

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager Report

November 9, 2022

City Phones:

The city has been suffering from disruptions of the city's phone system and the 911 dispatch system. Some disruptions have at times been caused by software and hardware problems to our city phone and other disruptions have been caused by local providers whose systems have also been disrupted. It is a priority with GCSIT, NJUS who operates the city hub, and city staff to fix the problems related to our problems

Donation:

The Estate of Curtis Eugene Jacobs has notified the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum of a bequest by the late Mr. Jacobs of \$25,000.00

Nome Visitor Center:

The Visitor Center will be closed from Monday, November 28 to January 3 for carpeting, heating, lighting and painting. The facility will be closed to visitors but the staff will continue to respond to inquiries. I will be requesting a budget amendment to upgrade the furniture and racks to create a proper venue for welcoming visitors to Nome and showcasing our businesses.

Iron Dog 2023:

The Mayor and I met with Mike Vassar, the Executive Director, of Iron Dog this past week to discuss the 2023 race and Nome's role as a half-way point. The professional class racers will continue to use the Public Works Building for snow machine maintenance and repairs. The Expedition class racers will park their machines around OSJ. An arch celebrating Iron Dog will be placed on Front Street.

The Visitor Center staff has also been asked to work with the Iron Dog organizers to help on housing needs for the participants and visitors coming to Nome.

Abatement:

The shed at 413 Division St. will soon be abated. The City Clerk is currently seeking phone bids to remove the property's shed which is currently leaning towards another property. This will be the last property abated this year.

Christmas Extravaganza:

Christmas Extravaganza returns to Nome on Thursday, December 8 at 5:30pm at OSJ. This will occur after a two-year hiatus because of the COVID Pandemic.

Nome Employment Summit:

The summit was canceled this past week due to snow and travel conditions. It is being rescheduled for the second week on January.

CDBG Grant support:

Home Plate, LLC is requesting another resolution to submit a grant for Community Development Block Grant. There was a problem with the paperwork and it needs to be resubmitted. It is on your agenda for Monday night's meeting for approval. The Home Plate project is for safe housing to assist homeless people to get assistance to get back on their feet. It will house 15 people in studio apartments and it has one manager apartment.

Port RD Construction:

On Monday night will be an ordinance for easements on city property to allow for reconstruction of Port RD. While this has been discussed off and on over the past two years, the DOT wishes to finalize the agreement to go out to bid on this improvement project.

Snow:

City staff are still cleaning up from the most recent snow storm. Unfortunately, two of our traditional snow dumps are no longer available.

Safety Deposit Box:

To keep you informed, I am opening a safety deposit box with Wells Fargo to store gold nuggets and gold flecks that have been donated to the city over the years. The City does not have the appropriate place to secure the asset. The setup will be that no one person from the City can access the box.

Museum:

Gray Harrison, Cole Cushman and I met with Amy Phillips Chan before she moved from Nome to start her new job. When the museum portion of the Richard Foster building was constructed, it incorporated into a higher level of technology than most of our facilities. The purpose of the meeting was to make sure how things worked and more importantly where the on/off switches were. In this review, I noticed that some of the technology hardware was beginning to fail. The City will need to order several iPads so the museum displays will be available for visitors to use and to operate some of the exhibits.

Steadman Park:

I have attached to this report a photo of Steadman Park. As you can see the cap on the park is beginning to develop additional sink holes. I have spoken with ADEC for assistance and they have steered me toward a grant process that will be opening this spring.

Recreation Center/City Hall HV systems:

City Staff, Bristol Engineering and RSA have been hammering out the details as we are at a 95% design stage for the buildings proposed improvements. A work session will be scheduled on December 12 to discuss the project. The estimates are higher than projected, but the City has \$1.3m in ARPA funds and \$1.3m in surplus funds due to CARES funds during the height of the COVID pandemic.

Once the Common Council agrees to proceed, city staff will be requesting additional funding resources from outside agencies.