

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland

**City Manager**  
Lee Smith

**City Clerk/Treasurer**  
Dan Grimmer



**Nome Common Council**  
Kohren Green  
Scot Henderson  
Mark Johnson  
Maggie Miller  
Adam Martinson  
Cameron Piscoya

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL**  
**WORK & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025 at 6:00 PM/7:00 PM  
CITY 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 @ 6:05pm**

- A. June 17, 2025 Letter from Nome Public Schools to the Nome Common Council,
- B. June 20, 2025 Memo Re: FY26 Budget Options to Address Nome Public Schools Financial Needs,

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: C. Henderson, C. Johnson, C. Martinson, C. Green, C. Miller, C. Piscoya.

Absent: John Handeland: Mayor

Also Present: Joy Baker: Port Director, Margaret Thomas, Molly Naaktgeboren, Jamie Burgess, Dani Smithhisler, Hannah Schnaidt, Morgan Schnaidt, Jessica Lemaire, Kimberly Bishop.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion to approve the Agenda was made by C. Miller and seconded by C. Green.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Johnson, C. Martinson, C. Green, C. Miller, C. Piscoya,  
C. Henderson.

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

• **Kimberly Bishop - Director of Nome Community Center:**

Shows support for and asks for continued funding for various programs supported by the Nome Community Center.

• **Margaret Thomas:**

Showing support for the NEST, extremely important for the winter months. Supports the youth programs and children's home.

- **Jamie Burgess – President of Bering Sea Women’s Group:**

Urges the council to keep the Bering Sea Women’s Shelter in mind for allocation of NSEDC funds. They provide services for women and men who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, not only for Nome, but for people from other areas of the Bering Straits region as well. Stresses that donations are important for being able to continue services for the clients that come to the shelter.

- **Molly Naaktgeboren – Nome Preschool:**

Speaks of importance of early childhood exposure to school settings and preparing preschoolers for elementary school. Asks that the city Council contribute from NSEDC funds to keep the preschool adequately staffed.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. O-25-06-09 An Ordinance Amending the Nome Code of Ordinances, Section 17.10.010, Sales Tax, to Provide for a Six Percent (6%) Sales Tax Levy, Subject to Approval by the Qualified Voters of the City of Nome (SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL DISCUSSION),

A motion to adopt the Ordinance was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Green.

Recess into public hearing at 7:11pm.

There were no public comments at this time.

Back into regular session at 7:12pm.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Green, C. Miller, C. Piscoya, C. Henderson, C. Martinson,  
C. Johnson.

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. June 17, 2025 Memo from the Finance Director re: FY26 Budget Correction needed in Fund 14: Capital Projects,

It was noted that there will be an amendment made by way of an ordinance that will need to go through two readings to amend the budget.

- B. Public Hearing for Public Comment on use of the 2024 NSEDC Community Benefits Share Funds,

Recess into public hearing at 7:14pm.

Comments:

- **Jessica Lemaire – Nome Community Center:**

Speaking on behalf of programming, especially the NEST. Looking to increase NEST hours, so they’ll need more funding. Speaks on the

harsh climate we have year-round. Would like to open the NEST earlier in the year, maybe October. Also, would like to open for emergencies on really bad storm days during the summer. For example, storms like Merbok. States that you can get hypothermia at about 56°F when it's raining. There isn't another place for the homeless to go, the nest keeps people alive. Children's and elders programming are also important.

- **Margaret Thomas:**

Nome community Center requesting \$35,000 for NEST from the general fund, and an additional \$20,000 for Youth Programming.

- **Dani Smithhisler:**

Advocating for the Nome Preschool and any local nonprofits they want to support. Would like to see local organizations supported versus outside entities like the Iron Dog and Iditarod.

Disheartening to see non-departmental budget zeroed out for local organizations. Thanks for considering funding for the local organizations.

Back into regular session at 7:18pm

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

- **Molly Naaktgeboren:**

Parent of a special needs child going into the 4-year-old class at the preschool. Speaks on importance of her child attending to build proper social skills.

### **UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

A. Memo from the City of Nome Finance Director re: Cash Flow,

- **Lee Smith, City Manager:**

Thanks to the City of Nome employee volunteers for helping with the Midnight Sun festivities. Mentions emergency notification system/community notification system. A contract was signed and the system will be implemented and in place no later than the second week of August. Will allow people to sign up to receive emergency alerts and community updates in the form of text and voice messages, via cell phone. Sign up will begin in July.

Over the next year we'll be able to submit photo reports, for example, potholes that need fixing among other things. If it is an emergency, contact the appropriate entities. Really excited about these programs being put in place.

Looking forward to the 3D printed house. Been approached by several corporations for building additional work housing.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

- **C. Green:** It was really nice seeing people at the raft race and the festivities over the last week. Thank you to everybody that participated.
  - **C.M. Lee Smith:** “We were supposed to have one but nobody would volunteer with me, so were going to ‘volun-told’ for next year.”
- **Miller:** No Comment
- **Henderson:** No Comment
- **Piscoya:** No Comment
- **Martinson:** No Comment
- **Johnson:** Outdoor Basketball hoops?
  - **C.M. Lee Smith:** Public works is trying to get that together.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT****ADJOURNMENT @ 7:28pm****APPROVED and SIGNED THIS 28th DAY OF JULY, 2025**

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**JOHN K. HANDELAND  
MAYOR**

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**DAN GRIMMER  
CITY CLERK**