

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's Report

April 16, 2024

**Ambulance Service:**

The MOA has been agreed to by NSHC and the City ( please see attachment). City staff is now working to implement the provisions of the agreement to allow for a smooth transition. Systems Design West, who serves as the city's vendor collecting insurance claims for ambulance service, has begun notifying Medicaid and Medicare that claims for service will cease at midnight April 29.

The State of Alaska has been notified that the Common Council has granted NSHC the right to operate the ground ambulance for Nome.

Medic 2 will be transferred two days early to allow stocking of the ambulance by NSHC. Medic 1 will transfer April 30.

As for the employee impact, one employee will be laid off, one employee will transfer to the fire and police departments and the third part-time employee will continue to work with fire and finance.

**Radio system:**

With the award of the radio bid to Arcticom, the equipment for the installation is expected to arrive in Nome by mid-July. Installation is scheduled to start at the end of July with testing in mid-late August to early September.

**Port Project:**

The date of submittal for bids has been extended to late May. The date to award the bid by the Corp of Engineers now appears to be late September.

While there have been local and state advertisements to hire contractors and employees, no bid has been awarded. It is my opinion that contractors interested on bidding are trying to determine the availability of local assets.

**Another Sex offender Sentenced:**

Kudos to the NPD in bringing the case forward that allow for George Ahkinga to be sentenced to nine years in jail and ten years of probation. I want to acknowledge to Sgt. Harrison and Investigator Vince Nguyen in bringing this case to closure.

**Swimming Pool:**

The mechanical improvements to pool are finished. Operating manuals for the pool mechanicals are being provided. Training for Cole Cushman and Chip Leeper has been provided. Melissa Ford also attended the training.

The next step is to re-certify the lifeguards which Melissa Ford is working on to allow for the pool to officially open.

**The Nome Planning Commission:**

The NPC will hold a public hearing on the proposed "Downtown Zoning" District on Monday, April 29, at OSJ at 7pm. The property owners potentially impacted by these zoning changes are being notified by mail.

**Nome Winter Sportsman Association:**

City staff and the Mayor worked to help the NWSA get a grant submittal in to the Denali Commission for the proposed structure over the hockey rink. This is also one of the City's CAPSIS request. Finance will work the volunteers of NWSA to make sure the any grant funding follows federal guidelines on expenditures.

**Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department:**

A reception to honor the contributions of those many volunteer ambulance personnel who contributed forty plus years of service to the Nome community is being planned for late May or early June.

From its earliest days as the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Service to its take over by the city and becoming the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department, these volunteers transported thousands of people and saving countless people.

**Snow Removal:**

City staff and contractors have moved over 15,156 truckloads of snow and the number will only rise to the continuing cleanup operations.

Heat Traces have been turned on and next week staff will start the jetting of drains with hot water to help fully open the pipes.

**Port Commission:**

The commission met Thursday night to review, edit and correct the draft the Port Strategic Plan.

**Hiring:**

Cynthia Gray is working on filling three key positions: the assistant city manager, port director and a police officer.

**NPD Accreditation:**

The process is continuing to move forward and is on schedule for October. NPD officer Austin Martino will take over as Accreditation Manager after Gray Harrison leaves the NPD.

**Executive Session:**

I am requesting an executive session Monday night for Chief Crockett to update the council on active police matters that cannot be discussed publicly at this time.

**Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting:**

I attended this past week the three-hour annual meeting of Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting. It was a positive exchange ideas and concerns. Members of the chamber were appreciative of snow removal efforts by the public works staff. Another member voiced his support of the building staff and the clerk's office with several members nodding in agreement.

I am requesting that the membership allow for an abbreviated presentation of the draft city budget for their next meeting.