

City Manager
Glenn Steckman

Port Director
Joy Baker

Harbormaster
Lucas Stotts



102 Division St. • P.O. Box 281
Nome, Alaska 99762
(907) 443-6619
Fax (907) 443-5473

Nome Port Commission
Jim West, Jr., Chairman
Charlie Lean, Vice Chairman
Derek McLarty
Shane Smithhisler
Russell Rowe
Gay Sheffield
Drew McCann

**NOME PORT COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
August 16th 2023 @ 5:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 5:42 pm by Chairman West at the City Hall Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Smithhisler, Lean, West, McCann, Sheffield (call in), McLarty

Absent: Rowe

Also Present: Joy Baker, Port Director; Glenn Steckman, City Manager

In the audience: Anna Rose McArthur- Marine Advocate at Kawerak, Megan – Nome Nugget

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve made by Lean, seconded by McLarty

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean; West; McCann; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler;

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 22nd, 2023

Motion made by McLarty, seconded by McCann to approve minutes;

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: West; McCann; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None

COMMUNICATIONS

- 23-06-01 Port Progress: Construction anticipated next year Nome – AGC
- 23-06-05 EDA 07-01-07499, Project Closeout Letter
- 23-07-13 Port of Nome – Inner Harbor Dredging RFP (FEMA-Merbok)
- 23-07-28 USACE (POA) to Mayor re: Temporary Workforce Camp
- 23-07-31 EDA Press Release on Launch Ramp Replacement Project

Discussion:

- PD Baker stated that we have an RFP on the street with bids due on Aug 24 for the Temporary Workforce Camp location. The RFP is for 4 acres of filled land for use by the contractor.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

- none

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- HM Stotts gave an overview of recent Port operations and projects, including the following:
 - Gravel operations to Point Hope, Brevig Mission and
 - Cruise ship ROALD AMUNDSON on the 19th and expecting 2 more in August, 6 more in September and then the last in October.
 - HANSEATIC NATURE was scheduled to be at anchor but now wants to come to the docks.
 - Several Fuel Transfers to NJU, Bonanza and Crowley between Aug 30th and Mid-Sept.
 - 4th Qtr report in the packet and has more updates on staffing and operations.
 - CDIP WX/Current Buoy being planned to launch in the spring of 2024. Currently conducting maintenance on it.
 - Fuel line work; Coatings, Emergency repair on the 6" headers, UT Gauging. Under Cswy Bridge sandblasting and coatings only remaining work and need good weather to get access. API 570 report/inspections is needed in the spring.
 - Port users are generating a lot of used oil that is being collected at the Small Boat Harbor. Public Works is installing a used oil burner at the landfill and will start utilizing that soon.
 - Working with NJU to get additional street lights on the Causeway and new Hight Mast Lights in the spring.

Discussion:

- McLarty asked for an update on collections efforts. HM Stotts stated that we are working with the City Attorney for language on the impoundment sale and will be posting for 4 weeks in the Nugget before we can hold the sale, which will be held in October via sealed bids delivered to City Hall.

PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Port Director & Projects Report – July 2023
- Port Director & Projects Report – Aug 2023
 - Innovative & Readiness Training (IRT)
 - FEMA Inner Harbor Dredging Bid Opening Results

Discussion:

- PD Baker gave an overview of her August report including;
 - Port expansion project is currently at 98% design. The team is in the process of doing internal review of the comments, and have worked through 80% of them, but should be nearing 100% in September. The Corps and City will execute the project agreement for phase 1 by the end of Sept and then Contracting will finish compiling the contract in October with solicitation scheduled for Nov 1st and contract award in late April.

- FEMA Inner Harbor Dredging; we received only one bid on this job, from Alaska Marine Excavation. This bid and supporting docs were submitted to FEMA and we are waiting on response for this project. Estimated to be in summer of 2024.
- Innovative & Readiness Training; The Port is looking at submitting the application for a survey of the port and harbor, which would likely include parts of the town and utility elements for public works on drainage. Perhaps also submitting for new skinning of the Garco building. This is a program to partner with the IRT folks to provide small equipment and labor for these projects to give their troops real life training in their fields.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Tariff Rate Study, Analysis & Projections – RFP/SOW
- PON Strategic Development Plan Update – RFP/SOW

Discussion:

- PD Baker stated that we are looking at both plans and going to get some proposals to review both documents and take a new/updated look at our Tariff and do a rates study analysis, as well as another look at our strategic development plan.
 - When we get the first draft of the strategic development plan back we can then look at the Ports short, medium and long-term goals. This may be sometime mid-winter.
- Commissioner McLarty asked if this would be a complete separate study from the 2016 economic study. PD Baker stated yes, completely new.
- Lean stated that both of the documents are connected/related. We should determine how much we need to charge to support a small boat harbor or lay down area, and then determine at what rate or how much do we want to develop those areas to support those activities.

Chairman West asked for a motion to put out an RFP for both the Tariff Rate Study, Analysis & Projections and the PON Strategic Development Plan Update.

Motion to approve made by Lean, seconded by Smithhisler

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: McCann; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean; West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Anna Rose McArthur, Marine Advocate at Kawerak asked about the IHA comments ad how notifications of that will be released. PD Baker stated on the Corps website as well as by email she would imagine. PD Baker stated she would ask and make sure it goes on the City website.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

- McLarty commented that on the last rate study they listed no growth, medium growth, high, etc. It would be nice if on this next one we also included outlooks into what if there is a recession or negative growth.
- Sheffield commented that Noble Defender – part of Northcom, started 8.16.23 and will be going into September 10th – high military presence from Attu to St Lawrence Island. Also, today there were 3 LNG carriers that went through the Bering Straits. Off of Kamchatka they had a mortality event for Steller sea lions, and northern fur seals and birds in the hundreds. They are trying to

- determine if this event was from harmful alge bloom toxins or from avian influenza H5N1.
- McCann- No comment
 - Smithhisler – No comment
 - Lean commented that the water temps have been very warm, up to 19 degrees Celsius on the surface. 17 degrees on the surface is supposedly lethal to Salmon. The rivers have hit about 15 degrees.
 - West commented that there is a lot of activity on the causeway when we have cruise ships on the same days they are hauling material for the gravel barges.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by for adjournment at 6:39 pm.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 21st day of Sept 2023.



Jim West, Chairman
CHARLIE LEAN, ACTING CHAIR

ATTEST:

JL Baker
Joy Baker, Port Director