

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

March 24, 2022

IDITAROD:

Overall the Iditarod went well, there were some unexpected problems with OSJ toilets as outside drain pipes had been blocked by stone and the fire sirens didn't work initially. However, city staff worked closely with Iditarod officials to make the return of the Iditarod to Nome successful. City staff will be meeting to draft an after action report to prepare better for next year's Iditarod.

Housing in Nome:

There are two housing projects that are in the discussion stage. One would be the possibility of a 3D printing of a house and the other, a 10 home single family home project. The second project would need water and sewer construction.

Clarice "BUN" Hardy settlement:

Only one news organization has asked for city comment at the announcement of the settlement. City staff issued an apology from the Mayor and Common Council, as a PSA, to news organizations and tribal organizations. It was also posted on the city website and the city Facebook page.

Sales Taxes:

The City is reaching the time period to announce the seasonal sales tax adjustment. A notice will be published in April to remind businesses to adjust their software to account for the change. I would request that we maintain the increase as planned.

COVID-19:

On March 21, the Unified Command (EOC) met and decided to demobilize for the pandemic. While the endemic stage of COVID has not been declared, the city is shifting to providing home tests to those that want them and will provide face mask distribution until the fall. The City of Nome has reached a 75%+ vaccination rate and many of the non-vaccinated have had COVID-19's latest variant.

The COVID-19 ordinance is scheduled to sunset after the last meeting in April and I see no need to extend the ordinance. If I see a large outbreak of COVID, over 70 active cases for three days (we are currently around 65 active cases), I would put back face mask guidance back in place for the city's facilities only.

All city facilities will have facemask requirements lifted by Monday with the exception of the Library. I am maintaining face mask requirements a little longer because of the various age groups that use the facility and young children cannot take the vaccine.

I also want to thank city staff, first responders, NSHC, the representatives of the various agencies involved in the Unified Command for their efforts these last 26 months. They've kept Nome, its residents and visitors as safe as can be in a worldwide pandemic.

Budget Preparations:

Budget preparations are well underway with staff. Each department is being asked to list their accomplishments this past year and their goals for next. The NSD will present at your first budget workshop on April 11th. Department budget review begins the week of March 28.

Senator Murkowski/AML:

Senator Murkowski and the AML are hosting a two day event in Anchorage on federal grants that are coming down the pipeline. I will be in attendance at this event to see what funds may be available and to have some face time with the granting agencies.

ADEC:

I will be in Anchorage to meet with the regulatory agency about parcels that we own that are contaminated. I plan on discussing Steadman Park where we need to spend at least \$167,000 in cap repairs and other properties they have raised concerns.

504 Warren Ave spill:

The city staff cleaned up a small oil spill at this city owned property. It was promptly cleaned up and reported to ADEC. It was the result of broken glass filter bulb.

Seward's Day:

City Hall will be open for Seward's Day. While it is one of city's holidays, it is as a floating holiday and we have enough staff to operate.

XYZ Building Fire Alarm design:

The design has been completed by RSA Engineering and has been submitted to the State Fire Marshall office for review. Once plans have been approved by the Fire Marshall's office, it will advertised for bid.

City Hall and Recreation Center Heating and Ventilation systems:

RSA Engineering has visited the building sites and has submitted concept plans for updated heating and ventilation plan improvements. The city is waiting for more detailed pricing and your approval before

beginning the architectural and mechanical drawings for the improvements. As a reminder, the city has now purchased both boilers due to the failure of the second boiler. This project also will install heating and ventilation in the gymnasium, having the Rec Center generator to be able to perform in standby mode and replace the single wall fuel tank.

City Healthcare:

I am looking at an option to join AML's healthcare trust. I want to see if there is a way to reduce costs and improve benefits. There is a long way to go before I am prepared to make a recommendation to you.