

**City Manager**  
Glenn Steckman

**Port Director**  
Joy Baker

**Harbormaster**  
Lucas Stotts



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**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  
NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 @ 5:30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairman West at the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Smithhisler; Lean; West; McCann; Sheffield

Absent: Rowe; McLarty

Also Present: HM Stotts;

In the audience: Megan Gannon – Nome Nugget; Anna Rose MacArther – Kawerak.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda

Motion to approve made by Sheffield, seconded by Smithhisler.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean; West; McCann; Sheffield, Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Discussion: none

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Mtgs Motion made by McCann, seconded by Lean to approve both minutes with noted corrections.

Discussion:

- Lean noted one duplicate typo to be removed under roll call.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: West; McCann; Sheffield; Smithhisler; Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- None

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- 23-09-27 R&M Offshore Sample Core Locations (Port Expansion Geotech)
- 23-09-28 JOA Surveys GNSS-R Installation at Port of Nome
- 23-10-04 OPR-R390-KR-23\_Final\_Progress\_Report\_09\_22
- 23-10-21 Arctic Today - Increased Arctic Shipping Brings Increased Risks
- 23-11-01 AK News Source- 7 ports across Alaska receive combined \$72M in federal grant funding

### Discussion:

- HM Stotts gave brief overview of R&M sample location project and JOA Surveys GNSS (radar) installation at Nome to study sea ice.
- Lean commented it is good news on the federal grant funding.

## **COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES**

- Lean commented that the NOAA trawl survey results came out and had interesting results; The King Crab survey discovered roughly 1-inch diameter crab in the NOAA survey that was not seen in the Fish and Game survey and crab in the pipeline is great news.
- Sheffield commented that she does samples for harmful algal blooms with Norton Sound Health Corporation Office of Environmental Health with Emma Pate with NSHC. Noted that she was called to a meeting for the Cape Nome expansion project with the USACE and other Nome stakeholders. They were asked if there were any issues with their future samplings in that location and were shown the plans for a future expansion at Cape Nome to provide deeper water and more protection from waves.
- Sheffield commented that UAF Northwest Campus and Alaska Sea Grant are hosting the Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference between 2 – 4 April, 2024. This is a Western Alaska science conference that travels the state.

## **HARBORMASTER'S REPORT**

- HM Stotts gave an overview of the following;
  - FY24 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr Report
  - 2024 draft cruise ship schedule with additional sailings to be added.
  - Impoundment results from 2023 impound round.
  - End of the year billing and statistics.

### Discussion:

- Sheffield asked if there will be any interruptions to the Port of Nome facility commercial traffic during the expansion project construction. HM Stotts commented that there will be minor delays on the uplands at times most likely, but the contractor will work with his office to ensure use of the docks and uplands are open for commercial traffic.

## **PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- HM Stotts gave a brief overview of the Project Manager Monthly Reports.
  - 23-10-16 PM Monthly Projects Report
  - 23-11-16 PM Monthly Projects Report

### Discussion:

- Sheffield asked on what date the RFP would be out on the street. HM Stotts commented that the Corps team was working through it and no date was set, but it should be in the next couple months, hopefully sooner.

- Sheffield asked about the incinerator project and if there was a committee working on this project or if it was just port staff. HM Stotts commented that there is not yet a committee but would bring additional information back to the group when we know more.
- Sheffield asked if port staff had heard from any of the 5 different National Science Foundation groups that earlier this summer had said they would all be in Nome. HM Stotts commented that he had not since earlier this summer.
- Lean commented that the Nome port project drawing provided by R&M Consultants for drill locations is different than he has seen in the past. HM Stotts commented that he also had not seen that graphic and that it is not the most current drawing.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- FY25 State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Matching Grant Program – Requesting Support through Council Resolution.

#### Discussion:

- None

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the request to support the FY25 State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Matching Grant Program through Council resolution.

Motion to approve made by Lean, seconded by Smithhisler

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: McCann; Sheffield; Smithhisler; Lean; West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- Lean commented that he was looking at the low tide and was shocked to see a sand bar extending from the east causeway, through where the LULU barge used to be, then back to the outer portion of the east causeway. He has seen vessels using this in the past but it now appears plugged up and does not appear to be getting any maintenance by the USACE annual dredging. Stated it appeared to be from the Murbok storm.
  - HM Stotts commented this seems to be a result from the Murbok storm but had not seen this in the past. Stated he would get more info.

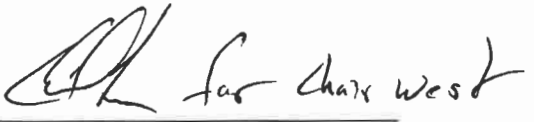
#### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

- Sheffield commented that she was in a LEPC meeting today and they discussed the lack of the Nome siren and lack of a way to notify the public in the event of a large-scale emergency. The PC had previously discussed the potential for the Port of Nome to look into a tsunami emergency action plan and this seemed to fit in.
- McCann commented that in the meeting they stated; if there would have been a tsunami north of the Aleutian Islands, that wave could be in Nome in as little as 3 hours.
- Lean commented that there used to be different sirens in Nome around the time that Rock Creek Mine started up due to hazmat materials being transported but fell off for some reason.
- Smithhisler stated that currently the City of Nome is trying to fix the Public Safety radio system and maybe this siren system could be added to that.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by for adjournment at 6:35 pm.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jim West, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster

for Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster