

Mayor
John K. Handeland

City Clerk/Treasurer
Dan Grimmer



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

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM
RICHARD FOSTER ROOM**

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

ROLL CALL at 07:06PM

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

Also Present: Brooks Chandler/Interim City Manager; Dan Grimmer, City Clerk;

In the Audience: Diana Haecker, Ben Townsend, Brad Soske, Cynthia Gray, Chris Coffman, A. Lee, Thomas Simonsson, Anna Ashenfelter, Patrick Piscoya, Rexodus Pomrenke, Nickie Crowe;

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A Motion to approve the Agenda was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya,

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. 24-09-09 Nome Common Council Meeting Minutes,

A Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya,

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. September 23-27, 2024 Auction and Surplus Sale Flyer,
- B. September 4, 2024 AMCO Notice Re: Changes to Business License Requirements in the application process,
- C. September 18, 2024 AMCO Renewal Notice for the Nome Nugget Inn/JPS Enterprises inc.,

- D. September 20, 2024 Letter from The Appraisal Company of Alaska to the City of Nome re: Assessor Certification Requirements,

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

No Comments

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appeal Item A re: A Letter of Appeal by Rexodus Pomrenke and Voter Registration,
B. Appeal Item B re: A Memo from the City Clerk to the Nome Common Council; A Determination of Rexodus Pomrenke's Eligibility for Office, PUBLIC HEARING

Procedures for hearing an appeal was reviewed in a Memo from the City Attorney to the City Council.

C.Henderson declared a conflict as the appellant is running against him.

Recess into Public Hearing at 07:12PM

Ms. Pomrenke was given opportunity to speak and gave testimony that she was informed that she was not registered to vote and so she registered the same day that she found that it was an issue and hoped that by doing so she was able to fix the problem.

Ms. Pomrenke believes that there is a narrative about her that is amongst the community and she would like to be able to change the opinion about her.

Sam Severin the City attorney made several points. There is a valid question about if this case is indeed appealable. There's a question about if the appeal is appropriate as there was an opportunity given by the Clerk to give to defend the declaration of candidacy. There was also in question if the appellant qualified during the candidacy period as she was self admittingly not registered to vote at the time of declaration.

There were clarifying questions about procedure being followed by the City Clerk by C.Johnson. City Clerk Dan Grimmer clarified that a Certified Letter was sent out to Ms. Pomrenke notifying her of her rights to Defend her candidacy.

C.Johnson also asked about being a registered voter in order to hold office but also in order to declare candidacy. S.Severin clarified what Code outlines the requirements but also the declaration of candidacy is a signed oath by the candidate attesting that they meet the requirements at the time of declaration.

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss the appeal by C.Johnson and seconded by C.Piscoya

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Council Recessed into Executive Session at 07:25PM

Council came out of Executive Session at 07:48PM

C.Tapqaq who is acting as the Chairperson did state that normally as the chair she would abstain from the vote but due to the rule of necessity she would cast her vote last. Instructions were given to each Councilmember that after their vote they should given a reason for their vote.

A Motion was made to grant the appeal by C.Piscoya and seconded by C.Miller

At the roll call:

Aye:

Nay:

C.Piscoya- He gave reason that the declaration of candidacy that she signed stated she was a registered voter and she was not registered at the time of candidacy.

C.Miller-She gave reason that her signed declaration is a signed oath and that Ms.Pomrenke was signing that all the prerequisites were meet and she was not registered at the time she signed the declaration which made her ineligible.

C.Johnson- The appellant is required to be a registered voter at time of declaration and she was not.

C.Tapqaq- She stated that she was voting no for the same reasons of which you have to be registered to vote at the time of declaration.

The motion **was DENIED.**

Tapqaq directed the City Staff and City Attorney to draft a letter of their findings to provide to Ms. Pomrenke.

Ms.Pomrenke gave thanks for being heard by the Council.

- B. R-24-09-01 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 to approve this resolution was made by C.Piscoya and seconded by C.Henderson,

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- C. R-24-09-02 A Resolution Awarding the Contract for the Furnishing of Crushed Aggregate for Road Surface Course to Tumet Industries, LLC

C.Piscoya is on the Tumet Industries LLC Board. The conflict was accepted by C.Tapqaq who was acting as the Chairperson.

A Motion was made to approve this resolution was made by C.Henderson and seconded by C.Miller,

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- D. R-24-09-03 A Resolution Awarding the Contract for the Furnishing of Crushed Aggregate for Port Pad Surface Course to Tumet Industries, LLC

C.Piscoya is on the Tumet Industries LLC Board. The conflict was accepted by C.Tapqaq who was acting as the Chairperson.

A Motion was made to approve this resolution was made by C.Henderson and seconded by C.Miller,

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. O-24-10-01 An Amendment to Ordinance 17.10.010 Sales Tax FIRST READING/DISCUSSION,

A Motion to pass this ordinance on to Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Passage was made by C.Henderson and seconded by C.Piscoya,

There was input from the City Manager who clarified that this was a housekeeping issue from when the 7% seasonal tax was repealed. Since this was already passed by the voters it is something that should be adopted by the Council.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Thomas Simonsson Superintendant for NJUS reported wrapping up summer project. Septic Tanks over at Nome Public Schools and the Jail were being cleaned out. There was a beaver issue at Moonlight Springs that was sorted. There is a digger truck that will arrive on the next barge. The fuel shipment is being offloaded at the moment. There was issues with the Windmills. N St. and 6th Ave project was completed with the help of NSHC's Contractors.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. City Manager's Report,

Brooks Chandler expressed the importance of serving on the council as well as the need to vote in the election process. Brooks expressed that his primary focus is on finding a replacement City Manager and hiring a recruitment firm There are discussions being entered with the City's Union about updating the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

- B. City Manager Job Description,

Brooks addressed the need to not just seek out a recruitment firm but to also advertise locally and with AML to expand our exposure for this position.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

No Comments

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

C.Henderson- No Comments

C.Miller-Would like to have Council consider a work session on advertising the position on getting a PR person hired.

C.Piscoya- No Comments

C.Johnson- He asked about when the Council Chambers would be available again to be used. He expressed difficulties hearing the conversations through the Zoom connection both in the Richard Foster Room as well as in the Council chambers.

C.Tapqaq- Thanks to City Manager. Expressed the importance of voting and encouraged others to run for council. Thanks to other members of the Council. She expressed the importance of diversity being reflected on the Council. She was disappointed that the Ordinance regarding the collaboration of City Staff and the Native Organizations had not been adopted.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor absent, no comments

There is a meeting on October 3rd for the certification of the election. There is an upcoming Council meeting scheduled for October 14th that falls on Indigenous People's Day. The Council decided to cancel that meeting and to next convene on October 28th.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to adjourn was made by C. Piscoya and Seconded by C.Henderson with unanimous support

Meeting Adjourned at 08:33PM

APPROVED and SIGNED this 28th Day of October, 2024.

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

DAN GRIMMER
City Clerk