

Mayor
John K. Handeland
Manager
Glenn Steckman
Clerk
Bryant Hammond



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

NOME COMMON COUNCIL
WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023 at 5:30 / 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

WORK SESSION - 5:30 PM

A. Legislative Update with State Delegation and City of Nome Lobbyists.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Scot Henderson; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Cameron Piscoya; Sigvanna Tapqaq

Members Absent: Doug Johnson (excused);

Also Present: John K. Handleand, Mayor; Kellie Miller, Youth Representative; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, Clerk; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (telephonic); Joy Baker, Port Director (telephonic); Mike Heintzeleman, NPD Chief; Ken Morton, NJUS Assistant Manager; Jay Sterne & Wendy Chamberlain (telephonic), City Lobbyists

Work Session: Jamie and Stan Burgess; Jim West, Jr; Charlie Cross; Angie Gorn; Walter Rose; Josie Stiles; Cheryl Thompson; John Moeller; Senator Donny Olson; Representative Neil Foster; Paul LaBolle

In the audience: Greg Knight, KNOM Radio (telephonic); Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget (telephonic)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Form Submission of March 19, 2023 from Cindy Frankenberry to City of Nome re: Thank you for Supporting Iditarod.
- B. Email of March 21, 2023 from Alaska Commercial to City of Nome re: Requesting Support for SNAP Petition.
 - The Council did not object to sending support.
- C. Memorandum of March 24, 2023 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Tax Forgiveness.
 - Clerk Hammond gave a brief explanation.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to forgive the accumulated \$117.12 in taxes, penalty, and interest.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. City of Nome FY24 Budget Calendar.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None given

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: March 14 - 24, 2023.
 - Assistant Utility Manager Morton discussed current project work occurring – generator overhaul, 6th Ave line connection project at 35% design, Seppala designs being resubmitted and the posting of a mechanic / operator position at the power plant.
 - Manager Handeland discussed the CFO's resignation and the NSEDC energy subsidy program.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: March 14 - 24, 2023.
 - Manager Steckman discussed the imminent arrival of the 1st Secretary of Greenland to Nome, hosted by Kawerak, and his planned tour of town with them. He noted the Iditarod trophy has been moved into the Visitors' Center so that tourists would have access to view it. Staff are planning on displaying the Iron Dog trophy and the Red Lantern as well, as part of a larger plan to sell Nome to visitors and tourists.

He responded to a previous question from Council Member Mark Johnson about the potential banning of vaping devices in an effort to reduce underage usage. Manager Steckman noted his intention to honor David Hahn for noticing the Public Works Building fire and reporting it. He discussed the redevelopment efforts of the Nome Nugget Inn and present hurdles to clear.

- Council Member Henderson and Manager Steckman discussed flood code as a possible issue to the rejuvenation of Front St. They also discussed the HVAC deferred maintenance at City

Hall and the Rec Center, possible financing options and the newly hired grant writers role in the projects.

- Council Member Mark Johnson requested preliminary numbers of the City were to go out to bond to finance the HVAC projects and thanked Manager Steckman for the vaping research. The two briefly discussed the mechanics of bonding.

B. Port & Capital Projects Update - March 2023.

C. February 15, 2023 Nome Port Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None given

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Martinson noted he had a great week with kids at state championships - the boys gave it there all. He noted a lot of support for rural regions: at one point there was a Barrow / Bethel / Nome cheer team.
2. Council Member Piscoya asked the City of Nome to consider how to provide utilities when developing new housing.
3. Council Member Tapqaq expressed gratitude to the staff for their work and for the meeting being on the short side. She noted she was in Washington DC and meeting with the AK delegation in the morning. She explained the National League of Cities conference has been great and that the local indigenous leaders group was just formalized and announced earlier in the day.
4. Council Member Henderson asked Mr. Sterne if the decision to dredge to -40 feet was already made. He and Manager Steckman discussed housing shortage, where the numbers were coming from and whether or not a transition to remote work was easing some of the pressure. They briefly discussed the status of the exemption ordinances and projects in the works.
 - Jay Sterne explained that -40 feet was the design decided upon.
5. Council Member Mark Johnson requested the YouTube link concerning the strategic need for an arctic port. He also requested some outreach for the new exemption ordinances.
6. Youth Representative Miller – no comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: March 14 - 24, 2023.

Mayor Handeland explained he was leaving town at noon to be on a panel at the Arctic Encounters Conference.

- Jay Sterne gave a brief background on Arctic Encounters, noting it was the biggest conference on Arctic policy in the world. He briefly discussed a new travel component which could bring attendees to Nome in the future.

Mayor Handeland commended the Department of Public Works for doing an excellent job on snow removal and keeping up with the ongoing storms. He surmised that the Nanook boys only

fell short of victory because they were playing giants, saying they should be proud for playing as well as they did. He commended James Mason's photos he put up on Facebook.

Colonel Delarosa with the Army Corps of Engineers visited at the end of Iditarod, bringing his successor up to orient him to the community. He was impressed by Nome.

Mayor Handeland thanked the community for Iditarod participation and the Lonnie O'Conner Iditarod Basketball tournament, giving kudos to Kimberly Gooden. He noted the small field of mushers this year, highlighted the local, Native Alaskan folks did great in the race. While PETA continues to pound on people, it will survive with the support of Nome.

He thanked Jay for his efforts for Nome, sometimes working late on a Friday night advocating for Nome.

Mayor Handeland finished by acknowledging Louie Green Sr.'s passing. Louie served on the Common Council and the Utility Board, as well as other organizations around town. But beyond that service, he is probably best remembered as a helper, dropping everything to come to the aid of those in need, even if it meant thawing a drain in the middle of the night. He noted the celebration of his life would be on Wednesday and the service would be performed by Al Beasley, a former bandmate of Mr. Green's. He declared that he would be issuing a Mayoral Proclamation making April 17th, Louie's birthday, Louis Green Sr day in Nome.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 8:08 PM.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 10th day of April 2023

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk