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

**NOME PORT COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 22nd, 2022 @ 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 6:51 pm by acting Chairman Lean at the Public Safety Building Conference Room.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Smithhisler; Lean; McCann; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty

Absent: West

Also Present: Joy Baker, Port Director (Zoom)

In the audience: Diana Haecker

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Lean asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Discussion:

- PD Baker stated she would like to add a small Thornbush Subdivision fill project for discussion in New Business, if possible
- Commissioner Smithhisler asked if the Port Commission should add this to the agenda as it is \$150,000 and people reviewing our agenda may not have had time to see this addition.
- PD Baker stated this was posted online and sent to the media as well as posted publically.
- Lean stated that he feels the Port Commission is an advisory body only and there would be no loss in this body discussing this and could be added to the agenda.

Motion to approve made by Smithhisler, seconded by McCann.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean; McCann; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 17th, 2022 Motion made by Smithhisler, seconded by Rowe to approve minutes;

Discussion:

- Commissioner Sheffield wanted to be sure the previous months minutes had the correct revisions added from her comments.
 - HM Stotts commented that all revisions noted in previous meeting would be reflected in the minutes.
- At the Roll Call:

Ayes: McCann; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None

COMMUNICATIONS

- 22-03-17 Big Port Projects Face Critical Deadlines – Alaska Economic Report
- 22-04-05 City Support Letter to USDOT on MARAD Route Designation Request – Nome
- 22-04-11 Despite war, U.S. & Russia continue Bering Strait cooperation – Arctic Today
- 22-04-14 Luxury Arctic cruises take hit from Russia invading Ukraine – Arctic Today

Discussion:

- Commissioner Sheffield commented she liked the Alaska Economic Report and reading that made her feel the Port Commission and Nome Common Council should meet to discuss what efforts the City were taking in seeking funding for the port expansion project. Sheffield stated that this is an important topic and both groups should be on the same page on where the funding stands.
- PD Baker stated that an executive session has not been scheduled by the Mayor, or deemed necessary, and she listed a few of the steps the City was currently taking, including;
 - Recent travel to Juneau to give a presentation to the House Finance Committee on the project purpose, status, costs and funding needs.
 - Submitted two grant applications to USDOT RAISE program for funding.
 - There may be news in the next couple weeks on a couple of P3 opportunities.
 - Developing a funding matrix that will identify how the funding lays out.
- Commissioner Smithhisler commented that there was a meeting agenda item for Lisa Murkowski's visit for discussing potential funding for the expansion project.
 - PD Baker stated that was listed on the agenda as a discussion item during the Senator's visit.
- CM Steckman stated that;
 - We cannot hold an executive session with the Common Council for a reason that is not acceptable, as it goes against the transparency that is expected and the Sunshine rules to government.
 - If any Commissioners have possible funding opportunity ideas, to please share those with Joy and Lucas as soon as possible so we can start to chase any potential leads ASAP.
 - A few parties have expressed interest in possible funding partnerships for developing the Port of Nome expansion project, but that negotiations have not taken place yet
 - He recently met with a Korean representative about a potential Port funding partnership opportunity, but it was just a brief talk.
- Commissioner Sheffield stated that;
 - She understood the City was asking Commissioners for any funding ideas they may have, but it is difficult for her to recommend ideas if she doesn't know what has been pursued.
 - She has ideas at the national level, but does not believe she has a forum to bring those ideas to the table.
- CM Steckman stated that the Port Commission Meetings, like the one we are in, are the correct forum to discuss those types of ideas.

- Commissioner Rowe commented on the cruise ship cancellations and that Bering Air was also affected as they provide tours and air transportation for these same cruise ships.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

- Commissioner Lean commented that Norton Sound will have a commercial king crab opener this season for the first time in a few years, but that salmon numbers are looking pretty poor.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- HM Stotts provided a brief overview of daily prep for summer projects and goals;
 - Budgeting, procuring quotes and replenishing stock on items needed for the spring
 - Hiring 2022 staff positions; ads listed on 4/13/22.
 - USACE Cswy bridge repairs – the Corps is planning to have a contractor perform work under the bridge, with a closure anticipated to be for 1-2 days.
 - Planning 2022 cruise ship season; several cruise ship cancellations have come in based on voyage changes; we are currently down to 10 ships on the schedule, out of the 23 that were once scheduled.
 - Causeway High Mast Lights are damaged beyond repair. A vendor has submitted one new light for use as a test light to determine wind tolerance. If durable enough, we will pursue getting 2-5 more for installation.
 - USACE Area Committee Annual Meeting update – Oil spill response and other safety preparations.

PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PD Baker provided an overview of the following;

- 22-04-18 Port Director/Project Status Report
 - USDOT National Highway System – Applicants ineligible without road/rail
 - Port Projects, Cost-Share Sources & Grant Funding Matrix

PD Baker commented that;

- Cost estimates are coming in between 80% and 180% higher than previously noted. Engineers are getting quotes at double the price due to increasing costs.
- The Snake River Storage Facility has a cost estimate of about \$14 million but that may move to \$21 million or higher after the cost estimate is updates.
 - This is all due to the price of fuel, labor and inflation.
 - This has slowed progress and will require time to see which projects can be funded and constructed.
- There are 3 USDOT grants out now that all require the applicant to have a connection to the National Highway System. The INFRA, MEGA and the RURAL.
 - Without road or rail connection, the applicant will be excluded.
 - The City is investigating how to get around this exclusion, but more likely, the CODEL will need to push language through congress.
- PD Baker provided an overview of the Grant Funding Matrix she has been working on and will bring this back to the table for the Commission to review further.
- McLarty asked if there is an estimated timeline on the Ramp replacement Project remaining items and if those repairs will affect folks launching in the spring or not.
 - PD Baker stated that we are currently working with the project team on exact timeline, but we anticipate no interruptions to spring vessel launches. Hopefully repairs will be brief but if they require a week or so, we will schedule after vessels launch.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Nome Arctic Deep Draft Port – PND Fender Alternatives Memo
 - PND Port Expansion – Video Clip of Phase 1 (Work in Progress)

Discussion:

- Acting Chairman Lean provided a brief overview of the various fendering options PND has provided for the Commission.
- Group discussion quickly brought Alt #4 to the top of the list due to;
 - Ability to install various size Yokohamas in locations needed for different vessel types.
 - Matches berthing capacities at existing facilities and exceeds that with Yokohamas.
 - Ease of installation and maintenance.
 - Highly functional with low risk to ice damage.

Motion:

The following motion was made by Commissioner Rowe and seconded by Commissioner Smithhisler:

Recommending to the Common Council to endorse PND Engineers Fender Alternative #4 as preferred fender design for the new facility.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: McCann; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Authorization of Pad Work on Thornbush Subdivision in Conjunction with BFI Development.

Discussion:

- PD Baker stated that BFI is developing the area to the north of their existing tanks and the Port would like to piggyback on the awarded contractor's material pricing to fill City-owned property around the perimeter of the BFI fill. This would allow for a lower price per cubic yard without being charged a move/demove and overhead occurring if we go out to bid.
- The group discussed the property, concerning drainage, slope degree coordination and other details.
- Commissioner McLarty asked if there is a dollar amount the City normally puts out to bid.
 - PD Baker stated that there is almost a guarantee we will end up paying more when we need to solicit, pay engineers to prep everything and then put the job out to bid.
- Commissioner Smithhisler commented that the quantity was like an additional 7k yards and that could have been included as an Add-Alternate with BFI's contract. Also asked of the City typically partners with private industry or is it usually government work. Stated that the second place bidder on the project may have had their decision swayed.
 - PD Baker stated that there was not a desire to combine the projects and both projects would be invoiced separately.
 - CM Steckman stated that we have done this before; we had concrete poured at the Fire Department when another contractor was already mobilized here, which resulted in great cost savings for the City of Nome.
- Commissioner McCann stated that he also feels the City should go through the standard procurement policy, but that we are an advisory body and the City Council would be making the final decision.
- Commissioner Rowe stated he agrees.

The motion **FAILED** due to no motion.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

- Smithhisler commented that we had a lot of good discussions at this meeting. Commented that the material proposal added to the agenda was a better value to the City and hopefully we get the TBS pad work we need done.
- Rowe commented that he would try and be available for any work session in discussing possible funding opportunities and looks forward to those discussions.
- McCann stated that it is important to the State to receive those federal funds for the Nome cost share as well as some of those funds may end up leaving the state. He stated that going through our government agencies for funding opportunities should be prioritized over private funding.
- Sheffield commented that if the City wants the Commissioners funding ideas they need to give them the forum to do so. Stated that she is waiting for something in writing showing how the Robert's Rules of Order and City Policy may potentially differ at times so she can better understand.
- McLarty stated that he enjoyed learning of the different fendering types and their pros and cons.
- Lean stated that the TBS pad fill in overdue and is glad to see some work being done on fixing that surfacing.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by for adjournment at 7:00pm.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 19th day of May 2022.

JW2

Jim West, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jh Baker

Joy Baker, Port Director