

Mayor
John K. Handeland

Manager
Glenn Steckman

Deputy Clerk
Jeremy Jacobson



Nome Common Council
Cameron Piscoya
Scot Henderson
Doug Johnson
Mark Johnson
Adam Martinson
M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022 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

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Scot Henderson; Doug Johnson (virtual); Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Sigvanna Tapqaq (virtual)

Members Absent:

Also Present: John Handeland, City Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy City Clerk; Joy Baker, Port Director (virtual); Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (virtual); Ken Morton, NJUS Asst. Manager; Bob Pruckett, NPD Deputy Chief; Cameron Piscoya, newly elected Council Seat E; Kellie Miller, Youth Representative

In the audience: Diana Haecker (Nome Nugget); Davis Hovey (KNOM); Rhonda Schneider (Nome Community Center); Dew McCann (Nome Kennel Club); Samuel Hiratsuka (Legislative Asst. to Mary Peltola); Efrain "Butch" Palmero (Nome Community Center)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the agenda.

Discussion:

- City Manager Steckman requested to remove communications item A from the agenda after discussing it with Mr. Luce earlier that day.
- Item A was removed from the evening's agenda without objection.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapqaq; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

OATH OF OFFICE

A. Cameron Piscoya, Council Member,
– Mayor Handeland administered the oath of office for Council Member Piscoya.

B. Kellie Miller, Youth Representative,

- Youth Representative Miller was en route from a prior commitment and would arrive shortly. The Council would return to the oath of office once youth representative Miller was present.
- 7:13 PM, Youth Representative Kellie Miller arrived. Mayor Handeland administered the oath of office for the Youth Representative seat.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. September 26, 2022 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes,
- B. October 3, 2022 Nome Common Council Special Meeting Minutes,
- C. October 6, 2022 Nome Common Council Special Meeting Minutes,

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the September 26, October 3, & 6, 2022 minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Tapqaq; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson;

Nay:

Abstain: Piscoya

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Memorandum of February 23, 2022 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Taxi Cab Licenses in Nome,

B. Letter of September 29, 2022 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Beverage Dispensary License Renewal Application,

- Mayor Handeland read the notice from the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO). It stated that an application was received for a liquor license renewal and submitted by Sackett Inc. d.b.a. Anchor Tavern.
- Council Member Henderson inquired into the City's review process after receiving an AMCO license application notification.
- City Manager Steckman confirmed an application proceeded by an assessment from Nome Police Department and the Clerk's department.

C. Email and Resolution of September 30, 2022 from Nome Kennel Club to City of Nome re: Merbok Damages,

- Mayor Handeland noted the communication, questioning if an application had been filed with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the State of Alaska.
- On behalf of the Nome Kennel Club, Drew McCann commented they had been working with the State. He noted the communication as notice and documentation of the property damage incurred from Typhoon Merbok. Further assessment remained; however, the newly placed Iditarod trail stakes placed last year were lost in the storm.
- Mayor Handeland requested clarification on which agency assistance was applied.

- Diana Haecker reaffirmed an application was filed with the State. She reiterated that the storm wiped out most of the tripods placed last summer. There was damage to an outhouse located at the newly renovated Topkok Cabin, the cabin was still intact.

D. Memorandum of October 6, 2022 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council,

- Mayor Handeland noted the annual Alaska Municipal League (AML) Local Government Conference in Anchorage, which would be available for all Council Members. The newly elected officials' training would be available for newly elected Council Member Cameron Piscoya and any other interested council members. Any interested individuals should work with the City Clerk toward conference registration.

E. Memorandum of October 18, 2022 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Council Determination of Disposition of Untimely Filed Sales Tax Exemption Forms,

- Mayor Handeland noted the communication item for the Council.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to accept the Bering Sea Women's Group Municipal Sales Tax Exemption application as filed timely.

At the roll call:

Aye: Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- Rhonda Schneider, Nome Community Center (NCC) Executive Director, introduced Efrain "Butch" Palmero to the Council, her replacement with NCC.
- Samuel Hiratsuka, the Legislative Assistant to Congresswoman Mary S. Peltola, announced to the public his presence within the community for the next few days. He will be set up in Council Chambers Tuesday & Wednesday afternoon and evening to listen to what matters most to constituents, in Nome.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. R-22-10-03 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 was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-22-10-03.

At the roll call:

Aye: Tapqaq; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Piscoya

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

A. R-22-10-04 A Resolution Designating Bryant Hammond as Acting City Manager for November 12 - 26, 2022,

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to adopt R-22-10-04.

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Piscoya; Tapqaq

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

B. R-22-10-05 A Resolution Awarding the Contract for the Furnishing of an Articulated Boom Lift for the City of Nome Department of Public Works to Construction Machinery Industrial,

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-22-10-05.

Discussion:

- City Manager Steckman requested that the Common Council not accept this particular bid. Stating the City could receive a better offer with another round of submissions.

At the roll call:

Aye:

Nay: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson

Abstain:

The motion **FAILED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: September 27 - October 20, 2022,

- NJUS Assistant Manager Morton announced the utility fuel surcharge had gone up 8.8 cents per kWh, a record increase. NJUS was able to save 6.3 cents per kWh using the weighted average approach with existing inventory.
- Council Member Henderson inquired into the new combined rate.
- NJUS Asst. Manager Morton stated the new combined rate would be 44.45 cents per kWh without factoring in PCE.
- Mayor Handeland estimated, dependent on usage, roughly a 12% increase in total cost toward monthly utility bills.
- NJUS Assistant Manager Morton outlined a possible avenue for future energy & power, advanced nuclear fission. The technology is not currently commercially available. Assistant Manager Morton surmised that considering such a source's planning and development process would depend on economic viability and community interest.
- NJUS Assistant Manager Morton noted a purchase order was signed with Wartsila, collaboration with Bonanza Fuel on a spill drill training, and reported freeze-ups, likely caused by circulation pumps not being turned on.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: September 27 - October 20, 2022,

- City Manager Steckman stated the City would be pursuing violators of parked vehicles in the right of way around town. He welcomed Youth Representative Kellie Miller and newly-elected Council Member Piscoya and extended an invitation to tour the City facilities. He apologized for the recent interruption of e-mail transmission with City servers, noting recent upgrades to the City's firewall.
- City Manager Steckman announced the Denali Commission would be moderating a Work Summit at the Mini Convention Center on November 10, 2022. He advised on the City's budget and the impact of losing the Bering Sea Restaurant and briefed on the City's rising fuel and utility costs.
- Council Member M. Johnson shared concerns with the City's online permitting process should an applicant be without access to the internet.
- City Manager Steckman stated a dedicated computer for permit applications is available at City Hall, with staff available to assist.
- Council Member Henderson inquired why a request for proposal (RFP) was put out for the City's emergency radio system.
- City Manager Steckman expressed his concern with allowing hardware providers to diagnose and further recommend their product. Having an independent party provide a diagnosis first was preferred.
- Council Member M. Johnson acknowledged the City's current Museum Director, Dr. Amy Chan-Phillips' resignation and departure from the City of Nome. He inquired into how the City might fill that need.
- City Manager Steckman determined the Museum Director position would open to the public by December.
- Council Member M. Johnson inquired into the Assistant City Manager position, which the Council had approved for in the City's budget.
- City Manager Steckman stated the City received only two responses after the advertisement for an Assistant City Manager. One of which was an Alaskan resident, follow-up would ensue.

B. October 2022 Port Director & Capital Projects Update,

C. Harbormaster Quarterly Report,

D. September 15, 2022 Nome Port Commission Regular Meeting Minutes,

E. Parks & Recreation Quarterly Report,

F. Building Inspection Quarterly Report,

G. Kegoayah Kozga Library Quarterly Report,

H. Public Works Quarterly Report,

I. NVAD / NVFD Quarterly Report,

J. Finance Quarterly Report,

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- Citizen Drew McCann expressed his support for exploring nuclear fission. As Branch Manager of the newly opening Nome branch office of Northrim Bank, he gave a plug to various forthcoming positions for hire.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member M. Johnson commented, while not directly within the City's purview, there had been a local meteorologist through the weather service, which he would like to see comeback.
2. Council Member Martinson welcomed Youth Representative Kellie Miller and newly-elected Council Member Cameron Piscoya.
3. Council Member Piscoya expressed his excitement about working with the Council on the community's future.
4. Council Member Tapqaq welcomed Council Member Piscoya and Youth Representative Miller. She expressed her delight in the reflection of diversity amongst the local representatives; however, she was saddened to hear of the news of Museum Director Amy Chan's departure. She gave praise for her work and graciousness.
5. Council Member Henderson welcomed Council Member Piscoya and Youth Representative Miller and thanked Rhonda Schneider for her service to the community of Nome. He welcomed Efrain "Butch" Palmero to the community. He encouraged those in the community available to assist with Nome Public School's staffing shortage situation to do so. He also opined his support for micro-nuclear reactor technology as an energy source.
6. Council Member D. Johnson welcomed Youth Representative Kellie Miller and Council Member Piscoya.
7. Youth Representative Miller thanked everyone and expressed her excitement to be involved.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: September 27 - October 20, 2022,

- Mayor Handeland noted his time spent with Congresswoman Mary Peltola's Legislative Assistant, Sam Hiratsuka. He appreciated his time spent recently with Senator Sullivan and his presence in the region.

B. Reappointment of John Odden to Nome Planning Commission Seat C,

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to reappointment John Odden to the Nome Planning Commission, Seat C.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 7:57 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 14th day of November 2022

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk