

To: The Mayor and Common Council

From: Glenn Steckman

RE: City manager's report

October 6, 2023

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People:

The Nome Police Department has been asked to work with the Alaska State Police on murdered and missing Indigenous People in Nome. A list of names has been released with seven people identified in Nome. The NPD is going through old paper records that predated the electronic filing system in CrimeStar. And, since the NPD has a more experienced staff now, these old records are again being reviewed.

The NPD wants no family to feel their loss is being ignored.

Landing Tax:

A Landing Tax is estimated to bring in between \$50,000-100,000. There are lot of variables because no number has been located on the number of freight flights landing in Nome. No number has been generated on a FBO which is Bering Air.

Drug Enforcement Agency:

I met with DEA Agents who visited Nome to meet with various organizations in town. The Chief and I expressed our concerns about illegal drugs being brought into Nome.

Vaping:

The work session has been scheduled for Tuesday 10/9 at 5:30pm. The NSD and NSHC has been invited. Dr. Tim Lemaire will provide a presentation which is in your packet. Because of the topic, it is being advertised in The Nome Nugget and Face Book and around town.

Muskox:

Four different herds made their way into town in the past two weeks. Two herds have been expelled including the destruction of a bull. Alaska Fish and Game request any sightings be called into the NPD and NPD will alert the Fish and Game Agents. Thirty licenses have been issued for this open season on Muskox. So far only four Muskoxen have been harvested.

Attached to this report are two documents relating to safety and people's rights when endangered by a Muskox.

NACTEC Building:

The siding on the lower portion of the building needs to be repaired because of failing siding. The building also needs to be completely repainted. The project will be going out to bid shortly with the

project to be completed by September 1, 2023. The NACTEC building is owned by the City of Nome but the maintenance is paid for by the Bering School District. This project's cost will be paid for the BSD.

City Hall ventilation:

The heating and ventilation system for City hall is out to bid. A required bid conference will be held on October 16 and bids will need to be submitted by November 2. The goal is to keep City Hall operating onsite while repairs are being addressed. Employee health and safety will also be part of discussion while repairs are down.

Rec Center Heating and Ventilation:

The plans for the heating and ventilation system have been submitted to the Fire Marshall for review. Current plans are going out to bid by mid-year 2024 with completion by 2025. This could be delayed because of the lack of funding. The city has ARPA funds and will be applying for CDBG funds (with Common Council's approval) and other grant sources.

Tax Conference:

I attended the statewide municipal tax conference in Anchorage. The follow up from this meeting will be reviewing the city's tax code and possibly seeking a review by Alaska Municipal League staff.

Assistant Secretary for the Army:

The Assistant Secretary of the Army visited Nome to see the City and the Port Project and to discuss the project. The Mayor heard afterwards that the Assistant Secretary was happy with visit.

Dust:

Public Works staff is aware of the dust problem and has tried to limit the impact. They've tried watering the roads but the ground is cold. This has resulted in serious icing in areas. No more watering will be done at this time.

Pool:

The optimistic date for the pool opening is November 1. At this point 85% of the work is done. The SCADA boards will be in Nome next week. Some more electric and plumbing need to be done to complete the system. The last thing will be to bring the manufacturer reps to train staff on the proper use of the equipment.

Commissioner of Public Safety:

Commissioner Cockrell, Colonel Gates and Captain Merrill stopped by to visit Chief Heintzleman, Deputy Chief Crockett and me to discuss policing issues. They advised us about bringing additional trooper positions to Nome. This will start after the new housing for the troopers is completed by next fall. Just like the NPD, they are having challenges in hiring new troopers. The troopers based in Nome will be for the most part two week on and two weeks off. AST will provide trooper housing for free in Nome

Alaska Municipal League Local Governance Conference

Please find attached to this report the agenda for the annual Conference. Please contact me if you are interested in attending.

City Radio System:

Gray Harrison and I are waiting for the Federal Engineering draft RFP to allow for the system to be placed out to bid. The goal is to go out to bid in November with install completed by the fall of 2024.

Police Vehicles:

Two new police vehicles are on the last barge waiting to come to port and be unloaded.

Work near the Fuel Farm:

BSNC is filling land that they own near the tank farm. Pipes that have been seen are actually rolls of geofabric being used in the fill process.