

TO: Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: Manager's report

August 19, 2021

XYZ Building:

The City has sent a draft agreement on the operation of the XYZ Building by the Community Center for elder services. The last agreement in our files was from 1994.

It has also come to the city's attention that the fire alarm system in the XYZ Building needs to be replaced. City staff will be seeking bids on this project. Estimated cost is \$50-60,000.00. This is not a budgeted item.

Mini Convention Center:

Just an FYI, to replace the carpet in the Mini is more than what was budgeted. A ten year warranty carpet will cost more than the \$6,000.00 budgeted. Staff is seeking three bids. The estimate cost is around \$13-15,000.00. Before hosting the homeless shelter this past year, the carpet was already in poor shape. The carpet was so worn or stained it could not be cleaned. The proposal is for carpet squares which can be easily replaced should the carpet be heavily stained.

Steadman Park:

I've asked our city engineer, John Blee, to draft an estimate to fix the cap at Steadman Park. The plan would be to replace or recover the asphalted area, fix the leaning basketball posts and replace the fencing. I would like to see the city piggyback off the State asphalt bid for replacing Steadman Street next year. City public work crew should be able to fix the stone cap of the park and fence. I also want to add security cameras for vandalism.

Community Painting:

Even if the council wanted to offer financial support to home owners and businesses to paint the exteriors of their buildings, another hurdle has emerged, a paint shortage. Dave Barron reached out to Grizzly's, the sole supplier of paint in Nome, and was informed about the problem. Staff will circle back on the issue in the winter. With the weather challenges this year, 2021 seems to be out of the question anyway for exterior painting and staining.

Tundra Tinkerer:

I am proposing a one year contract to engage Tundra Tinkerer to clean city hall and the Richard Foster Building. The contract would be for \$40,700.00 a year. This would result in a minimum savings of \$17,309.00. While the contract is for less hours than a full time position. For several years one person has been assigned this position and I believe an outside vendor can do a better job.

For the record, we approached three vendors. Tundra Tinkerer was the only vendor who decided to submit a contract. We also advertised for full time employee, but the candidates could not pass certain background checks necessary to work in sensitive areas or lacked driver licenses.

If either side is not happy during the term of the contract, there is a thirty day escape clause.

Public Restrooms:

Kawerak has offered \$30,000.00 for the city to develop/offer public bathrooms. Unfortunately, there has been a growing use of the beach and the stone wall area as a restroom. Last year, there was not much of a problem with the issue because the Mini was open for bathroom use. If there are no objections, I am going to refer this to the Planning Commission.

Tent Campground:

The Community Center has requested consideration of a tent campground and not out at the snow dump. Currently, the snow dump is the site for a campground without any public facilities. With no camping on the beach being enforced this year, there has been a request for a campground closer to the beach. The Community Center would like to discuss this issue. I am directing them to the Planning Commission.

Windward Strategies:

Jay Sterne, our federal lobbyist, was in Nome for a visit to brief the staff about the new infrastructure bill moving through Congress. This bill is 2700 pages and is still being amended. He is going to provide an executive summary to help provide direction where grant opportunities may exist.

Community Mental health:

One of the challenges for the NPD and NVAD has been residents struggling from mental health issues. Some these interactions at times has put our staff at risk, the individual at risk and the general public at risk. The Police Chief, Sharon Sparks and I met with the multi-disciplinary group from Norton Sound and other state agencies to discuss this challenge. While there was no decision, the hope is to look for some type of assistance from various agencies to assist city staff when providing services for folks suffering mental health when receiving a call out.

Software for Maintenance, Fleet and Asset Management:

City staff has reviewed nine proposals from various vendors on software to better manage our maintenance for public buildings, the city fleet and public parks. This software could be loaded with maintenance items that needed to be addressed on an irregular basis. It would also provide institutional memory as turn over happens in the organization as to maintenance requirements of our buildings and other assets.

Census:

The numbers are coming in on the 2020 census. The City of Nome population grew by roughly three percent. I've included more detailed census data as part of the manager's report.