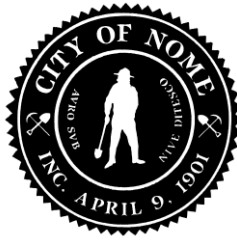


Mayor
John K. Handeland
Manager
Glenn Steckman
Clerk
Bryant Hammond



Nome Common Council
Jerald Brown
Scot Henderson
Doug Johnson
Mark Johnson
Adam Martinson
M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022 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 5:30 PM

A. Discussion of City of Nome FY2023 Budgets.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Adam Martinson; Sigvanna Tapqaq; Jerald Brown (Virtual - Microsoft Teams); Scot Henderson; Doug Johnson; Mark Johnson; Paris Hebel

Members Absent:

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (Virtual - Microsoft Teams); Cole Cushman, Public Works Supervisor; Joy Baker, Port Director (Virtual - Microsoft Teams); Mike Heintzelman, Chief of Police; Bob Pruckner, Deputy Chief of Police; Ken Morton, NJUS Assistant Manager;

In the Audience: Wade Harrison; Paul Kost; Kelly Corns; Brad Soske; Rose Reale; Dianna Haecker, Nome Nugget;

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by C. Tapqaq and seconded by C. Henderson to approve the agenda.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 4, 2022 Nome Common Council Rescheduled Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. April 18, 2022 Nome Common Council Special Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the April 4, 2022 and the April 18, 2022 minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapqaq
Nay

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letters and Resolutions of April 2022 re: Support for USDOT RAISE Grant Application to Fund Thornbush Laydown Site Development.
 - Mayor Handeland noted that the communication supported the USDOT RAISE Grant for the Port of Nome.
- B. Letters and Resolutions of April 2022 re: Support for USDOT RAISE Grant Application for Local Service Facility Planning.
 - Mayor Handeland noted that the communication supported the USDOT RAISE Grant for the Port of Nome.
- C. Memo of April 12, 2022 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Untimely Filed Tax Exemption Forms.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to consider both forms as timely filed.

Discussion:

- Mayor Handeland stated that untimely filed tax exemption applications for St. Joseph's Church and Seventh-Day Adventist Church were received.

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapkak; Brown
Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. City of Nome FY 2023 Budget Calendar.
 - Mayor Handeland acknowledged the FY 2023 Budget Calendar for the Council; no other comments were given.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- Wade Harrison, speaking as the Union President of Local 6141 (*City of Nome Employees Association*), referenced the tentative labor agreement to be voted on at the night's meeting. He identified the individuals and efforts towards reaching an agreement, stating it would address employee recruitment and retention. He thanked the City Council, City Manager Steckman, and administration for addressing the needs of the City and Union members.

- Paul Kosto, a representative with the Nome Chamber of Commerce, requested increased funds for the Chamber of Commerce. He suggested additional funds for maintaining the Nome Visitor Center property, such as landscaping and snow removal. The Chamber of Commerce Board will be proposing a budget in a coming meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. O-22-04-01 An Ordinance of the Nome Common Council, Nome, Alaska, Providing for a Temporary Reduction of Sales Tax for the Months of May, June, July, and August of 2022.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt O-22-04-01.

Discussion:

- Council Member Martinson questioned, "Would we need to get rid of May since we can't do May, on the heading, in the title?"
- City Manager Steckman commented, "No, it's May for the remote sellers."
- Council Member Brown inquired into a summary of the economic impact of the ordinance.
- City Manager Steckman stated the summary was included in the work session earlier that evening. An anticipated impact cost of 1.8 million dollars due to inflation and fuel costs, particularly during the summer months.
- Council Member Brown noted the budget depicted around 1 million dollars in increased sales tax; he questioned if this ordinance if passed, was accounted for in the budget.
- City Manager Steckman confirmed it had.
- Council Member Brown weighed whether property tax or sales tax would have a more significant local impact, commenting that seasonal sales tax affects visitors during summers rather than the citizens relying on static sales tax year-round. He suggested that the mill rate could be lowered by 2 1/2 mills by not passing the ordinance.
- Mayor Handeland commented that the original draft budget states 1.65 million out of the fund balance.
- Council Member M. Johnson identified from the night's work session that a lower sales tax could lower costs for regional residents coming to Nome to make purchases, benefiting lower-income populations. For this reason, he would be voting for a reduction of seasonal sales tax.
- Council Member Henderson opined that the two percent sales tax relief was of more significant relief during the challenging economic times, suggesting that if revenue is deficient, consider a 5.5% sales tax in the future.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapkak; Henderson;

Nay: Brown

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-22-04-05 A Resolution Approving a Labor Agreement Between the City of Nome and the City of Nome Employees' Association (CNEA) Through December 31, 2024.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Tapqaq to adopt R-22-04-05.

Discussion:

- City Manager Steckman requested City Council pass R-22-04-05, describing various departments benefitting from raising employee wages.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-22-04-06 A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase and Receipt of a Can-Am Defender Pro Ltd for Use by the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-22-04-06.

Discussion:

- City Manager Steckman stated the City would purchase a Can-Am through a grant from the State of Alaska: Department of Health & Social Services. Typically, purchases such as this would be approved by the City Manager; however, he opined it was his preference that any motor vehicle purchased be approved first by the City Council. He stated the Ambulance department would be providing a radio and light bar, which would provide significant savings.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-22-04-07 A Resolution Reallocating \$20,000 Towards the Hiring of a Grantwriter.

A motion was made by C. Tapqaq and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-22-04-07.

Discussion:

- City Manager Steckman stated there were many opportunities to apply for funds and assistance with a Grant writer on staff.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. R-22-04-08 A Resolution Awarding the Contract for the Furnishing of Crushed Aggregate for Road Surface Course to Q Trucking Garage.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-22-04-08.

Discussion:

- City Manager Steckman noted his presence at the bid opening and bidder interest, requesting the Council's support with the resolution.
- Council Member Henderson asked whether aggregate bids were annual.
- City Manager Steckman stated two years, with heavy consumption lately.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. R-22-04-09 A Resolution Awarding the Contract for the Furnishing of Crushed Aggregate for Port Pad Surface Course to Tumet Industries, LLC.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-22-04-09.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: April 5 - 22, 2022.

- Ken Morton, NJUS Assistant Manager, noted the last week of employment for long-standing NJUS employee Cheri Kruschek. There are several vacancies currently with NJUS; applicants are encouraged. A visit by electric meters supplier Eaton provided technical training with their products. Concluding, NJUS repaired a water leak on Warren Place.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: April 18, 2022.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to direct the City Manager to issue a letter to AMCO concerning license #903 of Carr-Gottstein.

- City Manager Steckman commented that the City had recently applied for 7 million dollars in grant funds from the SOA for the Nome teacher's employee housing project. He noted Mayor Handeland had submitted on behalf of NJUS as well. City Manager Steckman described 3D housing as a potential option for constructing new homes. He noted Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) interest in developing the project. The City's May 9th meeting will provide further details.
- Mayor Handeland opined a positive outcome if the project has a possibility in the future, noting various benefits. He requested the City Council to offer support in moving forward in pursuing funding for this project.
- Council Member Henderson inquired into the City's cost required.
- Mayor Handeland commented that the Denali Commission would cover the project.
- Council Member D. Johnson opined his interest.
- Council Member Brown had no objections.
- Council Member M. Johnson commented, no objection.
- Mayor Handeland noted Denali Commission would be providing an evaluation of the soil for the lot, which would be the foundation for the 3D home.
- City Manager Steckman detailed the Carrs Gottstein, untimely filed liquor license which was cause for temporary cancellation of Carrs-Gottstein package-store liquor license. City Manager Steckman noted his and Mayor Handeland's discussion with Carrs-Gottstein's director and board members. He suggested the Common Council handle the repercussions similar to the handling with the AC Liquor store, opining a more extensive community discussion for June's meeting was in order.
- Mayor Handeland mentioned the ABC Board and Director supported hearing all licenses simultaneously in a June Special meeting, adding their hope the City would continue working with owners in the interim until June's Special meeting.
- City Manager Steckman added that a letter was received by the ABC Board, signed by 48 residents, and they were interested in how they could assist or better understand the circumstances.
- Mayor Handeland identified that conditions on a license would be enforceable locally and by the state.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

B. Departmental Quarterly Reports: 3rd Quarter FY22.

- City Manager Steckman commented on heat traces not properly functioning and snowmelt affecting drainage on the streets. He noted that NPD accreditation would be discussed during the budget process, to which a request was made for an executive session at the next Council meeting.

C. March 17, 2022 Nome Port Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

No citizen comments were given.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

- CM Martinson opined his gratitude for an approved CNEA agreement. He gave notification to the community event at the Nome Rec Center, past and present Nome-Beltz High School state basketball champions.
- CM Tapqaq congratulated the recent Native Youth Olympic athletes, acknowledging all student-athletes of recent. She suggested the City provide plenty of public notice for June's AMCO hearing and understand the root causes of the community's alcohol-related issues on Front street.
- CM Brown stated his support for City signage with dual language and additional acknowledgment towards the indigenous community, suggesting the City Manager reach out to the local tribal communities for the signage project.
 - o CM Topkok acknowledged CM Brown's signage comments, stating she was working towards a collective effort on a similar project with local tribal entities.
 - o City Manager Steckman responded to Council Member Brown's request, noting he has been working in-depth on such a project already. He stated current plans following the State of Alaska: DOT
- CM Henderson commented that it was a short meeting with many positives. He praised providing quarterly staff reports, noting they were very informative. Recent technical issues streaming in Council Chambers were of note. He gave praise for continuing the alcohol on Front St. topic, AMCO, and a fair, balanced approach moving forward. Construction of rental housing is in the works between City Manager and CM Henderson, with more details coming soon.
- CM D. Johnson noted the Steadman road surface, requesting AK DOT address the issue as it has been a recurrent obstacle for residents.
- CM M. Johnson noted the recent technical difficulties streaming City Council meetings. He thanked Finance Director Nickie Crowe for her work with the City's budget. Praise was given to the City Manager and CNEA President Wade Harrison and his crew for their agreement. More appreciation for quarterly staff reports.

- Youth Representative Hebel apologized for recent attendance with sports, school, and recent Council meetings, congratulating the Nome sports athletics for their recent achievements.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**A. Activity Report: April 5 - 22, 2022.**

Mayor Handeland gave reference to the Denali Commission, AMCO, and an informative meeting previously with Senator Murkowski recently. Grant funds had been applied for wind and battery storage and water & sewer expansion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objections the Council adjourned at 8:24 PM.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 23rd day of May, 2022

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk