

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
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 22, 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

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Adam Martinson (excused); Youth Rep. Kellie Miller (excused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy City Clerk; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (virtual); Joy Baker, Port Director (virtual); Ken Morton, NJUS Assistant Manager; Cole Cushman, DPW Director; Mike Heintzelman, NPD Chief; Bob Pruckner, NPD Deputy Chief;

In the audience: Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget Newspaper; Greg Night, KNOM Radio; Thomas Vaden; Mark Daniel; Barb Amarok

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(1:50)

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; Tapqaq; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 8, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes,

(2:30)

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded C. Piscoya to approve the May 8, 2023, Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Introduction of New Police Officer
(3:20)
Deferred to a later date.
- B. NVAD & NVFD Commendation of May 5, 2023,
(3:27)
– Mayor Handeland gave thanks to NPD for recognizing and acknowledging NVAD & NVFD for their recent assistance.
- C. KFF Health News Article of May 11, 2023 entitled *Legal pot is more potent than ever - and still largely unregulated*,
(3:57)
– Mayor Handeland noted communications item C, commenting he was unaware of the current issues with regulation.
- D. Letter of May 17, 2023 from KNOM & KICY to Nome Common Council,
(4:28)
– Manager Steckman announced the City would like to help the local radio station organizations by assisting in the repair of their damaged broadcasting tower. He made the request to handle the matter with DPW Director Cole Cushman. The cost of assistance on the City's behalf was currently unknown.
– Council Member Henderson asked if the repair was critical for emergency broadcast.
– Manager Steckman answered, the repair would allow the radio stations to continue to broadcast.
– Mayor Handeland supported the idea of the City assisting in the matter, requesting a follow-up report.
- E. Memo of May 17, 2023 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Council Determination of Disposition of Untimely Filed Tax Exemption Forms,
(7:00)

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya to authorize the Clerk to accept the exemption application as timely filed.
At the roll call:
Aye: Tapqaq; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Piscoya
Nay:
Abstain:
The motion **CARRIED**.
- F. City of Nome FY2024 Budget Calendar,
- G. Flier re: City of Nome Spring Cleanup & U-Call, We Haul,
(8:15)

- Mayor Handeland gave thanks to the City's Public Works road crew and SOA DOT for their addressing of the dust on the roadways.

H. Email of May 9, 2023 between Karla Bush (DFG) and DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters (DFG sponsored) re: Federal Fishery Disaster Allocations

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

(10:10)

- Barb Amarok, Director of Northwest Campus – UAF, gave a brief history of UAF's technical instruction provided at NACTEC, noting the Facilities Use Agreement agreement required City Council's approval. Twice the Facilities Use Agreement had been approved by the NACTEC governing board, which consists of the Bering Straits School District Superintendent and board representative, Nome Public Schools Superintendent and board representative, Barb Amarok – Director of NW Campus, and Doug Whalrath as Director of NACTEC.
- Mayor Handeland inquired into prior approval from the school board and superintendent, Jamie Burgess.
- Barb Amarok stated it was approved by the Nome Public Schools School board of education and also Bering Straits School District board of education.
- Mayor Handeland identified the additionally trained welders for the community.
- Barb Amarok commented on timing, given Graphite One's plans in the region as well the Port of Nome Deep Water Draft project.

SPECIAL ORDERS

A. R-23-05-02 A Resolution of Appreciation to Mary Melody Reader Recognizing her Civic Pride in Working to Make Nome a Cleaner and More Enjoyable Place,

(17:50)

- Mayor Handeland noted the recipient is currently traveling, suggesting the commendation be noticed at a time when the recipient is present to receive it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. R-23-05-01 A Resolution of Appreciation to Tom Vaden for his Years of Dedicated Service to the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department and to the Community of Nome,

(18:10)

- Mayor Handeland read R-23-05-01 in its entirety, noting Mr. Vaden's unwavering service.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-23-05-01.

At the roll call:

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

Nay: Piscoya

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-23-05-02 An Ordinance Authorizing Sale to AK DOT&PF of Parcels Adjacent to Steadman Street for Road Projects, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**,
(24:32)

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

Discussion:

- Mayor Handeland outlined the project, relating the sale of land as similar to what was done with Nome's Port Road project.
- Manager Steckman noted the project would revamp street and sidewalks.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. O-23-06-01 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2024 City of Nome General Fund Municipal Budget and Exercising the Power to Assess and Authorize the Levy of a General Property Tax, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**,
- C. O-23-06-02 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, And Adopt the FY 2024 City of Nome School Debt Service Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**,
- D. O-23-06-03 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2024 City of Nome Special Revenue Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**,
- E. O-23-06-04 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2024 City of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**,
- F. O-23-06-05 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2024 City of Nome Construction Capital Projects Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**,
- G. O-23-06-06 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2024 City of Nome Port of Nome Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**,
- H. O-23-06-07 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2024 City of Nome Port of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget, **FIRST READING /DISCUSSION**,
(26:57)

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to advance O-23-06-01, O-23-06-02, O-23-06-03, O-23-06-04, O-23-06-05, O-23-06-06, and O-23-06-07.

Discussion:

- Council Member Henderson inquired into standard practice bringing forth questions during the first, or second budget readings.
- Mayor Handeland commented, questions during the first reading are acceptable.
- Manager Steckman identified Board of Equalization as unfinished and mill rate not yet set, making addressing all aspects of the budget an unusual circumstance. Manager Steckman suggested a work-session after BOE meets, possibly June 7th at 5:30PM.

- Council Member Henderson opined a 10.5 mill rate would allow for without increase of property tax, based off his calculations of a 12 mill-rate and no broad 15% increase on property assessments.
- Manager Steckman acknowledged a 10.5 mill-rate, noting the proposed budget is based off an 11 mill-rate. He suggested there were many City projects the have gone unaddressed for years that need addressing.
- Council Member Henderson commented, should the mill rate be set at 11 it would create a 1.4 million deficit in the budget meaning the City could next look at areas of reducing the City's budget, such as the unfilled positions with City staff, particularly the Assistant City Manager's position.
- Manager Steckman advised the Council, there is a \$650,000 credit for vacant positions and overtime expense. Fuel rates had decreased, potentially opening up more funds but everything was being looked at and considered.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- I. R-23-05-03 A Resolution Setting the City of Nome Contribution for the FY 2024 Nome School District Budget,
(39:05)

A motion was made by C. Piscoya and seconded by C. Henderson to adopt R-23-05-03.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman noted the school district budget request this year was around 1.5% more than the previous year.
- Council Member Henderson inquired into recent legislative funding available to the school district; if approved, how it may offset the school district's funding. He questioned if the contribution amount needed to be set by end of the meeting.
- Council Member M. Johnson commented the Nome School District budget typically requires approval prior to all legislative information at hand.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- J. R-23-05-04 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with GCSIT Solutions for Managed IT Services for the City of Nome,
(46:02)

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

Discussion:

- City Manager Steckman briefed council on past services & performance with GCSIT.

At the roll call:

Aye:

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- K. R-23-05-05 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Sign a Facilities Use Agreement Between Nome Public Schools, University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus, Bering Strait School District and the City of Nome,

(48:46)

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

Discussion:

- Council Member M. Johnson gave support to providing alternative adult education.

At the roll call:

Aye:

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: May 9 - 19, 2023,

(50:50)

- Ken Morton, NJUS Assistant Manager noted warmer weather and shift to summer program, and the engine overhaul for #16 continues.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: May 9 - 19, 2023,

(51:50)

- Manager Steckman gave homage to AKDOT&PF's street sweeping around the community. City of Nome Public Works Supervisor and crew for clean-up around the community as well. He identified drains be opened around town by both work crews, giving praise to their efforts. Manager Steckman noted atv usage, youth operating atvs, and potential injuries.
- Mayor Handeland pondered how the City incorporates regulations to address this issue, noting several instances of personal experience where atv usage was seemingly reckless.
- Manager Steckman commented the goal was to bring safety to the community, protect the youth in their usage of atv's in town as well.

- Joy Baker, Port Director notified the Council, USACE is addressing concerns with the project, due to delays, new target-dates of solicitation in October and awards to contractors in April 24'.
- Council Member Tapqaq inquired into Saturday night's emergency calls in comparison to Sunday night's calls, and Sunday's no-alcohol sales at the package stores.
- Council Member Piscoya questioned the timeline toward NPD accreditation.
- Manager Steckman commented a three year process, various construction and facilities upgrades prior to accreditation, emphasizing lengths required toward accreditation.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

(1:10:40)

- Barb Amarok, Director of NW Campus-UAF, gave thanks to Council Member's support with the City of Nome's facility agreement passage.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

(1:10:00)

- 1) Council Member Piscoya, no comments.
- 2) Council Member Tapqaq, congratulated the recent graduates.
- 3) Council Member Henderson gave appreciation to community efforts in Spring Clean-Up.
- 4) Council Member D. Johnson, no comments.
- 5) Council Member M. Johnson detailed his concerns with marijuana usage in the schools, vaping in schools as well. Gave appreciation to Bryant Hammond, for his work as City Clerk after hearing of his retirement.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: May 9 - 19, 2023,

- Mayor Handeland acknowledged the American Red Cross event in Anchorage recently attended, the acknowledgement Nome Emergency Services received at the event.
- VFW Memorial Day parade was given notice to their event, recent graduates of NPS and UAF, and BOE would be coming up soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 9:05 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 25th day of September 2023

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

JEREMY JACOBSON
Deputy Clerk