

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's Report

July 21, 2022

Cruise Ships Return:

This Saturday we will have the return of our first cruise ship, the Roald Amundsen, since the fall of 2019. 700 visitors will visit Nome for one day. The cruise ship will be carrying 350 people on its arrival in Nome at 6:00am. Alaska Airlines will deliver another 350 new passengers to board the cruise ship when it departs. Building Maintenance staff has been working to make sure last-minute touches are in place to welcome cruise ship visitors back to Nome.

XYZ Building Fire Alarm Bid:

You will be asked to approve the bid to replace and update the fire alarm system in the XYZ Building. The winning bid was by North Star Fire Protection, LLC for \$67,996.35. Because of the continued supply disruptions, the winning bidder has July 1, 2023 to complete installation.

Anvil Mountain Park:

Building maintenance is replacing the old hard-plastic fence with a new wooden fence. Over the past three years the fence has been continuously vandalized. Teenagers were running against the rails to see if they could break the rails.

More Trash Cans:

The road crew is putting more trash cans out on city streets to help limit littering. These cans will be emptied regularly by city crews. We are hoping people will use these cans to discard their cigarette butts.

Visitor Center:

A new heating oil tank has finally been installed at the building. The old tank appeared to be leaking oil. However, the pipes that brought oil into the building looked to have the consistency of aluminum foil. We just found out late Friday the boiler inside the building is not operating properly. City staff is investigating.

The building has been power washed for new staining to be applied to exterior walls when the rains end.

Azavar Government Solutions:

City staff has reviewed and recommends purchasing this cloud-based software system to improve collections and reduce paperwork.

The Mini Convention Center:

With the improvements to the Mini has brought requests for improving Wi-Fi and having projectors and TVs on mobile stands. The first-year cost for improvements is estimated to be at least \$8,000.00 and a continuing cost of \$5,500.00 a year thereafter.

Additional stone is being placed around the building to fill up pot holes and to create better parking conditions on the property owned around the building by the city.

Heating Oil Tank at Mini:

The plan to replace the heating oil tank was being planned for the next fiscal year. It appears however that the tank may need to be replaced sooner. The cost to replace and install a 500 gallon is estimated to be around \$15,000. This would replace the larger 1000-gallon single walled tank.

City Banking:

With the increase in interest rates, the City should see a sharp increase in returns on city cash sitting in our checking accounts. Currently, staff is estimating an additional \$60,000.00 in revenue for the next twelve months.

Emergency Calls:

As I indicated at the last council meeting, the city has three super users of our 911 system. These super users call multiple times a day or week asking for rides from the police and the community service officer. When they don't get their way, they then call for a "fake" medical emergency.

The Common Council will have before it of Monday evening an ordinance to address this issue.

Property Abatements:

The current property abatement list is currently being updated by Cliff McHenry, the city's building inspector. This updated list will be presented to the Nome Planning Commission on August 2nd. Hopefully an initial list of 6-10 properties to begin being abated will be presented to the Council at your meeting on Monday 8/8.

Polar Pools:

At your work meeting on Monday 8/8, Mr. Bob Walker and city staff will be presenting the Polar Pools proposal for a significant upgrade of the pool. The proposal for \$481,508.00 exceeds what is currently available in city funds at \$341,000. While expensive these improvements should reduce operating costs in labor, electricity and chemicals and provide an increase measure of safety for our employees.

Unfunded School Debt:

Governor Dunleavy has signed a bill from the Alaska Legislature to reimburse the city for school constructions costs from 2017 on. While this reimbursement was discussed during budget sessions, the amount of reimbursement is \$377,248.