

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

May 22, 2024

**Memorial Day:**

City Hall will be closed in remembrance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 27. The City Council meeting date will shift to Tuesday, May 28. The work session will start at 5:30pm.

**Foreclosures:**

On your agenda for Monday night is a request to begin foreclosure proceedings for people still owning property taxes from the 2018, 2019 and 2020. At this point the list contains about 25 property owners. As an FYI, city staff have been reaching out to property owners to become compliant with their outstanding taxes.

**Spring Cleanup:**

Cleanup has commenced. The Mono-Fil will be open from Tuesday thru Saturday for residents wanting to take their trash directly to the dump. U-Call/We-haul will also be available for residents. The town-wide pick up litter will happen on Saturday with food, t-shirts and prizes. An emphasis is being made on cleaning up the town for the port visit by the Westerdam.

**Council Chambers A/V:**

I have contracted with the Chariot Group to perform a diagnostic of our system. Ice Services believes the issue may need to be diagnosed by the Chariot Group which designed a portion of the system before Ice Services took over the rest of the design and installation.

**City Budget:**

There have been some revisions in the budget to reduce the deficit. While the most recent discussion was about whether this was a revenue shortage or spending issue, it is a matter of both. In 2019, the city budgeted \$90,000 for snow removal. This year \$400,000.00. Health insurance has nearly doubled since 2019 and liability insurance has nearly doubled. The NPD has added a police investigator and an accreditation manager, two victim advocates and a police records technician. These additional

employees were to comply with Greg Russell recommendations after the discoveries of shortcomings of the NPD in 2019. Currently, the budget has a deficit of \$2,066,000.

**City Job Fair:**

HR Manager Cynthia Gray is organizing a Job Fair for businesses to participate in on Friday, June 7. The event will take place at Old St Joe's from 10am to 3pm.

**Ordinance Amendment for Rabies:**

An ordinance amendment is included in your packet to add a rabies vaccination requirement for dogs and cats before coming to Nome. The city already requires a parvovirus vaccination but not rabies. With outbreaks of rabies in the region, this a preventative method to not have a dog come to Nome without proper vaccinations.

**Taxi Cab Violators:**

The city ordinance on penalties for operating a taxicab is on the agenda for an amendment. Currently, it is civil penalty. The NPD is recommending it be an "infraction" to allow more easy enforcement. As written now, the City Clerk needs to enforce the civil penalty which is not practical.

**School Tax Resolution:**

On this agenda is the annual resolution agreeing to dedicate a certain tax revenue to the school district. As of now, the amount is \$3,400,000. The resolution must be approved by May 31.

**Radio System Replacement:**

Equipment parts to upgrade the system are due in Nome in June and replacement of the system begins in late June. As the new system is installed, the city will continue to operate the old system will also utilizing the new system. The 911 Center is also being upgraded.

**CAT Grader:**

The financing of the grader has been completed. The new Cat Grader may be delivered by mid-summer or early fall