

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, APRIL 10, 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

WORK SESSION - 6:00 PM

A. FY2024 Nome Public Schools Draft Budget and Local Contribution Discussion.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent:

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; Mike Heintzeleman & Bob
Pruckner, NPD; Ken Morton, NJUS Assistant Manager;

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Piscoya; Tapaqa; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 27, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M.
Johnson to approve the March 27, 2023 minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Memo of March 7, 2023 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Clean up King Island Native Community Block 70 Lots.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to forgive the accumulated taxes, penalties and interest to clean up the block 70 accounts.

Discussion:

- Clerk Hammond gave a brief explanation of the situation.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. Memo of March 31, 2023 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Untimely Filed Exemption Applications.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to authorize the Clerk to accept the applications as if timely filed.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. City of Nome FY24 Budget Calendar.
- D. April 2023 Flyer re: Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities.
- E. Nome Nugget Advertisement re: Development Exemption Ordinances.
- Manager Steckman discussed briefly, along with other planned outreach methods.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None given

NEW BUSINESS

- E. R-23-04-05 A Resolution Commending Michael Hahn for his Prompt Noticing and Reporting of a Fire in the Public Works Building.

Clerk Hammond read R-23-04-05 in its entirety.

A motion was made by C. Piscoya and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt R-23-04-05.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- A. R-23-04-01 A Resolution Recognizing April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-23-04-01.

Discussion:

- Council Member Tapqaq asked if these types of resolutions come up every year or if they apply to perpetuity.
- Mayor Handeland noted such resolutions come before the Council as they arise or as requested.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-23-04-02 A Resolution Designating Charles "Chip" Leeper as Acting City Manager for April 26, 2023 to May 6, 2023.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Tapqaq to adopt R-23-04-02.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-23-04-03 A Resolution the City of Nome to Apply for and Participate in the USDOT PIDP Discretionary Grant Program for Funding the Port of Nome Arctic Deep Draft Port--Expanded Marine Utilities Construction.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-23-04-03.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. R-23-04-04 A Resolution Authorizing Staff to Put out a Bid for the Maintenance and Upgrades to the Heating and Ventilation System for City Hall.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-23-04-04.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman noted that \$1.1 million in ARPA Funds would be used.
- Council Member Henderson asked if that amount would be sufficient.
- Manager Steckman surmised it would, but wouldn't make any hard promises due to the volatility of the markets.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: March 28 to April 7, 2023.
- Assistant Utility Manager Ken Morton reported on Utility operations, noting that the Generator 16 overhaul would begin in two weeks and that the line crew would soon begin taking down parts of the Rock Creek Mine feeder, salvaging what they can. He noted CFO and Operations Manager opportunities available and 1063 applicants for the NSEDC Utility subsidy for 2023.
 - Council Member Henderson asked if the CFO could be a remote position.
 - Mr. Morton replied that it could, though NJU would certainly prefer a local hire.
 - Mayor Handeland noted the NSEDC subsidy would likely hit accounts for April.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: March 28 to April 7, 2023.

- Manager Steckman spoke a little about property assessments, noting they went up substantially. He noted that the mill rate would likely go down as a result. He explained how assessments worked briefly. He encouraged people to appeal prior to BOE.
 - He noted three months had gone by with limited alcohol sales on Sundays. He asked for volunteers from the council to sit in on the AC / Hansons / City discussion. He noted the topics would be what is working and what is not working right now. He discussed the impacts on Sundays at NPD and NEST. Council Member Henderson volunteered.
 - Manager Steckman discussed the AMLJIA adjuster coming back to town. He asked about the vaping issue and when they would like to address it.
 - Council Member Mark Johnson expressed his concern over kids using vaping cartridges at the school. He noted kids ending up in the hospital.
 - Youth Representative Miller thought the “at-school” use is going down but agreed with Council Member Johnson that there is an underlying issue in town.
 - Manager Steckman noted the Christmas tree was probably damaged in the fire and might need a replacement for next year.
 - He noted the bleachers were at their end of life and would need replacement soon.
- B. NPD Quarterly Report.
- C. NVFD Quarterly Report.
- D. NVAD Quarterly Report.
- E. Parks & Rec Quarterly Report.
- F. Kegoayah Kozga Library Quarterly Report.
- G. Public Works Quarterly Report.
- H. Finance Quarterly Report.
- I. Building Inspector Quarterly Report.
- J. Port Director and Capital Projects Update.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Diana Haecker, with the Nome Kennel Club, thanked the City of Nome for supporting NKC's races though their use of the snow dump area. She specifically thanked DPW Director Cole Cushman and his crew for clearing snow and preparing the area for mushers.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Piscoya – no comments.
2. Council Member Tapqaq discussed the National League of Cities conference and the creation of the Indigenous Leaders group within the League. She discussed meeting with Alaska's congressional delegation and passed on their message of “lots of love for Nome.”
3. Youth Representative Miller – no comments.

4. Council Member Henderson discussed property assessments, noting the general consensus he was hearing was that values went up too steeply. He opined the mill rate should be lowered and asked for a history of the mill rate.
5. Council Member Doug Johnson – no comments.
6. Council Member Mark Johnson discussed the repeal of the seasonal sales tax by the voters and opined it was offset by the raise in online and marijuana sales tax collected. He explained he had spoken with a bunch of people who felt property values went up too quickly. In his own case, his home went up 28 percent. He encouraged people to read their assessments and appeal if necessary.
7. Council Member Martinson – no comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: March 28 to April 7, 2023.
- Mayor Handeland discussed the Arctic Encounters conference in Anchorage this past week. He called out Josh Cannon for his powerful presentation; he saw some Nome Eskimo dancers at the opening ceremony; he opined it was great to spend time with people connected to Nome. He discussed meeting with upper echelon HUD people and talking about a larger scale housing development in Nome, one where 50 - 100 units are not too large of numbers to discuss. He discussed a Red Cross award nominee for work associated with Merbok.
 - He closed by wishing the City of Nome a happy birthday (April 9, 1901).

EXECUTIVE SESSION**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 8:07 PM.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 24th day of April 2023

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk