

City Manager
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Port Director
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Harbormaster
Lucas Stotts



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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
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17th, 2022 @ 5:30 PM
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 5:31 pm by Chairman West at the Public Safety Building Conference Room.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Smithhisler; Lean; West; McCann; Rowe (Zoom); Sheffield;

Absent: McLarty

Also Present: Joy Baker, Port Director (Zoom)

In the audience:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

Motion to approve made by Smithhisler, seconded by McCann.

At the Roll Call:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Feb 8th, 2022 and Motion made by Lean, seconded by Sheffield to approve minutes;
Feb 17th, 2022
Regular Meeting's

Discussion:

- Commissioner Sheffield commented that the Feb 8th, 2022 PC minutes needed to have a few missing sections added to her comments stating that;
 - She had asked for a meeting with the City Council and Port Commission to discuss the current status of funding and potential avenues for funding the Port expansion.
 - She had asked for CM Steckman to clarify how the City Code differs from Roberts Rules, if in fact they do at times.

Motion was amended by Lean, seconded by Sheffield to approve Feb 17th minutes as presented, and Feb 8th minutes with recommended changes;

At the Roll Call

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

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None

COMMUNICATIONS

- 22-02-21 Letter to Mayor from Quintillion – Port Expansion Communications
- 22-02-25 USCG to PON – Part 154 Applicability Letter
- 22-03-07 U.S. Cites Graphite One as Largest Deposit in Nation – Digital Journal
- 22-03-10 Travel industry figures bullish on return for 2022 Alaska season – KRBD

Discussion:

- McCann commented on the Travel industry figures piece and that the Alaska travel industry has been seeing cruise cancellations due to the Russian / Ukraine conflict, and that more cancellations may be expected.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

- none

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- HM Stotts provided a brief overview of daily projects and goals to be obtained prior to the start of the season;
 - FY2023 budgeting, identifying maintenance/repair, obtaining quotes and preparing orders for 2022 seasonal needs
 - Planning for 2022 staff positions; waiting for approval of new position to list full-time Office position, to advertise with the Harbormaster Assistant and Dock Watch positions.
 - 2022 cruise ship schedule is still fluctuating, with several ship cancellations due to uncertainty and difficulty obtaining permits. We currently have about half of what was originally scheduled.
 - Working on solution to replace broken fixtures from High Mast Lights on the Causeway. Have received a new test light unit to determine wind tolerance, before ordering 2-5 more.
 - ARCTIC EAGLE 2022 – HM Stotts served as Incident Commander for the 81st and 95th teams conducting realistic hazard response supporting DSCA operations within the port facility. Tested for chemical and biological agents as well as other life threatening substances.

PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PD Baker provided an overview of the following;

- 22-03-14 Port Director/Project Status Report
 - PD Baker and Mayor Handeland testified at a House Finance Committee Hearing on 11 Mar 2022, in support of cost-share match funding being requested from the Alaska Legislature.
 - PD Baker walked through the presentation that was given to Committee members.
 - PD Baker also played a video clip that was shown at the hearing that highlighted the importance of the project, and the Bering Strait region.

OLD BUSINESS

- Port Expansion Road Surfacing – Asphalt

Discussion:

- Group discussion reviewed elements of the most recent work session on this issue, reiterating a consensus on asphalt being the most attractive option for the expansion road and dock surfacing:
 - Asphalt should be used on the entire new road to prevent tracking too much mud onto the new dock sections.
 - Port should investigate costs to lay asphalt on the existing Causeway road surface to the Causeway Bridge to reduce dust and carryover mud onto the existing and new docks.
 - Based on PND recommendations, it was agreed a 12 inch or greater thickness of asphalt would be the best to minimize impacts of damage from water and heavy use.
 - Concrete panels along dock edge were mentioned, but determined thicker asphalt would be most efficient and preferred method.
 - Elements of the asphalt grade and mix design of asphalt should be requested from PND to ensure it is a heavy grade product with proper mixture.
 - Weights of tractor/trailers loaded with containers may damage asphalt surfacing; ask PND if adding thickness to asphalt would suffice or if concrete staging pads will be necessary.
 - Lean noted that asphalt life is highly dependent on maintenance and upkeep, patching holes and cracks to prevent further damages.
 - Smithhisler added an idea to mill off 2 inches of asphalt after 2 years, and repave the surface as a maintenance plan.

Motion:

The following motion was made by Chairman West and seconded by Commissioner Sheffield:

Recommending the City advise PND to use a 12 inch (or thicker) layer of asphalt for surfacing the new road and docks within Phase 1 of the Port expansion.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: McCann; Rowe; Sheffield;

Smithhisler; Lean; West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

- USDOT RAISE Grant Applications
 - Port Expansion Planning Grant (to design phases 2 and 3 of expansion.)
 - Remaining Thornbush Development (complete remaining 10 acres of 18-acre pad)

Discussion:

- PD Baker stated USDOT RAISE grant applications are due April 15th, and are being submitted as one planning grant, and once design/bid/construct grant. Support from the City/Port bodies is looked at closely by the reviewers, therefore she is asking the Commission for written support of both apps.
- There are several other USDOT grants in the near future, specifically, PIDP, INFRA, MEGA and RURAL. Each of these will be evaluated for alignment with existing projects.
- Sheffield asked if the City has a dollar limit for any grant match.
 - PD Baker replied that the administration is mindful of the grants applied for, and if selected for an award, must make an official funding commitment at that time. Considering the competitive nature of these programs, it is common to apply for several, while keeping the proposed match amounts in mind overall.

Motion:

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

Recommend the Common Council authorize making application to the 2022 USDOT RAISE Grant Program for funds to complete development of the remaining 9-acres at the Thornbush laydown site; and to complete engineering and design of the local service facilities, as part of the Army Corps' Arctic Deep Draft Port Project construction.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: McCann; Rowe; Sheffield;

Smithhisler; Lean; West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

- Sheffield commented that we have lost 30% of the sea ice since Feb 17th, so those who think the ice this year was in a good position and stable, she understands we are below the median and have so much open water, that this spring will not be like a lot of people thought it would be.
- Smithhisler- none
- Rowe – none
- McCann commented that it was a great Iditarod showing and he has been talking with a lot of people with questions and comments on the new port expansion. Most very excited. Also commented that he has resigned from the Nome Visitors Center and took a position as a lending manager for Northrim bank in Nome.
- Lean commented that the Arctic Eagle exercise was an excellent PR move for the City and got some DOD view time and respect. It was commented to him that many participants of the drill came away with appositve impression of Nome and our people.
- West commented that it is nice to see people out and about. Their dollar turns 3 or 4 times and helps the local economy.

ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 21st day of April 2022.

ATTEST:



Joy Baker, Port Director


for _____

Jim West, Chairman