

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, APRIL 26, 2021 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

A. FY 2022 Draft Budget Presentation.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Sigvanna Topkok

Members Absent: Doug Johnson (excused); Jennifer Reader (excused)

Also Present: Zoe Okleasik, Youth Representative (telephonic); Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, Clerk; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (telephonic); Bob Pruckner, NPD Deputy Chief; Susie Hite, Deputy Clerk; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager

In the audience: Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget; Emily Hofstaedter, KNOM; Chas St. George & Mark Nordman, Iditarod; Rolland Trowbridge; Howard Farley; Trinh Johnson; Aaron Burmeister; Scot Henderson; Lisa Ellanna

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to add an executive session on contractual matters, the immediate knowledge of which could adversely affect City of Nome finances.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader; Topkok

Nay:

Abstain:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 12, 2021 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Topkok to approve the April 12, 2021 minutes.

At the roll:

Aye: Martinson; Topkok; Brown; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letter from Iditarod Special Projects Consultant St. George to City of Nome City Council re: Funding Request.

- Chaz St George of the Iditarod appreciated the opportunity to speak to the Council; he suggested Nome's positivity would carry the day. He expressed plans to build in an entire week of Iditarod activities dedicated to the City of Nome leading up to Iditarod 2022.

B. City of Nome FY 2022 Budget Calendar.

- Mayor Handeland called attention to a work session scheduled for Thursday April 29, 2021.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Howard Farley stated he was looking forward to the 50th anniversary of the Iditarod and discussed the original funding efforts for early iditarod years. He discussed little to no budgeted funds, with the race relying on volunteers from Nome. He told a story about an early gold raffle. Mr. Farley discussed history of early Iditarod, the serum run reenactment of 1975, and the Alaska Sweepstakes Race reenactment. He emphasized the need for the 50th anniversary race to be run.

2. Lisa Ellanna expressed gratitude to Youth Representative Okleasik and Council Member Topkok on the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls resolution. She found it commendable that a young person helped introduce it and recommended the council approve it.
3. Aaron Burmeister spoke in support of the Iditarod and how it gave people, including him, dreams growing up. He maintained that it still brought excitement despite the COVID issues. He missed traveling through the villages on the race this year and noted the isolation was antithetic to the spirit of the iditarod. He thanked the Council for giving the Iditarod a chance to pitch the partnership today.
4. Trinh Johnson congratulated her husband for 30 years of business in Nome. She noted support of basketball teams and bringing people in from the villages and loved seeing her team win.

PLANNING & ZONING

- A. February 2, 2021 Nome Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.
- B. March 2, 2021 Nome Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. O-21-04-01 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 17.15.030 Adoption of Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Code, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:18 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:18 PM.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Brown to adopt O-21-04-01.

At the roll:

Aye: Topkok; Brown; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- B. O-21-04-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.15 and Chapter 7.15 and Chapter 15.10 to Elect City Council Members School Board Members and Utility Board Members at Large, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:20 PM.

Public Hearing:

1. Scot Henderson tries to vote in every election. He read from a prepared statement, discussing the reasons for the ordinance being brought for. He wished for more spirited debate so that the public would be better informed. He opined the ordinance would make the situation worse. He suggested district voting, saying the change might produce more connection between the electeds and voters. He noted the changes were not insignificant and that changing election laws should be slow and deliberative. He asked the Council not pass the ordinance and hold a special referendum.
2. Clerk Hammond read an email sent by Linda Conley opposing the ordinance.

The Council reconvened at 7:27 PM.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. Brown to adopt O-21-04-02.

A motion was C. Brown and seconded by C. Martinson to postpone O-21-04-02 to the May 10, 2021 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting.

At the roll:

Aye: Brown; M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to postpone to a definite time **CARRIED.**

- C. O-21-04-03 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7.15 to Change the Time for Filing a Declaration of Candidacy, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:29 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:29 PM.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Topkok to adopt O-21-04-03.

Discussion:

- Mayor Handeland explained the intent of the ordinance.

At the roll:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. R-21-04-06 A Resolution Proclaiming May 5, 2021 as Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-21-04-06.

Discussion:

- Council Member Brown suggested Youth Representative Okleasik be named the honorary second to the motion for her efforts in bringing the resolution forward.
- Mayor Handeland noted that searchers had still not found Florence Okpealuk.
- Council Member Topkok and Youth Representative Okleasik discussed the importance of the resolution and how it's a good first step in bringing change the community in feeling safe. They read statements from Bethany Krier and Dawson Schaeffer on the resolution.

At the roll:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.**UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: April 13 - April 23, 2021.
- Assistant Utility Manager Morton predicted a busy summer season coming. He discussed moving the tank farm to its new location as well as upcoming maintenance on the tank farm. He discussed freeze ups, the Bering Street project starting June 1 or so, and Knik's airport project. He noted the upcoming Sepalla project, noting the Utility will be looking to replace utilities in conjunction with the DOT project.
 - Council Member Mark Johnson asked what the traffic pattern for the Bering closure would look like.

- Assistant Manager Morton explained the work will be done in sections, Lomen – 2nd, then 2nd to Seppala, and so on. He opined it would go pretty quick, with the transportation portions done by July.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: April 13 - April 23, 2021.
 - Manager Steckman recognized Emily, as it was her last meeting as a KNOM reporter covering the Council beat. He presented his written report, highlighting airport operations and a recent meeting concerning addressing issues of sexual assault. He referred the Council to the Port report in the packet.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Brown - No comments .
2. Council Member Mark Johnson asked staff to prepare an ordinance declaring a sales tax holiday at earliest point the city can implement it. Ordinance would like to do it
3. Council Member Martinson – no comments.
4. Council Member Topkok announced a listening session on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls on April 30, 2021 and asked Manager Steckman if they could use Old St. Joe's.
5. Youth Representative Okleasik - no comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: April 13 - April 23, 2021.
 - Mayor Handeland discussed a recent meeting on health and welfare with respect to the homeless population. He noted a follow up concerning implementation steps was upcoming. He discussed training recently attended by Chief Heintzelman concerning homelessness and substance abuse. Mayor Handeland discussed Lieutenant Governor Meyer coming to town to discuss tourism and the Nome welcome given to him. Mayor Handeland characterized the visit as a sign of things returning to pre-pandemic normal. He concluded by noting two volunteers had filled out the paperwork to join the Public Safety Advisory Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Discussion of Contractual Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which Could Have Adverse Impacts on City of Nome Finances.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to enter into executive session.

The Council entered into executive session at 7:47 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 8:17 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Brown to adjourn.

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 8:17 PM.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 25th day of May, 2021

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk