

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

January 5, 2024

City Pool:

Apparently, there is a great deal of misinformation surrounding the pool repairs. And, the number of parts that needed to be replaced or specifically manufactured for the pool. These were not off the shelf items that could be purchased from a pool store.

The pool repairs included making the pool safer to operate for the public employees operating the pool. The pool mechanical room is located in what would be called a confined space. The past pool operations included the mixing of materials in this confined space that could be potentially dangerous. This issue is being addressed in redesign and rebuild of the pool system.

During the repair process, the pool contractor was accommodating the replacement of the Nome-Beltz High School heating and ventilation control system (which portions of the system run through the pool mechanical room) which had a higher a priority.

The old control system is being replaced by a SCADA system. This will allow remote monitoring and operation control of the system. This a control system specially designed for our pool. Pumps have been replaced. Piping damaged by the decision to operate as a salt water pool have been replaced.

Unfortunately, the last round of equipment to be installed arrived damaged by a local air freight operator. This equipment is being replaced by the manufacturer to its specification and control requirements.

Chip Leeper and I will be meeting with Polar Pools on Monday for further updates.

Atlas Tower:

For second reading on Monday, is the request to construct a cell tower for GCI and Verizon. There is also a site on the tower for a repeater for the City of Nome in the future. The Atlas proposed tower site is 1,000 feet further away than an existing tower site owned by Alaska Wireless Network next to the school.

Ambulance Service:

On the agenda, and part of the work session, is information and financial history profit and loss. An estimated budget of increasing service to a full-time service is also included. There is also a letter from NSHC terminating a six plus year old agreement with the NVAD. What is not included is the financial shortfalls in service also agreed to be NSHC but never delivered

On the regular agenda itself are two resolutions either turning over the service to NSHC or to retain the service by the NVAD and the City of Nome.

Model Floodplain Management Ordinance:

FEMA is proposing the city adopt a "Model Floodplain Management Ordinance". Because I recognize typical local concerns on adopting a federal proposal, I have asked our city planner to review it. The goal would be to make amendments to our current ordinance that would keep us in compliance with federal issues.

Taxi Cab licenses:

On your agenda will be legislation to free up five taxi licenses. As part of the ordinance, a lottery will be required to issue the licenses.

Clearly, taxi cab service has been impacted by the number of free shuttles operating in Nome. I am not sure why free shuttle service developed but it could be the result of reduced cab service. Currently, only one cab company is operating with two cabs operating a day.

Fire Marshall Office:

Representatives from the Fire Marshall visited city buildings and private businesses looking for safety issues. Unfortunately, they found violations in city buildings which are being addressed by public works.

Teacher Housing:

On the agenda is a resolution supporting the City of Nome to work with AHFC to develop attainable housing for teachers and other professional staff.

Rec Center:

The new commercial size refrigerator and freezer has finally arrived and been installed in the Rec Center kitchen. The refrigerator and freezer were purchased through a grant.

Forty new replacement tables and 320 replacement chairs have been ordered through Grainger also as part of this grant

Port Development signing ceremony:

The formal signing of the Port Development Project will take place this Thursday, January 11, at Noon in the Council Chambers. The ceremony should take about 15 minutes. Though no action will be taken, it will be a publicly posted meeting.

Radio System:

The Police, Fire, EMS and DPW replacement radio system is out for bid. Bids will be open on Thursday, February 1.

Siren at Public Works Building:

The emergency siren at the Public Works Building that was damaged in the fire will be replaced. After numerous attempts to reach Federal Signal and its sales representatives, city staff finally received a quote and an order was placed. This will be part of a phased upgrade of the city's emergency siren system.

State and Federal Priorities:

Next meeting this will be part of the agenda for formal approval.