

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

November 10, 2023

**Community Development Block Grant:**

The City of Nome is not eligible to apply for these funds at this time. According to HUD only 41% of our residents are low to moderate income. If this project was more targeted, for instance, construction of housing for low-moderate income, it would be acceptable. The Nome Census District has an LMI of 58%. Unfortunately, the Rec Center is not seen as a regional benefit

This coming May/June the City of Nome will need to survey 404 homes out of 1200 to determine if the city may qualify under this approach of assessment.

**RFP Rejections:**

Two RFPs issued by the City of Nome one for the heating and Ventilation system for City Hall and the second for painting and siding repair exceeded the city estimates. I am asking the Common Council to reject both bids.

The bid for City Hall heating and Ventilation system is close to the estimate and has a greater priority of need. I am asking that you support the City Engineer, John Blees, to see if the project can be reduced in cost. The proposal may be inflated by rental housing costs.

**Atlas Tower 1 LLC:**

Atlas Tower 1, LLC wishes to lease a piece of land 50'x50' (2500 sq. ft.) from the City of Nome to construct a cell tower on city property adjacent to NACTEC and Nome-Beltz High School. The first two customers that will lease space from Atlas Tower 1, LLC is GCI and Verizon. Additional wireless companies are expected to seek space on the new cell tower.

The basic terms of the lease are a \$750.00 payment per month when the cell tower is complete and a 2% per annum increase thereafter. The initial term is for 360 months (30 years) with additional renewal of four five-year extensions The City of Nome will have space to hang a repeater antenna. Atlas Tower 1, LLC will pay property taxes including improvements to the property. Additional carriers will pay the City of Nome if added. And, there will a one-time signing bonus of \$2,000.00.

**Work Session:**

A work session is scheduled for Monday night at 6pm to discuss the future of ambulance service in Nome.

NSHC is proposing a twenty-four-hour manned service that may be supplemented by volunteers. To assist in this transition, two ambulances will be sold to NSHC at a fair market value. Dispatch will transfer

ambulance calls to NSH. The City of Nome would also surrender its license to operate a ground ambulance.

NSHC may extend employment to the current FTE of the NVAD.

#### **Police Chief Interviews:**

The Public Safety Advisory Commission has completed the review of all the candidate resumes, and interviewed six candidates and will soon to select three finalists.

#### **City Clerk:**

City Clerk interviews will start on 11/11.

#### **Christmas Extravaganza 25 years:**

Christmas Extravaganza will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. This year's date of celebration will be on Thursday, December 7 at 530pm. Because of the fire at the Public Works Building, there will be new decorations and newly donated decorations. Changes this year include holiday songs in Inupiat and a bell choir. The Nome Nugget will print all new song books. Santa Claus is watching who is naughty and nice as he prepares to make his appearance

#### **Swimming Pool:**

The contractor is waiting for specially made rubber "boots" to complete the job. These rubber boots allow for vibration between the motors and the pipe connections.

#### **Iron Dog:**

Mike Vasser, Stacey Greene and Ginny Thomas met with me to discuss the 2024 Iron Dog race in February. Unlike previous years, this year's first half of the race will end at City Hall. This should provide more visibility of the racers for our residents and visitors to Nome. Snow machines by the Expedition Class will be parked next to City Hall.

As part of the race 110 helmets will be given out to children to reduce traumatic brain injuries. The City of Nome will sponsor 20 helmets.

#### **Radio System:**

The final draft was given to Nome by Federal Engineering to put out an RFP for the replacement of the city's ailing radio system. The goal is to move forward with replacement. As of this date in the E-911 fund is \$735,967.00. The current estimates may not be enough to cover the upgrade.

#### **Chamber of Commerce meeting:**

I briefed the Board on upcoming events with the city and on many of the issues addressed in this report to you.

**Planning Commission:**

Because of timing conflicts with commission members and staff, it appears future commission meetings will be on the second Tuesday of each month.

City Planner, Erin Reinders has completed a Front Street Zoning proposal for the commission members to continue which I believe will encourage redevelopment of Front and also address housing needs.

**Cape Nome:**

As you may remember Cape Nome was severely damaged by Merbok. City staff have been meeting with FEMA and State of Alaska officials on the repairs of the facility. A meeting with adjacent land owners was also held with Federal and State officials on this project.

**Audit:**

Altman Rogers & Co. had their exit interview with Councilmember Mark Johnson, Nickie Crowe, Finance Director and me to discuss any concerns that Altman, Rogers may have found as the City of Nome closes out its books for the 2022/2023 budget year. Altman Rogers was pleased with city staff being able to respond promptly to any of their inquiries.