

Mayor
John K. Handeland
Manager
Glenn Steckman
Clerk
Bryant Hammond



Nome City Council
Jerald Brown
Doug Johnson
Mark Johnson
Adam Martinson
Jennifer Reader
Meghan Sigvanna Topkok

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 2020 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: Jerald Brown; Doug Johnson (telephonic); Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson (telephonic); Jennifer Reader (Zoom); Meghan Topkok (Zoom);

Members Absent: Zoe Okleasik

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Judy Martinson; Rhonda Schneider; Paul Kosto; John Mortenson; Ken Hughes; Lisa Ellanna; Derek McLarty; Keith Morrison

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Handeland asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Brown to approve the agenda.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader; Topkok;
Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 12, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. October 26, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Brown to approve both sets of minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of October 25, 2020 from Utility Manager to City Manager re: Streetlight Safety Enhancements--CARES Funding Suggestion/Request.
- B. Memo of November 6, 2020 from Clerk Hammond to Common Council re: Land Disposal Bid Results.
- C. Letter of November 6, 2020 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Breakers Bar and Nome Liquor Store License Renewal.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- 1. Ken Hughes congratulated John Handeland on his recent mayoral win. He noted no reason was stated in the minutes of the October 12 executive session. He spoke in support of round V of CARES Act relief.
- 2. Judy Martinson asked for access to meetings via Zoom or phone so she could participate while out of town. She read an email concerning COVID and O-20-11-01 asking to reduce the renewal of travel restrictions.
- 3. Lisa Ellanna read her resignation letter from the Public Safety Advisory Commission, citing the slow pace of administration in discussing the NPD Operating Procedure Manual. Ms. Ellanna opined such delay demonstrated the commission was not valued.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. O-20-10-01 An Extension of a Local Emergency Authorizing the Nome Common Council to Direct the City Manager Take Necessary Actions to Reduce the Impact and Spread of COVID-19 Throughout the City of Nome, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:24 PM.

- Ken Hughes suggested the period be shortened to 90 days. He noted the Council could extend it if desired.
- Judy Martinson requested the Council only extend the emergency 90 days.

The Council reconvened at 7:27 PM.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt O-20-10-01.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman briefed the Council on the current state of Nome's travel restrictions and the recent extension of the State's emergency declaration.

- Mayor Handeland discussed Iditarod's plans for carrying out the race in a safe manner for 2021. He reminded the Council of the agreed upon amendment of striking 1(e) in section 3.
- Council Member Reader asked how Iditarod would look with the current travel restrictions in place.
- Council Member Mark Johnson discussed other communities' practices.
- Manager Steckman discussed testing practices and logistics.
- Council Member Reader discussed Hawai'i's testing regime and expectations of diminished visitors at Iditarod.
- Council Member Martinson noted the emergency orders were the nitty gritty.
- Council Member Topkok suggested passing with the date as proposed.
- Council Member Doug Johnson suggested keeping the date as proposed and suggested a testing regime.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. M. Johnson to amend O-20-10-01 by striking 1(e) of section 3.

At the roll call:

Aye: Reader; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

- The Council discussed 4 of section 3 and the chain of succession if the City Manager isn't able to perform his duties.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to change the expiration date from June 31 to February 8.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay: Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; Reader

Abstain:

The motion **FAILED**.

Returning to the main motion

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to change the expiration date from June 31 to March 31.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay: Brown; D. Johnson; Reader; Topkok
Abstain:

The motion **FAILED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:
Aye: Martinson; Reader; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; M.
Johnson
Nay:
Abstain:

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

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-20-11-01 A Resolution Awarding the Port of Nome Anode Replacement Project to Global Diving & Salvage, Inc.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-20-11-01.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman explained the bid process and recommended awarding the bid.

At the roll Call
Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader; Topkok;
Brown
Nay:
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-20-11-02 A Resolution Designating John K. Handeland as Acting City Manager for the Period December 19, 2020 to January 5, 2021.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-20-11-02.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman explained his two normal backups would be out of town for part or all the time.

At the roll call:
Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader; Topkok; Brown; D.
Johnson
Nay:
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

C. R-20-11-03 A Resolution of the City of Nome Authorizing the City Manager to Develop and Implement Phase V of CARES Act Funding for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-20-11-03.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman explained the resolution was written broad enough so the Council could easily add in specific direction to staff.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Martinson to amend R-20-11-03 by deleting “develop and,” changing “businesses” to “families” and adding “of direct payment of \$500 for adults and \$100 for children under 18 based upon an application developed by the City Manager” to the end of the Now Therefore Be it Resolved section.

Discussion:

- Council Member Topkok expressed concern about overextending the City's resources.

At the roll call:

Aye: Reader; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson;
Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Reader; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; M.
Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

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

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: October 27 to November 6, 2020.

- Assistant Manager Morton presented his verbal report, highlighting line crew activity, water/sewer, and a recent DEC full compliance evaluation.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: October 27 to November 6, 2020.

- Manager Steckman presented his written report, highlighting a recent NPD encounter and the most recent Public Safety Advisory Commission meeting.
- B. Memo from Acting Finance Director Crowe to Manager Steckman re: General Fund Comparative Revenue & Expense Report.
 - Acting Finance Director Crowe briefly presented her memo.
- C. September 17, 2020 Nome Port Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.
- D. November 2020 Port of Nome Report and Capital Projects Update.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Ken Morton, NJUS, asked if there were any questions concerning the street light proposal.
2. Ken Hughes expressed appreciation for Manager Steckman and City staff for protecting the community from COVID-19. He reiterated his request of allowing a test 72 hours prior to count for the test upon entry.
3. Judy Martinson spoke highly of both the City Manager and the Police Chief. She requested the Council entertain the 72 hour rapid test option for Iditarod, in the hopes of coaxing tourists back. She requested an option for remote participation for citizens.
4. Derek McLarty of the Utility Board and Port Commission suggested reoffering the Public Safety Advisory Commission seat to Ms. Ellanna.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Brown asked that Parks and Rec get a second opinion on the recommendation to switch from salt to chlorine for pool treatment.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. M. Johnson grant the NJUS request of funds for repairs to streetlights in Nome, subject to clarification from AML that the project is CARES Act eligible.

At the roll call:

Aye: Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson;
Reader

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

2. Council Member Doug Johnson opined he would love to see the City open for business but would like to see a plan in place so that Nome could host safe finished for Iron Dog and Iditarod.
3. Council Member Mark Johnson expressed appreciation for passing the next round of COVID relief. He asked the City to look into remote options for citizen participation in Council meetings.
4. Council Member Martinson hoped the two big projects, the pool and the rec center got started this year. He looked forward to the discussion on strategies to open up the City while keeping the community safe.

5. Council Member Reader thanked Acting Finance Director Crowe for keeping the books up to date. She agreed with Council Member Brown that a second opinion on the pool was warranted. She hoped that the Nugget and KNOM felt safer in chambers now that she was attending via Zoom. She hoped that streaming meetings might increase turnout and participation in city government and noted the decline in participation over the course of the pandemic.
6. Council Member Topkok opined the Zoom option was far better than the teleconference line. She echoed Council Members Mark Johnson and Reader in hoping for more participation through virtual meeting options. She expressed appreciation for staff and the efforts they've put forth.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: October 27 to November 6, 2020,
 - Mayor Handeland appreciated appreciation for everyone's time. He noted the current Zoom meeting was using 98 percent of the City's bandwidth, but that staff were working on a solution.
- B. Public Safety Advisory Commission Seat I Appointment,
 - Mayor Handeland appointed Shauntel Bruner-Alvanna to Seat I of the Public Safety Advisory Commission.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to confirm Mayor Handeland's appointment.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader;
Topkok

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

The Common Council adjourned at 9:35 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 23rd day of November, 2020

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk