

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland

**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman

**Deputy Clerk**  
Jeremy Jacobson



**Nome Public Safety  
Advisory Commission**  
Carol Piscoya, Chair  
Justin Noffske, Vice-Chair  
Jana Hoggan  
Traci McGarry  
Shauntel Bruner-Alvanna  
Kirsten Timbers  
VACANT

**NOME PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 02, 2023 at 6:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

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

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ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [A.](#) August 07, 2023 Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission Regular Meeting Minutes,  
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CITIZENS' COMMENTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of Commission Meeting Frequency,  
**VERBAL**
- B. Discussion of Police Chief Search,  
**VERBAL**

NEW BUSINESS

STAFF REPORTS

- A. City Manager's Activity Report: September 9 - September 21,  
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- [B.](#) NPD Update,  
**VERBAL**

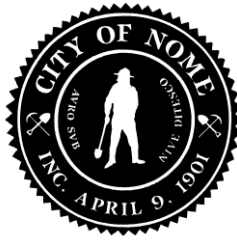
COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland

**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman

**Deputy Clerk**  
Jeremy Jacobson



**Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission** Item A.  
Carol Piscoya, *Chair*  
Justin Noffske, *Vice-Chair*  
Jana Hoggan  
Traci McGarry  
Shauntel Bruner-Alvanna  
Peter Travers  
*VACANT*

**NOME PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
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ROLL CALL

Members Present: Shauntel Bruner-Alvanna; Traci McGarry; Justin Noffske; Carol Piscoya;  
Members Absent: Peter Travers; Jana Hoggan;  
Also Present: Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Mike Heintzelman, NPD Chief;  
William Crockett, NPD Deputy Chief; Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by C. Noffske and seconded by C. Bruner-Alvanna to approve the agenda as presented.

At the roll call:

Aye: McGarry; Noffske; Piscoya; Bruner-Alvanna

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. April 3, 2023 Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission Regular Meeting Minutes,
- B. June 5, 2023 Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission Regular Meeting Minutes,

A motion was made by C. Bruner-Alvanna and seconded by C. McGarry to approve the April 3, 2023 and June 5, 2023 Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: McGarry; Noffske; Piscoya; Bruner-Alvanna

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No commentary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

(2:53)

## A. Discussion of Police Chief Search

- Manager Steckman noted NPD Chief Heintzelman’s 5 years of service to the Nome community and the Nome Police Department, the change in the 5 years since being brought on board, and the recent NPD accreditation in process allowing future opportunity for the NPD and community.
- Commissioner McGarry inquired into the search venues the City would utilize in finding an NPD Chief.
- Manager Steckman noted Association of Police Chiefs, AML, ICMA, and all other previous sites used in the last round of NPD Chief hire. The Police Chief would also be a part of the pension system, now.

STAFF REPORTS

(6:42)

## A. City Manager's Report,

- Manager Steckman identified a situation where two youth were driving recklessly, that he witnessed, at the Port of Nome. He noted that traffic safety toward ATV usage would increase in September.
- Chief Heintzelman noted there would be public notice provided well in advance.
- Commissioner Noffske opined, thorough notice to the public was important.
- Manager Steckman identified the lack of housing and resources for youth in detention. He stated there would be discussion brought to City Council soon.
- Commissioner McGarry drew attention abandoned vehicles.
- Vice-chair Noffske inquired on the department's current staffing and capabilities with current resources.
- Chief Heintzelman stated even with recent hiring, currently the department does not have adequate staff per capita. Newly recruited, yet to be brought aboard will elevate the department's staff beyond where it has been in a very long time.
- Manager Steckman added the Council has added pay incentives to newly hired Officers, and the addition of several leadership positions within the department.
- Chief Heintzelman emphasized, without adequate housing for youth-offenders they cannot be housed in Nome which is a disservice to the community and youth. Since joining the department, there has been a lot of changes for the better, training of staff, the onboarding of experienced officers, all has significantly improved.

A motion was made by C. McGarry and seconded by C. Bruner-Alvanna to review the situation toward finding youth detention facilities.

At the roll call:

Aye: McGarry; Noffske; Piscoya; Bruner-Alvanna

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

(50:00)

B. Nome Police Department Quarterly Report,

- Chief Heintzelman noted the department's accreditation requires securing a vehicle impound lot, that is secure itself. The communications officer has been a challenge to fully staff, one reason being the background requirements for security clearance purposes.
- Manager Steckman noted the NPD & EMS radio bid may go out in September of 2024. He noted attaining parts and supplies for the project likely are not readily available making the timeline more difficult to predict.
- Chair Piscoya inquired into place of notice for NPD staff openings.
- Manager Steckman stated the City website, City facilities, state website, and social media.
- Chair Piscoya questioned how the NPD & EMS radio is currently functioning.
- Chief Heintzelman noted the NPD & EMS radio is working, however, they know it needs addressing.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

(1:09:10)

- 1) Commissioner McGarry acknowledged NPD's efforts toward accreditation, and thanked everyone for the meeting.
- 2) Vice-chair Noffske expressed gratitude in NPD's efforts countering sexual assault within the community, and acknowledged NPD Chief Heintzelman's effort with NPD.
- 3) Chair Piscoya opined satisfaction with the direction NPD has been headed in, from where it had been. She identified importance toward community safety and planning for the community's future.
- 4) Commissioner Bruner-Alvanna gave thanks to NPD Chief Heintzelman and his service and expressed eagerness toward the Commission's role in vetting the next NPD Chief.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Noffske and seconded by C. McGarry to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objections, the Commission adjourned at 7:04 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2023

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**CAROL PISCOYA**  
Chair

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JEREMY JACOBSON**

**Deputy Clerk**

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City manager's report

September 21, 2023

**ATV Safety Enforcement Month:**

Starting October 1, the NPD will begin enforcing safety rules and regulations for city and state roads. Alaska has the highest Traumatic Brain Injury cases in the United States. Flyers were distributed to tribal governments, Alaska Native corporations, the school district and businesses. The flyer was also posted to the city Facebook page and the Nome Nugget advising residents and visitors the rules of the road when operating an ATV.

**Cruise Ships:**

The past two weeks businesses have seen hundreds of visitors touring Nome. The Carrie M. McLain Museum was opened special hours to host the visitors. In addition, the Richard Foster Building Community Room hosted a local craft fair for the visitors. The Visitor Center attracted hundreds of visitors with their new improved visitor experience.

The last two cruise ships of the season, unfortunately, will only transport their passengers directly to the airport with no planned local activities.

**U.S. Coast Guard:**

The Local Sector Coast Guard Commander, Captain Culpepper visited Nome this past Wednesday. Joy then hosted a familiarization tour of the Port for the sector command staff.

**U.S. Corps of Engineers:**

All of the paperwork has been submitted to the Corps. The PPA has been signed.

**Tax Conference:**

I will be attending a two-day tax conference being held by the AML on Thursday and Friday this week.

**Nome Fall Clean-up:**

The Fall Clean-up saw 124 visits to Mono-fill by homeowners, 42 pick-ups of household bulk items from homes through the U-Call, We-haul service, 11 vehicles removed and two dump truck loads dropped off at OSJ.

**Public Works Building:**

Estimated losses from the fire are expected to be more than \$800,000. Repairs to the building will not start until then next summer. Because of this the top floor of the building will be buttoned up for the winter. Staff will continue to use the first floor and continue to work out of the snow dump facilities. Iron Dog also will be able to use the building for their event

**Snow leases:**

Snow leases, that need to be renewed, have been sent out to the property owners asking for renewal.

**Right of ways:**

The annual notices to property owners to move their vehicles out of the city right of way has begun. This will allow better snow removal and improved vehicle passage way.

**Contracts to Vendors for Snow Removal:**

The annual contract to our third-party vendors to assist in snow removal in the city have been issued to the local contractors. The rate, which is based on the State of Alaska contract rates, did not increase from last year.

**Permafrost Mapping:**

The University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Alfred-Wegener-Institute (Germany) are partnering to conduct Permafrost fieldwork next summer in Nome and the region. They will be using LIDAR to measure what is happening to the Permafrost in the region.

I met with the researchers and advised them to reach out to our Tribal Communities, Alaska Native Corporations and the local college staff. As more information becomes available, I will keep you informed.

**Indigenous Peoples Day:**

This holiday is recognized by the City of Nome and is part of the Union Agreement. All city facilities will be closed that day excluding the Nome Police Station. The Rec Center is being rented out for a private event in the afternoon and evening by NSHC.

The council meeting scheduled for that night will be postponed to Tuesday night, October 10.

**City Morgue:**

Despite the poor weather this summer, the exterior of the building has finally been power sanded and stained. The next step is putting sealant on it. Over the winter an interior refresh to the building will begin to make it more welcoming for family members to prepare and view loved ones.

**Tribal Justice Summit:**

Kawerak sponsored a Tribal Justice Summit at the Mini last week for three days. While I was only able to attend for a few hours, it's sad to see our local surrounding communities are facing the same challenges as Nome. One of the issues the summit members recognized was curfews for young people. Other issues included domestic violence, sexual assault, lack of VPSO services, Elder service needs and more.

**Delays:**

There has been a delay in the planned meeting with our city property assessor to develop the model for the landing tax and anticipated revenue.

There is a delay in proposing amendments in the curfew ordinance. It is more convoluted than I thought and other portions look like they were lifted from a template. For instance, the current ordinance mentions "interstate motor vehicles".