

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

August 8, 2023

**City Planner:**

Erin Reinders, d/b/a Portage Planners, has been contracted to provide planning services for the city. Her firm replaces Eileen Bechtol, d/b/a Bechtol Planning and Development, who served as the city's contract planner. Erin has her degree from the University of Delaware and worked as a planner for Franklin, Tennessee. She then served as a planner and economic development director for Unalaska and then City manager for Unalaska.

I believe she will be a great asset to my office and the Planning Commission.

**Port Man Camp:**

The City of Nome, as the local partner, is being required to provide the site for the development of the man camp. At one point, the Corps of Engineers had agreed to notify the bidders that the winning bidder would need to locate a site in Nome. The regional office was over-ruled by the Corps of Engineers legal branch.

To prevent further delay in the project, an RFP has been placed seeking property to locate the man-camp by the city/port.

**Sale of old firearms:**

I support the Police Chief's efforts to dispose of firearms no longer in active use by the NPD.

**AKOSHA:**

AKOSHA just completed a "consult" visit to City Hall, Public Safety Building and the Richard Foster Building. Most issues were minor and will be easily corrected: signage, out of date first aid kits, lighting. Surprisingly a number of issues were found at the Public Safety Building which resulted from its construction: these include signage, proper caulking, not properly identified fire extinguisher holders.

**NVAD:**

I met with the volunteers from NVAD to discuss recent response times. The listening session was informative on how to improve service. I will be interviewing for a third PT Emergency Services Technician over the weekend. This position was budgeted in the 2023/2024 budget.

### **National Night Out:**

National Night Out was a great success with between 300-400 residents participating despite the rain. The NPD, NVFD and NVAD were well represented and there was plenty food and prizes. The kids especially loved the whistles and getting into the equipment on display.

### **Burglaries:**

NPD quickly apprehended the youth that were involved in several recent business break-ins including at the Rec Center. The NPD also was able to apprehend two individuals involved in an attack on two homeless people and the next day the same individuals robbed two persons on Front St.

### **Legislative Priorities:**

Just a reminder, that the development of legislative priorities for City of Nome is just around the corner. developed. One issue that is becoming apparent is a need for a new youth facility. Recent arrests of youth in the city and the inability for the AST to hold youth from the communities surrounding Nome is making difficult to hold the youth accountable. The Division of Probation is lacking the personnel to hold these young people especially in weather delays to Anchorage.

### **House and Senate Staffers in Nome:**

Over the weekend of August 5-6, the Mayor and I hosted key staffers from the House and Senate committees providing oversight for the DOD. They were to report back to provide first-hand knowledge to their respective committees on the port development and to get a better understanding of Nome. Joy and Lucas provided updates on the port development and how the reconfiguration of the port will safe harbor for ships. The storm over the weekend helped provide a visual to the benefit of the port expansion

### **3D Housing:**

This weekend city staff will be hosting a group from Penn State, Extreme Habitats, Denali Commission to discuss the project start and identifying locations in Nome for future construction. The group will also reach out to NEC and other tribal organizations. A public hearing will be scheduled this fall to discuss the project more in-depth. Dates for the public hearing are still to be determined.

### **FEMA:**

The City will be notifying residents that any cleanup of their properties by the City from Merbok debris must be completed by September 23. Public notice will begin this week.

### **Annual Fall Clean-up:**

The clean-up will take place from September 11-16. The event will include as usual U-Call and We-Haul. The Mono-fill will also be open with extended hours and vehicle bounty.

**Abandoned Vehicles:**

The City is seeing an uptick of homeless sleeping in derelict vehicles. We are asking residents to secure these vehicles or have the Public Works tow them away as part of the U-Call and We-Haul program.

**Lt. Governor and U/A Fairbanks:**

City staff and the Mayor provided a presentation on the port last week to senior leadership of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and Lt. Governor Dahlstrom. They group was also discussing with other organizations the development of employment opportunities.

**Bering Straits Native Corporation:**

The Mayor and I met with some of the new leadership of the BSNC when they were in Nome last week.

**Public Works Building:**

The city is still working with AML/JIA to develop pricing for the repairs to the building. At this point, we know it will take a minimum of 13,000 square feet of sheetrock that need to be replaced plus an upgrade to the installation.

**Police Radio system:**

The cost to replace the radio system is between \$900,000 to \$1,100,000. This does not include some upgrades to the dispatch center.

**Flood Insurance:**

HUB, our long-time broker for Flood Insurance, has notified the city that they will no longer provide coverage. AML/JIA provides flood insurance starting with a deductible of \$100,000.00 which we have. With HUB, the deductible started at \$5,000.00 and was another layer of insurance.