

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 SESSION, BOE & REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025 at 5:30/7:00 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

BUDGET WORK SESSION START at 5:30pm

ROLL CALL at 7:15pm

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

Also Present: Wali Rana, Brad Soske, Cole Cushman, Troy Walker, Joy Baker, Kenneth Hughes, Nickie Crowe, Erin Reinders, Dan Grimmer, Lee Smith, Diana Haecker, Jamie Burgess, Margaret Thomas, Megan Onders, Kate Osborne, Cheryl Thompson, Dan Pardee, Steve Longley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by C. Piscoya 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**.

RECESS TO BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 7:16pm

A. Board of Equalization Decision on NSHC Appeals,

NSHC 7-Plex, Block 91 Lot 3&4 (001.221.05A)

A motion to grant the appeal was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Johnson. C. Piscoya is recused from vote.

At the Roll call:

Aye:

Nay: C. Henderson, C. Johnson, C. Martinson, C. Green, C. Miller.

The Motion **FAILED**.

NSHC -20-Plex Block MS 1298 (192.1.085)

A motion to grant the appeal was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Johnson. C. Piscoya is recused from vote.

At the Roll call:

Aye:

Nay: C. Henderson, C. Johnson, C. Martinson, C. Green, C. Miller.

The Motion **FAILED**.

NSHC Nome Duplex, Block 118 Lot 7 (001.118.07)

A motion to grant the appeal was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Johnson. C. Piscoya is recused from vote.

At the Roll call:

Aye:

Nay: C. Martinson, C. Green, C. Miller, C. Henderson, C. Johnson.

The Motion **FAILED**.

NSHC Kusqii House, Block 33 Lot 19 (001.131.01A)

A motion to grant the appeal was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Johnson. C. Piscoya is recused from vote.

At the Roll call:

Aye: C. Miller.

Nay: C. Green, C. Henderson, C. Johnson, C. Martinson.

The Motion **FAILED**.

NSHC Main Hostel, Wellness Center, Operations Building, Block 116 Lot 1A (001.115.01)

A motion to grant the appeal was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson. C. Piscoya is recused from vote.

At the Roll call:

Aye: C. Miller.

Nay: C. Green, C. Henderson, C. Johnson, C. Martinson.

The Motion **FAILED**.

NSHC Prematernal Home/Patient Hostel West, Block 110 Lot 1-2 (001.211.03A)

A motion to grant the appeal was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson. C. Piscoya is recused from vote.

At the Roll call:

Aye: C. Miller.

Nay: C. Henderson, C. Johnson, C. Martinson, C. Green.

The Motion **FAILED**.

NSHC HAT Building, Block 110 Lot 3A (001.211.03B)

A motion to grant the appeal was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson. C. Piscoya is recused from vote.

At the Roll call:

Aye:

Nay: C. Henderson, C. Johnson, C. Martinson, C. Green, C. Miller.

The Motion **FAILED**.

NSHC West Campus, Block 127 Lot 7A (001.201.05)

A motion to grant the appeal was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson. C. Piscoya is recused from vote.

At the Roll call:

Aye:

Nay: C. Johnson, C. Martinson, C. Green, C. Miller, C. Henderson.

The Motion **FAILED**.

A motion to confirm in favor of the assessor, to deny Norton Sound Health Corporation's appeal, was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Johnson. C. Piscoya is recused from vote.

At the Roll call:

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

Nay:

The Motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. April 30, 2025 Board of Equalization Meeting Minutes,
- B. May 14, 2025 Board of Equalization Meeting Minutes,
- C. May 20, 2025 Nome Common Council Meeting Minutes,

A motion to adopt these minutes made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Green.

At the Roll call:

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

Nay:

The Motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. May 21, 2025 Letters from 4th Grade to the Museum,

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- **Steven Longley:** Why isn't NSHC tax exempt? Why aren't we addressing the taxi situation in this meeting? Why isn't taxi back on agenda?
- **Kate Osborne:** NPS – Cut Contract with NMS, NMS not providing nutritional food, NMS not keeping entries and exits up to code, kitchens so short staffed that office staff often had to step in, kids wouldn't eat the food because it looked unappetizing, dissatisfied with nutrition program through Nana contract. Finds it suspicious that the School District's Superintendent was unwilling to discuss contract with Nana. How much is school spending on Nana contract VS. hiring own staff? Nutrition and maintenance used to be district hired and was much better. Better food, schools in better condition, fences in good condition. NMS replaced hired staff.

Believes the Visitors Center/Chamber of Commerce isn't open when they should be. Should be open during periods with the highest volume of tourism. It would be helpful if there were a contact person with the Chamber of Commerce. Can they make sub-committee, for larger events like the midnight sun festival, etc.?
- **Ken Hughes:** Resident of Nome & Chair of Nome Planning Commission – Question about 3 Lots owned by Mr. Potter. Possibly zoned incorrectly. Question about Pomrenke mining Queen's Bench. Asks why Pomrenke can't get a fill permit to fill a pond on land that is zoned as industrial. Believes Nome needs more small mines. Believes we need to invest in the Visitor's

Center and tourism. Doesn't think we should increase sales tax, believes we should cut budgets and take more from reserve.

- **Troy Walker:** Lagooning, had concerns about the port project and jettys.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. O-25-06-01 An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map and Amending Title 18 of the Nome Code of Ordinances with a New Chapter 18.62 Downtown Mixed-Use District, A New Chapter 18.66 Downtown Core Mixed Use District and Amendments to Sections 18.110.010 and 18.30.010, **(FIRST READING/DISCUSSION)**,

A motion to pass this ordinance onto second reading was made by C. Green and seconded by C. Martinson.

At the Roll call:

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

Nay:

The Motion **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. FY2026 General Fund Overview,
- B. O-25-06-02 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve and Adopt the FY2026 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)**

A motion to pass this ordinance into Second Reading, was made by C. Green and seconded by C. Martinson.

Discussion: Would like Nome Public Schools to withdraw 500K from savings to match what the City of Nome is taking out of savings. There was discussion about there being a shared cost of cuts to show equity between the school and the city.

At the Roll call:

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

Nay:

The Motion **CARRIED**.

- C. O-25-06-03 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve and Adopt the FY2026 City of Nome School Debt Service Fund Budget **(FIRST READING/DISCUSSION)**,
- D. O-25-06-04 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve and Adopt the FY2026 City of Nome Special Revenue Fund Budget **(FIRST READING/DISCUSSION)**,
- E. O-25-06-05 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve and Adopt the FY2026 City of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget **(FIRST READING/DISCUSSION)**,
- F. O-25-06-06 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve and Adopt the FY2026 City of Nome Construction Capital Projects Fund Budget **(FIRST READING/DISCUSSION)**,
- G. O-25-06-07 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve and Adopt the FY2026 City of Nome Port of Nome Fund Budget **(FIRST READING/DISCUSSION)**,

- H. O-25-06-08 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve and Adopt the FY2026 City of Nome Port of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget **(FIRST READING/DISCUSSION)**,

A motion to pass ordinances C-H, onto Second Reading, was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Piscoya.

Discussion: The City Council talked about different ways to cut items from the budget and/or appropriate from different savings sources. There was further discussion about how that could be done by the City and the School District.

At the Roll call:

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

Nay:

The Motion **CARRIED**.

- I. R-25-05-03 A Resolution Authorizing Application, Approval & Acceptance of a Loan from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Alaska Clean Water Fund to Provide Loan Financing for Equipment Purchase,
- J. R-25-05-04 A Resolution Authorizing Application, Approval & Acceptance of a Loan from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Alaska Drinking Water fund to Provide Loan Financing for Equipment Purchase,

A motion to pass Resolutions R-25-05-03 and R-25-05-04 was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Piscoya.

At the Roll call:

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

Nay:

The Motion **CARRIED**.

- K. R-25-05-05 A Resolution Setting the City of Nome Mill Rate for Calendar Year 2025,
A motion to adopt the resolution setting the calendar year 2025, Mill Rate at 11.5, was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Miller.

At the Roll call:

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

Nay:

The Motion **CARRIED**.

- L. R-25-05-06 A Resolution Setting the City of Nome Contribution for the FY2026 Nome School District Budget,

A Motion to adopt the resolution was made by C. Piscoya and seconded by C. Martinson.

Discussion: Need a balance between the cuts to budgets/expenses for NPS, the City of Nome, and the community Sales Tax increase. Proposed 1% sales tax increase, and \$700k cut to operating by the City and the School District contribution to balance the budget.

A motion to amend R-25-05-06 setting the contribution to the school, from \$3.4 Million to \$2.7 Million, was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson.

At the Roll call on the amendment:

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

Nay:

The Motion **CARRIED**.

At the roll call for the approval of the original Motion:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- **Dani Smithhisler:** Comments focused on non-department section of the budget. Advocating for the Preschool, and supporting the community center. Feels that contributions to the Iron Dog and Iditarod should have been cut as well.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

- **C. Green:** No Comment
- **C. Miller:** Will we be adding taxes other than sales tax to the ballot?
- **C. Henderson:** Thanks planning commission for finally getting the down town zone changes. Thanks to VFW, City of Nome, and Bering Air for memorial day parade.
- **C Piscoya:** Likes C. Miller's comments on taxes, would be great to get them all on one ballot.
- **C. Martinson:** Too many tax referendums can be negative.
- **C. Johnson:** More community basketball hoops outside, potential to put one by Rec Center, work with Chip. Potential by OSJ.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- **Mayor Handeland:** VFW Memorial Day, Midnight Sun Interested Parties. Congrats to Class of 2025. Thanks to Village of Solomon for partnerships and funding sources that the tribes can access for benefit of community. Work session, Wednesday the 4th at 5:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:14pm

APPROVED and SIGNED THIS 20th DAY OF May 2025

**JOHN K. HANDELAND
MAYOR**

**DAN GRIMMER
CITY CLERK**