

TO: The Mayor and Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's Report

April 6, 2023

**Assessments:**

As you are aware, the City Clerk just mailed out the new assessment values of properties owned in the city. This has resulted in concerns by some in the community of big increases in their property tax bills. That of course has not been determined yet. But, this increase in values also should be seen as a positive economic indicator. The city is increasing in value because of not only inflation but property is being purchased at higher prices than before.

As to the increase in assessment value, city administration is still preparing the budget and what our revenue needs will be have not been determined. I anticipate the mil rate will be lower than the current 12mil rate.

I hope people remember that rates have been lowered over the past three years. The mil rate was reduced two years and the seasonal property rate has been repealed.

**Insurance:**

Because of the natural disasters affecting Alaska, the country and the world, the City will be seeing increases in property, fire and auto rates. The City is in the last year of a three agreement with AML/JIA and I still expect to see a 10% rate increase which is the maximum allowed under the current contract.

The City is also expecting increases in our healthcare premiums.

**Snow Removal:**

Despite recent falling snow and continued cold weather, Public Works has removed 3600 truckloads of snow in March. This is the highest number truckloads of snow removed since December 2011.

City staff is also trying to be pro-active before the expected great melt. Staff is clearing drain openings and getting ready to turn on the heat tracers.

**Spring Clean-Up:**

This year's clean-up is scheduled for May 30 through Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bounties will again be offered for rigs, snow machines and four wheelers to be picked up and removed from property throughout the city. Pick up for junk from homes may be scheduled by calling city hall. And, trucks will be parked around

the community only on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> for those who to drop off bags of garbage after cleaning up their community. Prize drawings for bikes and other items will take place at Old St. Joe's.

#### **City Hall:**

On your agenda is a request for approval to move forward with putting out to bid the heating and ventilation system for city hall. The replacement cost is estimated to be \$1.1m. I propose using the ARPA funds to pay for this project.

The Rec Center project will be delayed until next year when funding is secured.

#### **Coast Guard:**

The Coast Guard will be in Nome from April 24-25 providing training to local organizations on emergency preparedness and the handling of hazardous materials.

#### **Fire Damage at PW:**

Because of the value amount in damage to the Public Works Building, AML/JIA's the stop-loss carrier, Lloyds of London, has contracted to send an adjuster from Sedwick to review the estimated damages and the repair costs from the fire. The adjuster will be in Nome this Tuesday.

#### **Vaping cartridges and dispensers:**

The Common Council can regulate the sale of cartridges and vaping items for sale in Nome for both tobacco and cannabis. How does the Council wish to proceed?

#### **MOU on Alcohol Sales:**

I am trying to organize a meeting between representatives from AC's and Carrs/Safeway to review how the agreement is working. Does the Common Council want a representative there to listen to the status of the MOU?

#### **Public Safety Advisory Commission:**

Commission members met this past Monday night to receive an update on department accreditation and statistics reported by the NPD. The numbers are positive in the reduction of police calls related to alcohol and sexual assaults. Ambulance calls are down a third for the first quarter.

The Commission was also updated on Federal Engineering review of the police radio system.

The Commission has decided to meet every two months going forward.

#### **Police Vehicle in car radios:**

The NPD will be replacing the three oldest in-car radio systems. Current practice is when a new vehicle is purchased a new in-car radio is also purchased. The old past practice was old in-car radio systems were always being re-used. Radios that are being replaced are at least ten years old.

#### **Vehicles:**

On the first barge of the season, two new vehicles for Public Works will arrive: a Ford Transit cargo van (AWD) and a F-250 truck. The NPD vehicles, a new prisoner transport van (AWD) and a F-150 truck, will be arriving sometime this summer after being equipped with light bars, siren and radio systems.

Older vehicles will then be phased into use at the Ports.

**The Planning Commission:**

The Commission met this month and they were updated by staff on the HPP and the new property tax relief incentives for people who want to develop or redevelop property for housing.