

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

June 12, 2023

Spring Clean-up:

First, thanks to all who directly participated in the annual spring clean-up. Twenty-two truck loads of items were picked up by DPW staff as part of the U-Call/We-Haul. There were 131 visits to the Mono-fill by residents. Eleven vehicles were also picked up and removed to the Mono-fill.

For Saturday's clean-up challenge, seven trucks were filled by residents cleaning up the town. Five children each won a bicycle from this event.

I want to thank Hanson's, Northwest Commercial, NSEDC, and NJUS for sponsoring the event. KICY for having volunteers to manage the truck sites for trash on Saturday. KNOM and KICY for promoting the event. And, last but not least, the Bering Straits Lion Club for providing food and refreshments.

We had fifty plus children and adults at OSJ for the prize drawings at 4pm Saturday.

2023/2024 Budget:

I am requesting that you support an 11mil tax rate for real and personal property. Even with this mil rate, I am also recommending that you allow me to find an additional \$250,000.00 cuts in the budget. The projected general fund contribution with these recommended changes will be \$1,672,776.46.

Port Man Camp Development:

I am requesting a work session to revisit that the proposal of seeking a private sector response on the development of a man camp for the port expansion.

At a later meeting when the parameters of an RFP were being discussed for private sector involvement, ideas were presented that there may be a short-term benefit to the city but more importantly a long-term benefit. By the city using its own land, it would allow the city to use it as a credit towards our cost share, have a private developer improve it. This would us to have several acres of improved land for future development.

I am requesting more discussion of this before a city RFP is issued.

XYZ Building Smoke and Fire System:

This past week installation of the new smoke and fire alarm system of the XYZ began. Despite delays in the supply system, parts for the project finally arrived in Nome. The project should be completed in the next few days.

Visitor Center improvements:

Improvements to the facility are finally wrapping up. Much of the new furniture has been installed. Flags are on display from the ceiling and exhibits are being updated. The Carrie M. Mclain Museum will also be curating an exhibit at the center.

Carrie M. Mclain Museum:

The hours at the museum will be expanded for the summer. The museum will be open from 10am to 4:30pm Monday thru Friday and Noon to 4pm on Saturday.

Update on fire at DPW:

A structural engineer, hired by AML/JIA, was in Nome to review the damage to the building's rafters. The damage to the rafters was found after the sheet rock was removed. And, we are still waiting on the rafter damage report and the final cost estimates to repair the damages.

NACTEC Building:

Bristol Engineering is developing the bid specs to repair and repaint the NACTEC building exterior. While this is a city owned building, the cost of the repairs and repainting will be paid for by the Bering Sea School District as part of the management agreement.

City Dock:

With winter weather finally receding, city crews were out repairing the docks from damage due to Typhoon Merbok. The first barge will for the season will be arriving this Sunday. The first cruise ship is expected July 18th. The cost of this project is being covered by FEMA funds

East End Park:

As the snow has receded, Public Works staffed discovered that East End Park was severely damaged as the result of Typhoon Merbok. At least 300 cubic yards of debris will need to be removed, the parking lot repaired and park items fixed or replaced.

While the property is leased to the Rotary Club, this more than what they expected. The city will partner with the Rotary in returning the park to safe and useable status.

AML/JIA:

The AML/JIA sent a safety advisor to look at three city owned buildings to help us address items to prevent future loss and improve employee safety. Based on the review, city staff are removing potential trip hazards, stopping the use of power strips, marking doors such as storage and non-exits.

Homeless encampments:

City staff is seeing a surge in homelessness as the weather improves. Part of that is due to folks arriving in Nome with no pre-secured housing or believing that it is allowable to camp in Nome.

West Beach has seen the summer return of homeless encampments. To address this, the NPD has stepped up patrolling on West Beach with their side by side. This will be an issue of ongoing enforcement.

ATV Safety Month:

The NPD has started their ATV safety campaign on educating residents in the proper and legal use of ATVs in Nome. Residents are already contacting the NPD about the program and where they can access helmets for passengers.

ORCA 23:

A statewide emergency response exercise will take place in Nome and then Kotzebue from June 12-14, 2023. The exercise in Nome will last approximately 24 hours and take place at the Alaska Army National Guard Aviation facility. An Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III aircraft will be part of the exercise.