

Mayor
John K. Handeland

Manager
Glenn Steckman

Deputy City Clerk
Jeremy Jacobson



Nome City Council
Jerald Brown
Doug Johnson
Mark Johnson
Adam Martinson
Scot Henderson
Meghan Sigvanna Topkok

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021 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

WORK SESSION - 5:15PM

Nome Public Schools Update - 5:15 PM

Housing First Presentation by Nome Community Center - 6:00 PM

- A. Nome Public Schools (NPS) FY23 Budget Timeline
- B. Nome Public Schools (NPS) Covid Funding Update
- C. Nome Community Center (NCC) - Housing First Project

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Scot Henderson; Doug Johnson; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson(virtual); Sigvanna Topkok (virtual)

Members Absent:

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy Clerk; Mike Heintzelman, NPD Chief; Bob Pruckner, NPD Deputy Chief; Nickie Crowe (Teams); Joy Baker (Teams)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 8, 2021 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Brown to approve the November 8, 2021 minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letter of October 29, 2021 from City Planner Bechtol to Manager Steckman re: Contract Termination.

- Mayor Handeland gave notification of Eileen Bechtol's termination of contract as City Planner, effective December 15, 2021, thanking her for her services to the City of Nome and its residents.

B. Letter of November 10, 2021 from NSEDC to Mayor Handeland re: 2021 NSEDC Community Benefit Share.

- Mayor Handeland thanked NSEDC for its 2021 approval of \$200,000 from the Community Benefits Share (CBS) fund. Mayor Handeland noted the Council's last budget actions with several projects typically run through the CBS fund now apart of the regular budget. Mayor Handeland suggested revisiting the topic at a later meeting.

C. Email of November 12, 2021 from Tim LaPierre to Nome Common Council re: Tax Forgiveness.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to approve the request from Mr. LaPierre to forgive any taxes and close his tax account.

Discussion:

- C. M. Johnson inquired into any additional information from the Clerk's office beyond the letter request, noting no value specified in the taxpayer's request.

- Mayor Handeland speculated a Conex container of nominal value.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. Letter of November 15, 2021 from Alaska Business Development Center to City of Nome re: Volunteer Tax & Loan Program.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Henderson to approve the request for \$1500 to the Alaska Business Development Center - Volunteer Tax and Loan Program.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson, M. Johnson, Martinson, Topkok, Brown,
Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. Letter of November 22, 2021 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Nome Liquor Store License Renewal.

- C. Henderson inquired into the process reviewing the liquor licensing, to which Mayor Handeland addressed.
- City Manager Steckman noted ongoing discussions between the City and the package-stores. Suggesting a work session scheduled.
- Mayor Handeland suggested passing all non-package-store liquor licenses, bringing back to the agenda both package-store liquor license renewals for discussion at a subsequent meeting. No objections were made.

- F. Letter of November 23, 2021 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Alaska Commercial Company Liquor License Renewal.

- Council Member Henderson inquired into the process of reviewing the liquor licensing, to which Mayor Handeland explained.
- City Manager Steckman noted ongoing discussions between the City and the package-stores. Suggesting a work session scheduled.
- Mayor Handeland suggested passing all non-package-store liquor licenses, bringing back to the agenda both package-store liquor license renewals for discussion at a subsequent meeting. No objections were made.

- G. Letter of November 30, 2021 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Nome Nugget Inn Liquor License Renewal.
- Mayor Handeland suggested passing all non-package-store liquor licenses, bringing back to the agenda both package-store liquor license renewals for discussion at a subsequent meeting. No objections were made.
- H. Letter of November 30, 2021 from AMCO to the City of Nome re: Bering Sea Bar and Grill Liquor License Renewal.
- Mayor Handeland suggested passing all non-package-store liquor licenses, bringing back to the agenda both package-store liquor license renewals for discussion at a subsequent meeting. No objections were made.
- I. Letter of December 2, 2021 from AMCO to City of Nome re: VFW Post 9569 Liquor License Renewal.
- Mayor Handeland suggested passing all non-package-store liquor licenses, bringing back to the agenda both package-store liquor license renewals for discussion at a subsequent meeting. No objections were made.
- J. Letter of December 7, 2021 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Polar Bar Liquor License Renewal.
- Mayor Handeland suggested passing all non-package-store liquor licenses, bringing back to the agenda both package-store liquor license renewals for discussion at a subsequent meeting. No objections were made.
- K. Letter of December 7, 2021 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Nome Nugget Inn Liquor License Application.
- Mayor Handeland suggested passing all non-package-store liquor licenses, bringing back to the agenda both package-store liquor license renewals for discussion at a subsequent meeting. No objections were made.
- L. Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (ADFG) - Rabies and Foxes Flyer.
- Council Member Brown inquired into regulations trapping fox with firearms within City limits.
 - City Manager recalled trappers used the previous year and the possibility of use of services this year.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Mayor Handeland gave recognition to Nome Police Department's Communications Officer II, Jessica Saclamana, 10 years of service.
2. Resident Thomas Vaden opined the City was not taking care of the homeless situation to satisfactory levels.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. R-21-07-03 A Resolution Approving the Historic Preservation Plan.**

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Henderson to postpone further consideration of R-21-07-03 until the 1st regular meeting of January.

Discussion:

- City Manager Steckman described the Planning Commission's review of Austin Ahmasuk's comments at their last meeting, stating the plan meets SHPO requirements and is ready for the City Council's approval.
- Council Member M. Johnson inquired into a timeline for approval.
- City Manager Steckman opined the plan met all requirements. Stating the Planning Commission did not feel the comments added to the plan or document itself, and the Commission recommended the plan moving forward to the City Council. City Manager Steckman noted the Preservation Plan refers to physical, existing structures within Nome and, for this reason, denied specific federal grants applications.
- Mayor Handeland acknowledged the adoption of the document was one of the requirements from another grant the City would be applying for additional funding.
- Council Member Topkok stated her dismay there was not more information given concerning the indigenous pioneers and the history untold.
- Council Member D. Johnson inquired into the Council making changes themselves.
- Mayor Handeland suggested revisiting at the next meeting, after additional text submitted for consideration to either the Planning Commission or City Council.
- City Manager Steckman noted the City Planner position vacancy and requested all suggestions be submitted directly to himself for the time being.
- Council Member M. Johnson praised Mr. Ahmasuk's input, opining approval.
- Mayor Handeland suggested confirmation of the scope of the Preservation Plan.
- City Manager Steckman described in detail the Planning Commission's process of reviewal of Mr. Ahmasuk's comments for the City Council, noting the Planning Commission's approval afterward.
- Mayor Handeland read aloud the purpose statement for the Council.
- Council Member Topkok reaffirmed her unease with the current Preservation Plan.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-21-12-01 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with MyGov for the Provision of Permit Process Management Software Services.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-21-12-01.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Henderson to amend R-21-12-01 to add "and asset".

Discussion:

- City Manager Steckman detailed how MyGov permitting software came forward for consideration. City Manager Steckman described the benefits to proceeding with MyGov permitting software.
- Mayor Handeland noted an amendment to add "and asset", following permit process, to "permit process management software services".

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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

- B. R-21-12-02 A Resolution Designating John K. Handeland as Acting City Manager for December 23, 2021 to January 4, 2022.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-21-12-02.

Discussion:

- City Manager Steckman described rotating management staff through the holiday season for reasons designating Mayor Handeland as Acting City Manager in place of his absence.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-21-12-03 A Resolution to Name the Parties Qualified to Sign Depository Pledge Agreements, Orders for Payment, Warrants, and/or Checks Against the City of Nome Accounts.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt R-21-12-03.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 9 - December 9, 2021.

- Nome Joint Utility System Assistant Manager Ken Morton noted the oil discharge contingency plan (5-yrs) had been updated through Nov. 2026. Nome is in its final contract year with fuel supplier Vitus and in the process of requesting new proposals from fuel suppliers. Noting NSEDC had approved grant funds to pressurize the Moonlight Springs water transmission and staff updates.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 9 - December 9, 2021.

- City Manager Steckman noted Eileen Bechtol - City Planner, termination of contract, and potential obstacles filling the duties. He thanked Nome Volunteer Fire Department and NJUS for their efforts in placing Christmas decorations and lights around the town. He noted declining Covid-19 cases in the region, bids scheduled for auditing services, NPD automobiles placed on order, and the Nome Rec Center's

boiler system had been installed and thoroughly inspected by various outfits. City Manager Steckman described various events coming to Nome which would have an economic impact (Iditarod - 50th celebration). Noting continuation of snow removal planning meetings.

- Council Member D. Johnson inquired into the City Council's role in assisting with the City Planner position being filled.
- City Manager Steckman stated waiting on costs and reevaluation of an outline of the job description after talking with various circles.

B. December Port Director / Capital Projects Update.

- City Manager Steckman noted Port Report available.
- Mayor Handeland thanked Port Director Joy for her report. No other comments were made.

C. F22 Finance Report.

- Mayor Handeland noted financial statements provided and a late January/early February meeting.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Citizen Randy Harper inquired into development projects on the horizon.
2. Peter Louie at Nome Nugget introduced himself as a new member of their team.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member D. Johnson noted the new decorations around town.
2. Council Member M. Johnson described undesirable occurrences witnessed at the Nome Post office. He referenced citizen Thomas Vaden's comments earlier, noting behaviors such as arguing and cussing at the Front St. properties building.
3. Council Member Martinson had no comments.
4. Council Member Topkok expressed her gratitude towards everyone, happy holidays, and thanked the snow removal crew.
5. Council Member Brown recalled in a previous meeting, methods to create more community input in council member meetings. He spoke of diversity, varying perspectives, and term limits. He opined action before time lapses, as had in the past. He noted seasonal sales tax a pertinent topic of discussion, but not before replacing it with another source of funds to take place of seasonal sales tax.
 - City Manager Steckman proposed a meeting with City Council, Finance Director Nickie Crowe, and management regarding City funds, payer options, among various topics.

6. Council Member Henderson thanked Rhonda Schneider and the Nome Community Center efforts to develop a program for addressing the homeless population. He inquired into Front St setbacks and the status of the Planning Commission work.
- City Manager Steckman noted the Planning Commission would be looking into setbacks either February or March.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 9 - December 9, 2021.
- Mayor Handeland noted Air Force land conveyance meeting with the Governor. The Nome Youth Facility is available for sale; opening bids start at \$90,000. He noted a strong position to reopen the facility for the community's benefit. Mayor Handeland suggested a meeting at the start of the year to go over the Front St. properties issues mentioned by citizen Thomas Vaden.
- B. Reappointment of Shane Smithhisler to Seat "A" of the Nome Port Commission.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to reappoint Shane Smithhisler to Seat "A" of the Nome Port Commission.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. Appointment of Drew McCann to Seat "D" of the Nome Port Commission.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to appoint Drew McCann to Seat "D" of the Nome Port Commission.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. Appointment of Jennifer Dean-Johnson to Seat "F" of the Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to appoint Jennifer Dean-Johnson to Seat "F" of the Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Discussion of Legal and Personnel Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which May Have Adverse Impacts on City of Nome Finances.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to enter into an executive session to discuss matters the immediate knowledge of which could adversely impact City finances.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

City Council entered into executive session at 8:57 PM.

The City Council came out of executive session at 9:17 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 9:22 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 24th day of January, 2022

JOHN K. HANDELAND

Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk