship being here.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. O-24-06-09 An Ordinance Amending Section 10.30.100 of Nome Code of Ordinances to Require Proof of Rabies Vaccination prior to Importing any Dog into the City of Nome and Amending the Minor Offense Fine Schedule **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE,**

A Motion to Approve this Ordinance was made by C.Johnson and Seconded by C.Henderson.

At 07:54PM the Council Recessed for Public Hearing  
With no comments from the public the Council came out of recess at  
07:55PM

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. A June 17, 2024 Memo re: Consideration of Late Filing for Senior Exemption by Michael and Betty Hannigan,

A Motion to Accept the late filing of senior exemption as timely filed was made by C.Henderson and Seconded by C.Johnson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- B. A June 17, 2024 Memo re: A Personal Property Tax Late Filing by Mr. Ian Foster,

A Motion to Accept the late filing of personal property as timely filed was made by C.Henderson and Seconded by C.Johnson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. A June 17, 2024 Memo re: The Late filing for 2024 Municipal Sales Tax Exemption by ANTHC,

A Motion to Accept the late filing of Municipal Tax Exemption as timely filed and to be considered by the clerk was made by C. Henderson and Seconded by C. Piscoya.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. R-24-06-04 A Resolution Approving a Contract Between the Nome Chamber of Commerce and the City of Nome for Operation of the Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau,

A Motion to Approve the Resolution was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya.

Upon Discussion; a conflict of Interest was indicated by C. Johnson who is a current member of the Chamber of Commerce and currently does the Financial books for the organization.

The issue was decided upon by Mayor John K. Handeland and determined to not be a conflict.

Comments were made by C. Henderson, C. Johnson and Clerk Grimmer about this being a clear conflict. The determination by Mayor Handeland Stands. No Motion to veto the determination was made.

A Motion was made to table the Resolution until next meeting by C. Henderson and Seconded by C. Johnson.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Johnson, C. Henderson

Nay: , C. Martinson, , C. Piscoya

The motion **FAILED**.

Returning to the roll call to approve the Resolution.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**

- E. R-24-06-05 A Resolution Approving a Contract with Legislative Consultants in Alaska (LCIA) For State Lobbying Services for FY25,

A Motion to Approve this Resolution was made by C. Piscoya and Seconded by C. Henderson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

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

Thomas Simonsson Superintendent of NJUS updated that Staff had undergone Hazmat training. The City's Sewers are undergoing flushing of the system. Fire Hydrant exercises and maintenance are underway. The Line crew finished the sound system upgrade of the sound system on front street. The front street lift station project is ongoing.

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

A. 24-06-24 City Manager Report,

This past weekend with the port of call of the Cruise Ship was the busiest he's ever seen it. The size of the cruise ship was taken into account along with this being a Port of Call for the ship which has visitors that come in prepared to spend money versus other ships that use the port for refueling and restocking their ships. There were a lot of positive comments made about the receptiveness of the City of Nome and the Lions Club Chicken Fundraiser. The City Sponsored the CAC event in the parking lot across from City Hall which was a success. The City also sponsored the Music Fest the week before by supplying tables and chairs. Great weekend with great weather and boat races and more chicken sold. A thank you was made to the citizens of Nome for the Spring Clean Up. There was a lot of households that took part. The move of City Hall was addressed and where the various parts of City Hall would temporarily be housed during the Asbestos and Lead abatement and HVAC renovations that will be taking place. Moving will start July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Committee and Council meetings will all take place in the Richard Foster Room as other facilities do not have all the capabilities that are needed to run meetings. Sorry for any inconveniences made to the public.

There are currently 3 vacancies with the Police Department. C. Henderson asked what had changed. Suggestion was made that having an Hr. Director has helped. The City Manager suggested that improvements on our city facilities and on our public image has helped along with the exposure of vacancies. Ongoing accreditation is being made and C. Henderson highlighted the current efficacy of the Police Department Staff. C. Johnson expressed the importance of having PD Officers that are Nome based. City Manager Steckman stated that there are housing challenges which contribute towards having full time staffing positions versus employees that come and go.

An update was asked by C. Henderson on an RFP for a towing contract. The City has borrowed fencing from NJUS to construct and impound yard and the City Clerks office is working on an RFP to put out into the community to assess interest of the private sector.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Concern was made by Drew McCann about City Hall being moved temporarily and being able to function and address the needs of the public. Will there be any impacts from the City offices being temporarily housed in other areas farther from the middle of town? City Manager stated that there will be impacts and that we're trying to address as best we can.

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

C.Martinson- No Comment

C.Piscoya- No Comment

C.Johnson- No Comment

C.Henderson- Stated that the roads appear to be in really good shape and that the public works team is doing a good job. Thanks to HR Director Cynthia Gray for her efforts in filling vacant positions.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

Would like to highlight the great job with the cruise ship and Nome Discovery Tours efforts to have tour guides available to our visitors. There were lots of positive comments that came in from Drew McCann from the Chamber of Commerce and also from Cole Cushman from public works about Nome's efforts to accommodate the cruise ship visitors.

The Midnight Sun activities went well. Thanks to Christine Piscoya for helping to coordinate the parade. It is great to have citizens step up to help out.

Kuddos to whomever selected the paint schemes for the bus stops which were painted vibrant colors.

The National Weather services recently vacated their space to the State for other use. Interest was raised with the potential vacated housing by the National Weather Service to help meet local housing needs.

The Beneville Family was not able to come up and visit when Mayor Beneville passed away. On July 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM there will be a reception for remembrance with the family in Old Saint Joes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Matters of which by law, municipal charter or ordinance are required to be confidential re:  
The subjects of Police Matters & Property Acquisitions,

A Motion to recess into executive session was made by C.Henderson and  
Seconded by C.Johnson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

The Council recessed at 08:44PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 09:21 PM

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 8<sup>th</sup> Day of July, 2024.

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**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
Mayor

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**DAN GRIMMER**  
City Clerk