

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

May 9, 2024

Ambulance Service:

The NVAD has been transferred to Norton Sound Hospital as of 5pm, May 2. NSHC is having response time of five minutes or less which is very good. There was only one response time of nine minutes which is still within the acceptable time.

Two ambulances have been transferred for a period of time and the city is lending two radios and two pagers as both parties work through the communication issues.

Swimming Pool:

After months of repairs, the swimming pool opens to the community on Saturday, May 11. A floor drain on the pool deck had to be replaced because of damage from salt water.

The 2024/2025 budget includes replacing lifeguard stands due to corrosion from saltwater. The next capital project list will include replacing the gutters within the next two-three years.

Spring Cleanup:

Spring cleanup is scheduled from Tuesday, May 28 to Saturday June 1. The city will be partnering with Kawerak on this city-wide cleanup. T-shirts will be worn by staff to advertise the event and children participating in the event will receive a T-shirt and will be eligible for prizes.

The event will include our U-Call-We Haul program, vehicle pick up and a town wide resident cleanup of lots and open areas.

Chamber of Commerce:

I met with the Chamber of Commerce this past week to provide them an overview of this year's budget proposal. It included a review of city projects and other improvements to the city. The membership was also updated on the port project, the 911 system and ambulance service.

911 Communication System;

The replacement of the current system will start in June. This includes the installation of a new pole, 65' high, at the Icy View fire station. NJUS is assisting in the installation of the pole as a cost savings to the city.

Planning Commission:

The Planning Commission had a successful open house/public input hearing on the proposed Downtown Zoning District with forty people in attendance. Because of the positive input from the public, the Planning Commission will delay the process to revise the district before another hearing.

AKDOT had their variance request approved by Planning Commission to allow the Seppala RD project to move forward for Summer of 2025.

Steadman Park:

To allow for Steadman Park to re-open three feet of fill will need to be added. The existing cap is cracking and sinking. \$75,000 of \$175,000 is budgeted for this project.

Grader:

A resolution is on the agenda to formalize the purchase of the new grader which you already approved. After the initial payment of \$175,000 there will be six years of additional payments. Payment year 1 to year 4 will be \$93,874.81 and the sixth year \$1.00. Yes, that is one dollar for the sixth year.

New Basketball Court:

NSHC has donated \$100,000 to the construction of a new concrete basketball court for outdoors at the Rec Center. Bristol Engineering is creating the bid specs to hire a contractor to build the court. However, Bristol expects the cost of construction to exceed the \$100,000 allocated.

Traffic Enforcement:

The NPD is enforcing violations of Stop signs and no license plates on regular vehicles. The NPD is finding young people operating vehicles with learner's permit without an adult with a license. Residents driving without valid licenses or not having tags. The city staff have placed ads and social media posts on this issue.

Snow Removal:

Even though it snowed today, city snow removal has come to an end. City road crews and contractors removed 16,120 which is the equivalent of 24,880,000 gallons of water. Thank you for the job well done.

Because of the improvement in the weather the heat traces are being turned off. Because of the cooperation with city crews and NJUS last fall everything went well with the warming of the drain lines this spring.

Nome School District:

As of right now (and the surviving of a veto pen), the roof replacement project and the emergency generator project has been funded by the legislature. NSD is going out to bid again on the ADA and school security improvement projects.

Credit Card payments:

Credit card payments will start to be accepted at the Rec Center within the next sixty days. Accepting credit cards at the pool may take longer because of the lack of Wi-Fi at the pool. Because of security concerns by NSD, the pool area is isolated from their internet access. Temporary access was allowed when the internet was necessary to activate the new operational controls but it is no longer available.

NSD job fair:

On April 30th a job fair was held at Nome Beltz High School for seniors. Police, Fire, Communications and Public Works made presentations to students on employment opportunities with the city.

City Job Fair:

City staff will hold a job fair at OSJ sometime during the first week of June. Staff is reaching out to other organizations to partner in this endeavor. With over 480 open positions in Nome and the region, we want to make sure the recent graduates from high school and college are aware of the employment opportunities in Nome.