



INFORMATIONAL MEMO

TO: Nome Common Council

FROM: Megan Onders, Assistant City Manager for Economic Development

DATE: 1/10/25

RE: Economic Development RFP and Economic Development activities

The City of Nome issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for economic development consulting services on December 3, 2024, with an addendum to extend the deadline to January 3, 2025.

Six responses to the RFPs were received, ranging in price from \$37,650 - \$85,904. Evaluating the qualifications of each individual/firm; compared to price; the Assistant City Manager recommends hiring Stephanie Queen Consulting. Ms. Queen is a former City Manager, and former Director of Economic Development and Planning for the City of Soldotna. Her qualifications are included as an attachment.

The City Council will have to make a budget amendment for this 6-month contract, during its February budget meetings for the \$37,650 contract. The RFP requirements defined a 6-month period for the consultant to work collaboratively with the Nome Common Council and the Assistant City Manager to develop an economic development plan. The consultant will be expected to advise and guide the Assistant City Manager in completion and implementation of an economic development plan. Assuming a budget amendment is approved in February, Ms. Queen could start in the March 3 time frame. Please let Administration know if you would like to schedule Ms. Queen on the City Council agenda for an introduction before the budget is amended.

Economic Development Kick Off

With the hiring of an Assistant City Manager for Economic Development, the City of Nome is organizing a series of round-tables, public meetings, and an Investment Summit. Administration does not expect significant costs connected with these events beyond the use of staff and consultant time. The following gatherings are tentatively planned:

- March 21, 2025 – this roundtable will convene local leaders of corporations, organizations, and entities to share their vision and contributions to the economic development of Nome; as well as convene engineers/project managers from both public and private sectors to share updates on infrastructure projects in advance of the 2025 construction season. This session will allow those managing projects to network, meet and greet and gain situational awareness of construction activity.
- April 18, 2025 – the City of Nome Investment Summit will bring together corporate leaders from across Alaska to share best practices in tourism expansion, workforce development, public infrastructure finance, fisheries export, science logistics support, critical mineral exploration, hospitality services development and military support. This summit will highlight investment potential and opportunities for local and external investment in Nome.