

Mayor
Alice Ruby

Interim City Manager
Gregg B. Brelsford



Dillingham City Council
Chris Napoli
Bill Rodawalt
Aksel Buholm
Curt Armstrong
Andy Anderson
Gregg Marxmiller

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 26, 2021
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Gregg B. Brelsford, Interim City Manager
Subject: Monthly Report for March 4, 2021 City Council Meeting

1. Mayor and Council Community Covid-19 Update Workshop – February 25, 2021 - Zoom

This zoom public meeting went very well last night. The Mayor announced that a total of about 53 people attended by zoom or phone-in, saying this was the largest-ever group to attend a City event on-line. There were 5 representatives from the state, including the Dillingham Public Health Nurse, 2 from BBAHC, 1 from the Dillingham City School District and one each from the Curyung and Ekuk tribal councils. Further, KDLG broadcast this event so there were probably many more people who heard it on the radio.

The speaker presentations, the audience questions, and the answers provided to questions, all went very productively and smoothly. Everyone seemed to see this information event as very positive and worthwhile. Thank you not only to the Mayor for her energetic assistance in preparing this valuable City event, but to Lori, Richard and Kelsa for their very helpful assistance as well.

2. City Emergency Order 1.1 and the 2021 Commercial Fishing Season

The State of Alaska's emergency declaration expired on February 14. This does not affect the City's emergency declaration which stands on its own and is not dependent upon the State declaration (as some local governments are). Further CDC has issued new quarantine guidance related to fully vaccinated persons. For this group, the nature and time of quarantine is reduced from what it was previously. A number of people in the community have asked whether the City will also reduce its requirement. Indeed, there was a wide range of opinions offered at the public meeting last night.

I am looking carefully at the opinions from last night and elsewhere, the CDC changes, relevant scientific information, the City's current EO. I am joined in this by the EOC Manager and the Mayor, I currently plan to form a preliminary opinion in the next two weeks.

3. Non-Discrimination and Harassment Training

Led by Kelsa, the City conducted on-line non-discrimination and harassment training for all current City employees in February 2021. It was offered by the City's insurance company. The value of this training (i) to keep this issue on everyone's radar screen because sending a clear message to staff

that this is prohibited is the right thing to do, (ii) to lower the City's insurance rates based on all staff taking this course, and (iii) it positions the City strongly if it must defend against any legal action of this type – the City is more vulnerable if the other side can accurately say that the City never trained its staff on this topic.

My target was to have everyone in every department take this training by the end of February. As of this writing two departments have not completed this in terms of all of their staff. I expect this to be corrected by the first week in March.

4. Lawsuit: Dillingham Waste Management, LLC v City of Dillingham

The City's efforts to engage Waste Management in informal discussion have so far failed because Waste Management will not substantively reply to the City outreach. The City has filed its answer to the complaint and counterclaim.

5. Beaver Round Up 2021

The Interim Manager and the EOC Coordinator met with the Coordinator of Nushagak Classic Western Alaska (NUSHWAC) regarding the 2021 Beaver Round Up. The issue was whether to continue the Round Up this year as it was normally done in the past, including numerous activities in the community involving small and large groups of people. After numerous discussions, including my consultation with the Mayor, NUSHWAC and the City agreed to forego the normal 5-day event with outdoor group activities this year. Instead, Round Up will do a variety of on-line activities in March and April with some additional activities possible on an occasional basis.

6. City Meetings with Fish Processors Are Starting Up

On February 16 and 19, 2021, the Mayor, Richard, and I met with representatives of Ocean Beauty/Icicle, and the on-site manager of Peter Pan Seafoods, respectively. They each assured the City that they will use the same model of Covid-protection this year that they used last year, including closed-campuses.

7. Interim Manager Meetings with Council and Council Committees

On February 8, 17, and 22, 2021, the Interim Manager made his Covid-19 reports to the Mayor and Council.

On February 22, the Interim Manager met with the Finance Director, Mayor and Finance and Budget Committee.

8. Audit

Throughout February, the Interim Manager and Finance Director worked closely to move the audit closer to completion. The current target is to provide the City's work product to the auditors by March 1. On that schedule, the auditors are expected to provide the audit to the Council for review at its May 6, 2021.

9. Officer-Involved Shooting in Dillingham on February 18, 2021

This incident involved an intoxicated individual who got stuck in the snow at “Vortex” up above Kanakanak Hospital. DPD officers responded to a call for help. The driver started shooting randomly in his car and then at the officers. All DPD officers and Dillingham State Troopers eventually came to the scene. The Troopers’ “SWAT” team came from Anchorage as well.

When the driver started firing at the officers, some of them fired back. Eventually, the SWAT team subdued the driver, He as medevacked to ANMC with a bullet wound that is now believed to be self-inflicted. No law enforcement personal were injured. The City has filed an insurance notice with its carrier, APEI.

10. City Lease of State Land at the Airport

On February 17, I looked at the City’s Fire department building on state-leased land at the airport with Norman and then Norman showed me the new building on Aleknagik Road. He educated me to the effect that the City will move its firetruck and other vehicle and equipment from the Airport building to the Aleknagik building. At the Aleknagik building, I talked with the construction supervisor who assured me that the Aleknagik building will be ready to “house” the Airport building vehicles and equipment by March 31.

Unless the Council directs me otherwise, based on these discussions, and Norman’s recommendation, I will tell the State that the City will relinquish back to the State, the Airport building lease and the building that sits on it as of midnight on March 31.

11. State Grant to Municipalities for Supplemental Covid-19 Testing

The State is offering funding to municipalities to supplement Covid-19 testing and other related matters. The City will apply for this grant. Richard is leading the City’s work on preparing a City-application in coordination with BBAHC, Gina, BBNA, Dillingham City School District, and the Curyung Tribal Council. The deadline to apply is next week.

12. Representing the City in regional, statewide and other zoom meetings

I’m now plugged into a number of extra-cities zoom meetings with processors, health providers, the state EOC and health officials, regarding Covid-19 planning. Among other things, this include the State EOC Incident Commander and city managers from around the state all comparing notes on Covid-issues and plans in our communities.

On February 12, the Interim City Manager had the honor of joining the Mayor in attending the Curyung Tribal Council meeting for introduction purposes. We all agreed on a general direction for working closely together going forward.

Thank you.