

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

October 20, 2023

**Associate US Attorney General:**

Associate US Attorney General Vanita Gupta visited Nome this past Wednesday through an initiative by Kawerak. Also visiting was The US Attorney General for Alaska Lane Tucker was also part of the group visiting Nome. The group was very happy that the Mayor and Common Council has made to address policing and the commitment to the NPD. Positive comments were also made by the group when they learned about the accreditation process the NPD is participating in. A scheduled thirty meeting lasted forty-five minutes.

**Nome School District:**

While the City of Nome owns the land and the buildings of the Nome School District, the municipal side does not maintain and repair the buildings. The exception is the pool. Why the pool? Over 15 years ago the NSD proposed closing the pool. The Common Council stepped in and took over the operation of the pool from NSD.

The school buildings improvements for security and ADA, supported the Common Council, were delayed in getting done this summer. It is going out to bid with plans to update doors and make for easier access for those suffering from disabilities. However, entrances are locked unfortunately latches don't secure do to the changes in weather.

**City vacant positions:**

These are the current city vacancies that are budgeted: Assistant City Manager, City Clerk, HR Manager, one Police Officer, two FT dispatcher positions, one Port Billing Clerk/Purchasing Agent, one Accounting Technicians, one Program Coordinator and an Executive Assistant position. Coming soon there will be vacant the Port Director's position and the Police Chief position and another Accounting Tech position.

**Muskox Fencing:**

The first phase of the muskox fencing at the cemetery is completed. Next spring/summer the next phase will continue the extension of the fence. Some drift wood has been secured to continue construction but more will be needed.

**Belmont Cemetery:**

Burials ended for the year on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The ground has now become too hard for city equipment to dig.

**Update on Airport Landing Tax:**

The updated numbers for revenue are between \$100,000-150,000. This includes an assumption of Fixed base operator fee and personal plane fee of \$100-\$200.00 per plane a year.

**Chamber of Commerce:**

I met with members of the executive board for two and half hours last week. The topics were varied but included: underage vaping, city finances, the landing tax, which some members disagreed with city's revenue estimates, employing residents with barrier crimes and city technology goals.

**Request to hire:**

Department of Public Works wishes to hire a maintenance worker which is not budgeted to assist in repairs. This would be addressed in the January budget amendment.

**3D Printed Housing:**

There is an outreach to our tribal community and Alaska Native corporations to partner in this project. A five-year plan would be developed with the IRT program to construct these homes and providing training to members of our community in construction, plumbing and electrical.

**Christmas Extravaganza:**

This annual City of Nome sponsored event will take place on December 7. Due the fire all new holiday decorations will in displayed in Old St. Joe's. The event organizers have located holiday music in Inupiat but are looking for more. Santa Claus has said he will be there to greet the children of Nome.

**CDBG Funding:**

The next scheduled public hearing will take place on November 13 at 7:15pm.

**Legislative Priorities:**

I am requesting a work session on November 27 to begin developing the priorities. I am recommending requests for funding a new Youth Facility, Additional Funding for the Port Expansion, Funds for a roof over the ice rink, funds for improvement of the Rec Center and funds for an additional building for Rec Center services.

**Police Accreditation timeline:**

October, 2024 is the scheduled date to meet accreditation requirements.

**Police:**

The NPD will soon need additional housing to fill the last open patrol position. This does not include housing needs for the future Police Chief. I am also looking at budgeting for two additional officers in next year's budget. The staff will be seeking COPS grant funds to fill those positions.

**Projects:**

The staff is focused on securing additional funds to pay for improvements to the Rec Center and 911 system. At the Rec Center the focus is Heating and Ventilation repairs, additional storage space, additional bleachers to replace broken metal bleachers, new Locker room space with enlarged saunas,

and wrapping up the new kitchen. The city needs to replace its 911 system and the radio system which has been troubled since its original installation almost twenty years ago.

**Ice Rink:**

The re-construction of the ice rink is moving along smoothly. This not solely a project of the city. Rec Center staff and Public Works staff is partnering with the Winter Sportsmen Association members to complete the project. DPW staff has leveled the ground to the WSA specification. The dasher boards are being installed by the WSA volunteers. The light poles are being installed by NJUS staff and new lighting fixtures will be installed. Keith Conger wants to offer additional winter activities for youth.

**Resume Review:**

The Public Safety Advisory Commission is scheduled to meet this Wednesday night at 6pm to begin the first review of the resumes for Police Chief. After reducing the number of applicants, I anticipate that a round of zoom interviews will then take place. The final round will be in person interviews. All of this process will take place in executive session.

City Clerk position review of resumes will also take place this upcoming week. I hope to be holding interviews by the week of October 30.

**Pool Repairs:**

The reopening date is pushed back again due to failing rubber boots that allow for vibrations in the pumps.