

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's Report

December 9, 2022

Public Works:

DPW continues to be busy dealing with the snow and freezing rain impacting the city. Cliff McHenry, Cole Cushman and the NPD are reaching out to property owners and vehicle owners to have items moved from the city right away.

Bristol Engineering:

A work session will be planned in the new year about Heating and Ventilation projects planned at City Hall and the Rec Center. Both projects are projected to cost more than expected due to inflation and supply issues. Staff is wrapping up meetings with Bristol the project manager and RSA, who is designing the improvements, to finalize estimated costs.

National Guard Exercise:

The Alaska National Guard is planning an exercise in Alaska, and specifically in Nome, in June 2023. This exercise will be much smaller than this past exercise in February. One of its goals is to train local first responders on what to do when encountering out of the normal circumstances. These out of the normal circumstances include dealing with fentanyl (which can kill even in small doses), meth labs, heroin and other poisonous and toxic materials. The team from the Guard that came to Nome this past week also met with Kawerak, BSNC and other local Alaska Native Organizations.

Christmas Extravaganza:

The revival of this tradition, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID, was a roaring success. Over 150 people of all ages attended plus our special guest of the night. I want to thank Cheryl Thompson, Marguerite La Riviere, Jamie Burgess, Alice Bioff and Angela Hansen who helped organize the event.

A special thanks to the performers: The Nome Covenant Choir, the Nome-Beltz Guitar Quartet, Ian and Christin McRae, soloist Miriam Trujillo, the Nome Children Live Nativity, Pianist Luke Hansen and last, but not least, Santa Claus.

Port Expansion:

Legislation has passed the US Senate and is now in the House of Representatives to increase the Federal cost-share of the Nome port expansion. Instead of a 65% federal and 35% local cost share, it will now be 90% federal and 10% local. A big thank you to the Alaska Federal Delegation in achieving the adjustment in the local cost share. Because this project is over multiple years and undoubtedly will be impacted by inflation and supply issues, costs will rise but should be able to remain affordable for the city.

Job Recruitment:

The NPD and DPW participated in a two-hour job fair at Nome-Beltz Jr/Sr High School. The Nome representatives reminded the job fair attendees the importance of how they conduct themselves now could impact their employment opportunities later. The other emphasis was the City of Nome is a good place to work and there are a number of exciting employment opportunities with city government.

3D Housing:

This project is still in the review phase at HUD. This according to a rep from HUD who is reviewing the project. I was informed that HUD is behind on project reviews for this past grant round.

Cameras:

Security cameras are being installed this week at the NPD as part of the accreditation process. Once these are installed for this project, I want to look at security cameras in the Rec Center and the museum.

Communications Center:

The most recent round of disrupted communications in our governmental functions is being resolved. These efforts by GCSIT include replacing cables and working to reduce bottlenecks in our bandwidth which is causing congestion and slow internet speeds.

The City also received five bids on December 8th in seeking diagnostic services for the city radio system to help determine future improvement needs. These bids will be reviewed over the next few weeks.

Second Meeting in December:

The scheduled second meeting of the Common Council, December 26, is a city holiday. The Common Council normally does not have a meeting at this time of year.