

TO: Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

January 19, 2023

**Quarterly Reports:**

Attached to my report are the quarterly reports from department employees. Despite challenging times, I continue to applaud them for a job well-done. Ambulance and NPD numbers are down. Finance numbers are looking good; especially revenue.

**Public Safety:**

Ambulance and police calls are down. The average nightly attendance at NEST has been 27 people. Calls for assistance to the shelter have been limited to only six since the shelter reopened this fall. This year NEST staff have been through extensive training on how to calm clients and de-escalate tense situations.

**COVID:**

The city has 91 active cases of COVID as of Friday. This is the highest active number of cases seen in months in Nome. Several city employees have also been diagnosed this past week with COVID. The city is still distributing facemasks to the public that want facemasks. Facemasks are available at City Hall, the Rec Center and the Library.

**Rabies:**

This past week a fox attacked and bit a child in Nome. Fortunately, people who witnessed the attack, killed the fox which allowed quick testing for rabies. Unfortunately, the fox tested positive. The city is working with Norton Sound Hospital to create awareness of the situation and to get pets vaccinated and walked on leashes.

**Iditarod:**

Local planning is underway for the Iditarod. Efforts are being made to locate more housing for the visitors due the temporary closure of the Nugget Inn. I have also requested the library to create additional children programming and to have movies shown relating to children and dogs. The museum is planning adult programming and Iditarod displays. The museum will also be open on Sunday March 12.

**Kawerak Leadership Summit:**

A well-attended Kawerak Leadership Summit was held to discuss issues around employment, housing and infrastructure issues. The Mayor and I attended as representatives from the City of Nome to hear the concerns and needs our local tribal governments, small cities and native corporations.

**Employment Summit:**

The Nome Employment Summit was added to the Kawerak Leadership Summit as a standalone meeting with many participants attending both. While there was a lot of focus on the port expansion and employment opportunities and housing needs, I believe that the Nome School District, the Being Straits School District, the leadership of AMCC and Seaside plus the homeless organizations need to be more involved on current employment issues.

As part of the discussions at the summit, it was agreed mentorships and having in-class visits from professionals in current fields of employment should start earlier than high school. The goal is get our young people to start thinking of their future as early as grade school.

**Nome Recreation Center:**

Staff met this week with RSA and Bristol Engineering to discuss the proposed heating and ventilation improvements at the Rec Center. Discussions include placing the generator into a self-starting standby mode.

**Nome Visitor Center:**

Renovations continue on the building. Before you on Monday night is a request to install two Toyo heaters to replace the current forced air system. The goal is to have better heat in the building and to lower energy costs. The purchase of office furniture and displays are next.

**Mini Improvements:**

After hosting the Kawerak Summit and the Employment Summit, a number of people expressed their approval of the improvements to the facility. Additional cabinets behind the bar still need to be installed. And, a request of additional monitors be installed to see presentations was suggested.

**Request to hire FT Building Maintenance Employee:**

I am requesting approval from you to hire a temporary employee to full-time status. This will increase the number of FT employees with the Building Maintenance Division by one. It will also allow the city to continue to perform a number of improvements to our buildings and save money by using staff.

**Radio System review:**

City staff is asking you approve hiring a consultant at your meeting on Monday night to determine what needs to be addressed in our 911 Center and its ability to communicate with those responding to emergency calls. The consultant will help determine what software and hardware issues may need to be addressed because of disruptions to municipal radio transmissions. Once this process is completed, another RFP will be issued to address these findings.