

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's Report

September 8, 2022

**Legislative Priorities:**

It is that time of the year to start drafting legislative priorities on the state and federal level. Last year, at my recommendation, you limited your requests. One priority from this past year's legislative priorities appears to be on its way to approval. That priority was to reduce the city's cost share on the port expansion. It's been approved in the Senate version of the WRDA bill but it's not in the House version of WRDA. Hopefully, the issue will be addressed in conference committee.

I am recommending for your consideration this year:

1. \$6,000,000.00 for teacher and police housing
2. \$3,000,000 for at least two miles of paved roads
3. Ice rink improvements (Nome Winter Sports Assn) \$1.2m
4. Infrastructure Improvements water/waste water?

**Fire Station:**

The exterior painting of the fire station is wrapping up. New signage for the building is also being installed. This was a budgeted item.

**Alaska Waste:**

The city staff, and many of you, have been receiving complaints about residential trash cans being replaced with smaller containers than residents previously had. I spoke with the regional manager for Alaska Pacific and he has informed me that a conex container of new trash cans is heading to Nome by the end of September. Customers who want new trash cans, or have service complaints, should call 907-376-2158.

**Visitor Center:**

As with any improvement project, once you start on the project more issues come to the forefront to be addressed. After painting and rug replacement is completed in late fall of this year, I would like to address the aesthetics of the interior of the center. By that I mean, I want to make the building feel more like a visitor center and not an office space or somewhere to get coffee. My vision for the visitor

center is that the facility would be representative of what a visitor can experience in Nome, the natural wonders and its history for thousands of years. The improvements would highlight the indigenous history, the early days of the Nome, Nome today and its businesses. I expect another \$10,000.00 will be needed to address this issue.

#### **Ambulance:**

Over the past two weeks, I have met with various stakeholders to get their insights on the ambulance issues. I have met with Scot Henderson, Jerald Brown and Chief West in meeting last week to discuss the future of the service. I had hoped to have a recommendation to present but I am requesting further time. I am reviewing three different approaches and still need to meet with key personnel.

The public concerns have been heard and are being reviewed. The goal is not only to address those concerns but raise the overall level of service.

#### **Resource Development Council:**

The RDC, a business trade group, will be holding a meeting in Nome next week. According to their website this group provides forums for policy debate and analysis to help guide Alaska in the areas of fishing, forestry, mining, oil and gas and tourism.

As I understand it, while they are in Nome the group will be briefed on the port development project, the fishing industry, Graphite One and what the local area is doing on tourism development.

#### **HV Systems:**

City staff will meet with John Blees from Bristol Engineering on Monday to review the 65% level of drawings for the Nome Recreation Center and City Hall. City Hall price estimates came in much higher than projected. The Recreation Center upgrade is more in line with expectations.

The City Hall improvements will have a better return on investment in trying to control work place temperatures and fuel cost savings. The Recreation Center improvements will allow better air quality in the building, address emergency center demands and extend the use of the building year- round.

#### **Recreation Center:**

City staff has developed a plan to improve storage capabilities at a nominal cost and preserve current activity space. This project will be addressed at future work session.

Additional sports programming is also now being offered with volley ball programing and a soccer programing.

#### **Recycling:**

One issue that has been discussed in our community is having a more robust recycling program. A recycling group has been meeting with city participation. Kawerak has been spearheading this issue for several years to develop a better strategy for recycling. I am expecting a work session will need to be held in the near future on how the city can partner in developing this program. Alaska Waste is also being contacted to discuss recycling options.