

City Manager
Glenn Steckman

Port Director
Joy Baker

Harbormaster
Lucas Stotts



Nome Port Commission
Jim West, Jr., Chairman
Charlie Lean, Vice Chairman
Derek McLarty
Shane Smithhisler
Russell Rowe
Gay Sheffield
Drew McCann

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**NOME PORT COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 15th 2023 @ 5:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 5:34 pm by Chairman Lean at the City Hall Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Smithhisler, Lean, McCann, McLarty (telephonically)

Absent: West, Rowe, Sheffield

Also Present: Joy Baker (telephonically)

In the audience: Nome Nugget- Diana Haecker

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Lean asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve made by McCann, seconded by Smithhisler
At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean; McCann; McLarty; Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

Discussion: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 19th, 2023

Motion made by Lean, seconded by McCann to approve the minutes with Commissioner Sheffield's written additions added;

Discussion:

- Lean noted that in these minutes he was not trying to say that the current size of the crab being caught were illegal, but that majority of the male crab are sub legal. And that smaller crab being handled were often subject to frostbite.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: McCann; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 23-01-26 NOAA -Upcoming Changes to NWS Marine Forecasts
- 23-02-06 Ntnl. Snow & Ice Data Center -Arctic Sea Ice News and Analysis
- 23-02-08 Arctic Today -Alaska's Bering Sea Crab Crisis is a Sign of Big Changes

Discussion:

- Harbormaster Stotts spoke briefly about NOAA's changing marine forecast zones.
- Commissioner Lean commented that he was glad to see that the boundary for Nome's new marine zone is at the mouth of the Sinuk River and Stuart island as those are typically areas the sea-state changes.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

- Commissioner Lean commented on the Opilio Crab crisis, that the decline was unanticipated, unlike the decline in King Crab. Opilio Crab lost an age class in between when it was first noticed and by the time it should have matured. Opilio Crab are particularly cold loving animals and when the Bering Sea warms they do not do well. Though we do not know the cause, it is a bad omen because it could easily occur again.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- HM Stotts provided an update on;
 - AR collection efforts, and progress on impoundments and payment plans.
 - Updated 2023 cruise and other ship schedules with 13 calls total, for 7 at anchor and 6 at the dock.
 - The SCENIC ECLIPSE will be in on 5.27.23 which could be early depending on ice.
 - The OSHORO MARU will also visit Nome twice and require 24hr security while in port.
 - Maintenance, repair and planning.
 - Update on 2022 CPV funds expended on cruise ship shore-side landing items such as barriers, signs, cones, etc.

Discussion:

- Commissioner McCann asked about night time security staff schedules.
 - HM Stotts stated that we adjust staff schedules to accommodate these types of vessels and sometime utilize PWR staff that hold a TWIC card.
- Anna Rose McArthur with KNOM asked if this was the final vessel schedule.
 - HM Stotts stated that the schedule is always subject to change due to operations or weather, but at this time, it is the most up to date.

PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PD Baker provided an overview of the following:

- 23-02-10 Port Director/Projects Status Report
 - PD Baker stated that we are still on schedule to submit the 95% design package by the 24th of Feb, 2023. This will begin many layers of reviews and approvals, after which, the design team will need to respond with questions or requested changes.
 - PD Baker indicated the NMFS application was making progress through the NOAA reviewers and an approval is anticipated by early May.
 - We are still on hold for the CAP-107 study with the Corps, with the District and Division going back and forth on how to identify the alternative they will accept.

- DOT's Port Rd Improvements project was slated to start in 2024 but after discussions with DOT on the Port Expansion Project starting in 2024 also, the Port Road project was push out to be bid in 2026, with notice to proceed given in 2027.
 - It was determined that it would be an inefficient and ineffective use of state and local funds to improve the road and tear it up through 4 years of construction.
- Realignment of Center Creek Road was also pushed out to 2025.
- USACE and the City are planning on having a public meeting on the port expansion on May 17, 2023 at the Mini.
- We received the 2nd half of the CPI adjustment from the Anchorage CPI-U that we will use to adjust the rates for Tariff 16.3. The 5-year average results in an increase of 6.18%.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- FY2023 Port Operating Budget - Mid Year Amendment.
- FY2023 Port Capital Budget - Mid Year Amendment.

Discussion:

- PD Baker provided an overview of the budget and walked the PC through each section including Causeway, Harbor and Industrial Pad changes and highlights.
 - Garbage costs are going up drastically so staff are conducting an assessment on fees.
 - McLarty asked if there is anything we can do about non-port users dumping in the port dumpsters. Perhaps the City could cost share on garbage fees.
 - PD Baker stated this has been a long-term problem and we have worked with the public to ensure that garbage does not end up on the streets. Staff utilize cameras to catch the most aggressive offenders.
 - CM Steckman stated that we provide free dump day on Saturday, more trash cans and a marketing plan to keep Nome clean.
 - Lean stated that there is no other good place beside the Port to get ride of used oil and knows that service to the public is greatly appreciated.
- PD Baker also gave an overview of the proposed project laydown sites and material haul routes.
- Smithhisler asked with Joy retiring are we looking at a replacement? PD Baker and CM Steckman are currently working together on that plan.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

- Smithhisler liked the Port asset replacement schedule.
- McCann commented that the second piece of the asset replacement schedule is a formal agreement that those items will be replaced when their time comes up.
- McLarty – Good meeting and thanked PD Baker for the information.
- Lean stated we need to keep our eye on unintended costs from items like garbage and oil. It is important for the Port to set a leadership example in oil disposal.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by for adjournment at 6:54pm.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 23rd day of March 2023.


 Jim West, Chairman

ATTEST:


 Joy Baker, Port Director