

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland  
**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman  
**Clerk**  
Dan Grimmer



**Nome Common Council**  
Scot Henderson  
Mark Johnson  
Maggie Miller  
Adam Martinson  
Cameron Piscoya  
M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**  
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM  
RICHARD FOSTER ROOM IN THE RICHARD FOSTER BUILDING

▪ P.O. Box 281 • Nome, Alaska 99762 • Phone (907) 443-6663 • Fax (907) 443-5345

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**ROLL CALL at 07:05PM**

Members Present: C. Johnson, C. Martinson, C. Piscoya, C. Henderson, C. Miller, C. Tapqaq (Zoom);

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Dan Grimmer, City Clerk;

In the Audience: Diana Haecker, Ben Townsend, Miranda Musich, Thomas Simonsson, Brad Soske (Zoom), Cynthia Gray (Zoom);

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A Motion to Approve the Agenda was made by C. Henderson and Seconded by C. Martinson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. July 22, 2024 Work and Regular Meeting Minutes,

A Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes was made by C. Martinson and Seconded by C. Henderson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A. May 7, 2024 Nome Planning Commission Meeting Minutes,

B. July 17, 2024 letter from a Guest of the Westerdam,

C. July 19, 2024 letter from AT&T re: AT&T Data Incident,

D. July 31, 2024 Foreclosure list presented to the Superior Court at Nome (2NO-24-00149 CI)

- E. July 31, 2024 Letters to DEC and DNR On Behalf of NCC and Response from DNR re: IPOP Permit Opposition,
- F. August 5, 2024 AMCO Public Notice of Proposed Regulation Changes of the Marijuana Control Board,
- G. August 16, 2024 communications from AMCO re: Marijuana Control Board regulations for Broadening Overlapping Premises and Plant Height,
- H. July 31, 2024 Public Notice of Application for Permit from USACE,

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

No Comments

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No Unfinished Business

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. August 12, 2024 Memo to Nome Common Council re: 2024 Personal Property Fees and Interest,

A Motion to waive 2024 Personal Property Fees and Interest was made by C.Henderson and Seconded by C.Johnson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. August 12, 2024 Memo to Nome Common Council re: Dilapidated Structures Exemption,

A Motion to approve Dilapidated Structures Exemptions presented was made by C.Henderson and Seconded by C.Martinson.

Discussion was made about the qualifications or criteria that is required for this exemption. Comments were made about how to make the qualifications less cumbersome.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. August 12, 2024 Memo to Nome Common Council re: Late Filing for Senior Exemption,

A Motion to approve the Senior exemption of Betty Ann Hoogendorn as timely filed by C.Johnson and Seconded by C.Martinson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. R-24-08-01 A Resolution Appointing Dan Grimmer as Acting City Manager for August 17th Through August 20th 2024,

A Motion to approve the Resolution to appoint Dan Grimmer as Acting City Manager for August 17<sup>th</sup> through August 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 was made by C.Martinson and Seconded by C.Henderson.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

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

Thomas Simonsson, NJU Superintendant- Operating updates include jetting sewer lines and doing some septic cleaning at the school and correctional center. Fire hydrants are being repaired. VFD for additional blower at lagoon is now operational. BEST battery system is scheduled to arrive soon. Concrete is being poured at foundation. There was a technician that came up to work on the moonlight springs pressurization. Valves do need to be replaced in the water plant. N street and 6<sup>th</sup> ave sewer main is scheduled to start the first part of September. The Seppala project has all the piping and construction will start next year.

John K. Handeland- Working with NSHC for the lift Station that is located on N Street that would support the Quyaana Care Center. The Village of Solomon and King Island Native Corporation are looking for support of a lift station on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. NSHC agreed to contribute 1.3 Million dollars to this project.

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

- A. August 12, 2024 City Manager's Report,

There is an ordinance in process to amend the Senior and Disabled Veteran Exemption requirement. The City is also working on amending the exemption ordinance to read that final determinations will fall under the City Managers' approval.

The city engineer is currently in Nome and we're looking at having the DEC come in and review the efficiency of how we're managing the landfill. The engineer is waiting on the RFP for fixing the floors at OSJ.

An RFP will also be submitted for the electrical in the Public Works building. The accreditation for the Police Department is under final review. We are looking at an RFP for a public relations firm. We are working on an RFP for vehicle removal.

The City Manager gave thanks to organizations in the community for efforts that are being made to paint and make improvements to their properties.

The City will be working with DOT to removed vehicles from long term parking that are torn up and broken.

There have been reports by the public and in Social Media that there are no protocols in place for missing persons. The City Manager noted that the City has a missing persons protocol that is used in cases of missing persons. Comments in Social Media have been unfiltered and there is a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation being presented.

The 3D housing project is delayed until next year. An update was given on the details of this project and when the project will start next year.

Mayor Handeland noted that there will be an update coming to the sound system in City Hall. City Manager Steckman noted that Chariot services will be coming up to work on that system in City Hall. Mayor Handeland also noted from the City Manager report that there is an advertisement that has gone out to the community reminding them that Helmets need to be worn with ATV's and that you need to have a valid driver's license to operate within city limits.

C.Miller asked more questions about the 3D housing being used in an Arctic region. City Manager Steckman noted that there is an identified site where a house will be made and then there is another that is being looked at to problem solve how best to build one of these types of houses on unstable ground.

There was discussion about Leonard Seppala's Kennel building possibly coming to Nome. There was an update about the possibility of expanding the outside displays outside of the museum.

More questions were made by C.Miller about the possibility of having a local PR person instead of using a PR firm.

C.Henderson brought up for discussion about requirements in the Exemption Ordinance for dilapidated structures. Intent of the ordinance was discussed. C. Henderson asked if the council could make administrative changes to the ordinance. Mayor Handeland clarified that Ordinance changes would have to go through and be adopted by ordinance through multiple readings.

#### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

No Comments

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

**C. Henderson-** Congratulations to the applicants for the dilapidated Structure exemptions. C.Henderson asked KNOM to update their role in the City Council Meeting. M.Musich noted that she is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and that they have sponsored KNOM to attend the City Council Meetings to stream on Facebook and Youtube. It was noted that this service can be provided anywhere.

**C. Johnson-** Thanks to City Staff for working on the Senior Exemption Ordinance and making progress on it.

**C. Martinson-** No Comment

**C.Tapqaq-** No Comment

**C.Miller-** Thanks to Glenn for answering questions. Talked about need for PR person, asked about Communications being more open with tribal entities. C.Miller asked about the street signs being repaired. Asked about artifacts of Nome Eskimo Community. Mayor Steckman addressed that the City has held these artifacts in trust for Nome Eskimo Community and he has attempted multiple times to contact them and they have not responded.

**C.Piscoya-** No Comment

#### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

The Post Office has been rumored to intend to be moving. Mail continues to be sent back to sender and having packages being sent back. Mayor Handeland stated that although they may be following protocol he feels like it is worth writing a strongly worded letter to our delegations to see how we can fix this issue. Mayor Handeland asked if there was objection to him writing a letter. There was no objection.

The Army Corp of Engineers and DOD came into town. Mayor Handeland noted that they were able to host them and that it is good for them to see Nome and understand where we're at and what their policies could be effecting.

There was a book signing "Stronger Together". There was a collaboration of Artifacts and Artwork along with stories in the book being displayed.

The City is working on the new Iditarod Arch. The new log is being worked on in Seward where it will be created. M.Silvernail will work on the based structure.

Thank you to Diana from the Nome Nugget for notices being posted in instances of short notice.

Mayor Handeland talked about Extreme Habitat and potential other opportunities that would benefit the City.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Matters in which the immediate knowledge would have an adverse effect upon the finances of the City and to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any persons,

A Motion was made to go into executive session by C.Henderson and  
Seconded by C.Piscoya.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

The council went into Executive Session at 08:32PM

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The council came out of Executive Session at 09:30PM and Adjourned.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 26<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2024.

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**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
Mayor

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**DAN GRIMMER**  
City Clerk