

TO: Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

March 24, 2023

Iditarod:

By all reports, the Iditarod race for 2023 was successful. Businesses reported strong business sales and a return to more normal business conditions expected from the race. The craft-fair at OSJ was busy and there was a strong turnout at events scheduled throughout town. Some people commented about the lack of downtown sirens greeting the mushers, but as you know, the downtown siren was impacted by the fire at public works.

Everyone, who previously had visited Nome, had a positive comment about the improvements to the Mini and the Visitors Center. The Carrie M. McLain had programming related to the Iditarod as well as the Kegoayah Kozga Library.

Public Works Building:

AML/JIA staff came up to Nome this past Tuesday to evaluate the damage from the recent fire in the building. It has been determined the fire was accidental. As part of the repairs, a portion of the third-floor ceiling will need to be replaced, the second-floor ceiling will need to be replaced and all of the first-floor ceiling will be need to be replaced either because of fire damage (third Floor) or water damage. The rest of the third floor will need to be repainted.

The downtown siren will need to be repaired or replaced due to fire damage. Tools are being ordered to replace the ones that were destroyed including the brand-new spray painter purchased this past summer.

Plans are being made to relocate public works operations to the snow dump for the summer while the insulation and sheet rock are being replaced and the interior of the building painted. The City will need to out to bid on the insulation and sheet rock replacement. Everything else will be handled in house.

As part of the repairs, the third floor will probably get a new layout. Another concern that is being discussed is what is being stored in the building. If we continue to store city records and other important and other potentially historical items, there should be an additional level of protection such as carbon dioxide fire protection system.

City Hall:

Instead of the Rec Center going out for heating and ventilation system replacement, I am recommending that the city go out to bid to replace the heating and ventilation system of city hall this summer. The project will be ready to go out to bid soon as the electrical plans are signed off. The Rec Center designs are still being worked on. The city has \$1,000,000+ in ARPA funds available for this project. The project is anticipated to cost \$1,100,000.00

General Obligation Bonds:

The city has numerous projects needs that have been identified over the past ten to fifteen years that have not been addressed. The Rec Center heat and ventilation system, the locker room and sauna improvement plan, long term storage needs, ice hockey facility, improvements to other building heating systems, the city radio and communication system, etc.

While staff is working on grant funding to assist to pay for some of these projects, the list will continue to grow unless we consider a more aggressive approach.

OSHA training:

Matt Barone and I attended a two-day training course on OSHA regulations which is the tip of the iceberg compared to the hours of training needed in all areas of OSHA regulation.

The training was helpful to assist us in identifying improvements needed in our facilities and to improve the handling of chemicals and their proper storage in our facilities.

Federal Engineering:

A representative of Federal Engineering was in Nome to begin the review of the radio transmission problems being experienced by city personnel. The plan is to develop by May a preliminary plan for the city to review for radio improvements.

Work Session on Monday:

Jay Sterne, our lobbyist in Washington, DC, will here at your work session on Monday night to discuss what is happening in the Congress and our priorities. I have also invited Wendy Chamberlin, our state lobbyist, State Senator Donny Olsen and State Representative Neal Foster to also attend to listen to the concerns in Nome.

Port Commission:

The Port Commission met this past week in what was a very quick meeting to discuss the port expansion project and the port tariff.

FEMA:

Staff met with FEMA officials to discuss the city's submittal for reimbursements in regards to Typhoon Merbok. The city will start submitting the detailed information requested by FEMA over the next several

weeks. I sent a letter requesting that the rates for fuel and rental vehicles be at a higher rate than the normal schedule used by FEMA. We are waiting a response from our request.

Regional Planning Meeting:

A meeting that was organized by Kawerak was held with representatives from Kawerak, BSRHA, NSHC, HUD and the Denali Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss housing and infrastructure needs in Nome and the region. One interesting tidbit of information that was came out in the meeting, is that the Nome Census District has been identified as the prime area of growth for the next ten years for Alaska.

Budget Prep for 2023/2024:

Nickie and her staff have submitted budget materials for department staff to review. Staff has been submitting goals and personnel needs for review as part of budget preparations.

Technology Difficulties in Council Chambers:

The City is still having technical difficulties with being able to broadcast our meetings. ICE that installed the system almost three years ago during COVID will attempt t correct the problem again. This week's meeting, we will have Zoom available but no streaming capabilities over you tube.

Police Radios in cars:

For your information, three in-car police radios systems are being replaced that are the oldest radios that the city owns.