

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland

**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman

**Deputy Clerk**  
Jeremy Jacobson



**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 13, 2023 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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**WORK SESSION - 6:00PM**

- A. General Fund Balance Sheet Presentation.
- B. Balance Sheet Documents.
- C. FY24 Capital Requests by Funding Source.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Scot Henderson; Mark Johnson; Cameron Piscoya; Sigvanna Tapqaq (telephonic)

Members Absent: Doug Johnson; Adam Martinson

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy Clerk; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (telephonic); Joy Baker, Port Director (telphonic); Cole Cushman, DPW Director; Mike Heintzelman, NPD Chief

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. January 23, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. February 13, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and C. Henderson to approve the January 23, 2023 and February 13, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson; M. Johnson

Nay:  
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Letter of February 6, 2023 from AMCO to the City of Nome re: Gudlief, Grass Station 49 and Nome Grown LLC Marijuana License Renewals.
- Council Member Henderson inquired into the license status of Gudlief Organization LLC.
  - Manager Steckman confirmed Gudlief Organization LLC had undergone a transfer in ownership, new license.
  - Deputy Clerk Jacobson commented the organization had dissolved, a new one had opened.
  - Council Member Henderson questioned if Marijuana licenses are reviewed simultaneously, similar to the Alcohol license renewals.
  - Mayor Handeland commented that this instance the Marijuana licenses would be simultaneously reviewed.
  - Council Member M. Johnson raised issue to marijuana vaping within the municipality. Suggesting the process to ban marijuana vaping be further looked into.
  - Mayor Handeland made the request of City Manager Steckman to contact AMCO Director Wilson regarding process.
  - Manager Steckman reaffirmed he would consult with the City's Attorney, Brooks, as well.
- B. City of Nome FY24 Budget Calendar.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

*No citizen comments were given.*

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. O-23-02-01 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2023 General Fund Municipal Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:25 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:25 PM.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt O-23-02-01.

#### Discussion:

- Council Member Henderson inquired into the increase in the sales tax budget; whether general inflation, fuel, or the 7% seasonal sales tax was a factor in the projections.
- Manager Steckman confirmed the increase was without the 7% seasonal sales tax.
- Finance Director Crowe reaffirmed the projected budget was without the 7% seasonal sales tax.
- Council Member Henderson further inquired into the budget, vacant personnel, and last year's and this year's fuel projection and the money set aside for unfilled personnel positions in the budget.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C.M. Johnson to amend the original motion, decreasing \$25,000 in museum donations and increasing fund balance appropriation, moving the Curtis Jacobs donation to Special Revenues.

At the roll call:

Aye: Tapqaq; Henderson; M. Johnson; Piscoya

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion.

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; M. Johnson; Piscoya; Tapqaq

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion, as amended, **CARRIED**.

B. O-23-02-02 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2023 School Debt Service Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:44 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:44 PM.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya to adopt O-23-02-02.

Discussion:

- Council Member Henderson inquired into unfunded reimbursements in the budget.
- Finance Director Crowe stated the school district received school bond funds from the City which were to be paid back after reimbursement from the State of Alaska, no payment by the State as of yet.

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; M. Johnson; Piscoya; Tapqaq

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

C. O-23-02-03 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2023 Special Revenue Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:56 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:56 PM.

A motion was made by C. Piscoya and seconded by C. Henderson to adopt O-23-02-03.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded C. Piscoya to further amend the F23 Special Revenue Fund Budget by increasing as outlined in Finance Director Crowe's March 2, 2023 Memo to Nome Common Council.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion.

Discussion:

- Council Member Henderson inquired into various funds unexpectedly received in the FY23 budget adjustments and how they came to be.
- City Manager Steckman commented yes.
- Finance Director Crowe reaffirmed the funds were in fact unexpectedly received, as well as grant true ups.

At the roll call:

Aye: Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion, as amended, **CARRIED**.

D. O-23-02-04 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2023 Capital Projects Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 8:02 PM.

The Council reconvened at 8:02 PM.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to adopt O-23-02-04.

Discussion:

- Council Member M. Johnson inquired into recent additional vehicle purchases for NPD.
- City Manager Steckman commented the ideal life cycle of vehicles purchased by the City would be 7-10 years, however, recently vehicles have been unusable, without sale after their duration with the City.

At the roll call:

Aye: Tapqaq; M. Johnson; Henderson; Piscoya  
Nay:  
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. O-23-02-05 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2023 Construction Capital Projects Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 8:06 PM.

The Council reconvened at 8:06 PM.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya to adopt O-23-02-05.

At the roll call:  
Aye: Henderson; M. Johnson; Piscoya; Tapqaq  
Nay:  
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- F. O-23-02-06 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2023 Port of Nome Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 8:09 PM.

The Council reconvened at 8:09 PM.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to adopt O-23-02-06.

Discussion:

- Council Member Henderson questioned why the decrease in causeway facility in the Port Operating fund revenue.
- Port Director Baker stated the projected budget was based off a project that never came to fruition, resulting in an overshot in budget between gravel and fuel.

At the roll call:  
Aye: M. Johnson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson  
Nay:  
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- G. O-23-02-07 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2023 Port of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 8:12 PM.

The Council reconvened at 8:12 PM.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya to adopt O-23-02-07.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman pointed out 175 million was from the Army Corps for the deep draft at the Port, 4 million was for the damage done at Cape Nome as a result from Typhoon Merbok.

At the roll call:

Aye: Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. R-23-03-01 A Resolution Assigning Fifty Percent of General Fund General Interest Toward the Purchase of a CAT 160M Grader.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson.

At the roll call:

Aye: Tapqaq; Henderson; M. Johnson; Piscoya

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-23-03-02 A Resolution Awarding the Contract for the Furnishing of an Articulated Boom Lift for the City of Nome Department of Public Works to NC Machinery.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to adopt R-23-03-02.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman stated NC Machinery's proposal was slightly less than what was budgeted for.
- Council Member M. Johnson requested clarification with R-23-03-02, delivery of the articulated boom lift.

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; M. Johnson; Piscoya; Tapqaq

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: February 14 - March 3 2023.
- Mayor Handeland discussed the recent 7 to 8 cent increase of the PCE rate, closure of utilities finance books from 2021 & 2022. There will be a recruitment for Utilities Operations Manager, CFO, and accounting positions. The engine overhaul is awaiting parts with work expected to start in May.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: February 14 - March 3 2023.
- Manager Steckman commented, the recent lobbying trip to Washington D.C. was successful. Feedback regarding recent Public Works hires has been positive. A new female officer was hired, police calls have been down lately, and the Day-Shelter is now open 7 days a week.
  - Council Member M. Johnson gave homage to Public Works Supervisor, Cole Cushman for his provided instruction while addressing road complaints.
  - Manager Steckman noted contacted information has been available and published over the last year, each call would be taken seriously. He made final requests for the public's assistance with vehicles parked in the roadway during times of snow removal.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

*No comments were given.*

**COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

1. Council Member Henderson thanked Finance Director Crowe for her presentation, time discussing the budget, and memorandum's further describing necessities. Attention was given to the recent Iditarod and all the recent Front St. business activity. Approval of Public Works Supervisor, Cole Cushman for his recent management of the Public Works projects, handling of storms, and work performed.
2. Council Member M. Johnson acknowledged Finance Director Crowe and her presentation at the meeting. Gave thanks to Mayor Handeland, Port Director Baker, and Manager Steckman for work with the Deep Draft Port Project, noting their representation and communication. Special thanks was given to Mayor Handeland and the rest of the Common Council for hearing out a discussion regarding youth vaping in town, hopeful for further action.
3. Council Member Piscoya gave notice of Congressional staff currently accepting high school intern positions, refer any applicants.
4. Council Member Tapqaq thanked staff for their hard work.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: February 14 - March 3 2023.

- Mayor Handeland described the recent meeting in Washington DC with congressional leaders, Navy, Coast Guard, and US Army Corps. Discussions regarding the Deep Draft Port design and the projected capacity to receive any Navy or Coast Guard ship, not including Aircraft Carriers. The Army Corps gave assurance, a Project Partnership Agreement is expected for consideration in the near future. Final figures should be available soon as well. Discussions with Senator Sullivan and Senator Murkowski's senior staff as well, multiple travel delays returning from Anchorage, and appreciation was given to State of Alaska DOT for their work during recent storms.
- Mayor Handeland stated Iron Dog went well with no major injuries. Acknowledgement to Public Works Supervisor, Cole Cushman and crew for their work building the Iditarod chute and railings sand blasted. The Iditarod Arch is in need of reconditioning, Public Works and Iditarod crew will work together on that. Appreciation to NVFPD, citizens, for quick action noticing and responding to a fire at the City Public Works building recently. The City's historical records remained preserved. Discussion for a new records housing is ongoing.

B. Reappointment of Greg Smith to Seat G of the Nome Planning Commission.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya to reappoint Greg Smith to Seat G of the Nome Planning Commission.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Discussion of Personnel and Legal Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which May have Adverse Impacts in City of Nome Finances.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters, the immediate knowledge of which may have adverse impacts in City of Nome finances.

The Council entered into executive session at 8:45 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 9:20 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 9:34 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 24th day of April, 2023.



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**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
**Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**BRYANT HAMMOND**  
**Clerk**