

**City Manager**  
Glenn Steckman

**Port Director**  
Joy Baker

**Harbormaster**  
Lucas Stotts



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**Nome Port Commission**  
Jim West, Jr., Chairman  
Charlie Lean, Vice Chairman  
Derek McLarty  
Shane Smithhisler  
Vacant  
Russell Rowe  
Gay Sheffield

**NOME PORT COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION & RESCHEDULED MEETING  
November 18th, 2021 @ 5:30/6:30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL**

The WS & Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 7:08 pm by Chairman West at the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Smithhisler; Lean; West; Rowe (zoom); Sheffield (zoom); McLarty

Also Present: Joy Baker, Port Director (zoom), Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster

In the audience: Diana Haecker- Nome Nugget

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

Motion to approve made by Smithhisler, seconded by McLarty.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean; West; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler;

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes were tabled to review at the next Port Commission Meeting due to technical error with draft version.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- None

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- 21-9-15 – Bering Strait Festival 8.1.22 – 8.7.22
- 21-9-23 – The Correct Tool – BA1100
- 21-11-10 – Two Icebreakers to Rescue Ice-locked Ships in Northern Sea Route
- 21-11-11 – 2022 AAHPA Scholarship Flyer
- 21-11-15 – Graphite One Info

Discussion:

- HM Stotts noted highlights of the Bering Strait Festival taking place between Russia and the US in Aug 2022. Noted that there isn't much info out on this yet, and is interested in more information as the event advertises open borders for 7 days.
- HM Stotts encouraged commissioners to tell youth interested in the AAHPA 2021 scholarship to apply and take full advantage of that opportunity.
- C. Sheffield provided details on some of the 20 vessels stuck in the ice off Russia. Also noted that Russia's Arc7 icebreaking tankers are estimated to be operating full swing in the Arctic through the winter due to large demand and current profits in the Asian LNG market.

#### **COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES**

- C. Sheffield informed the group that she had been invited by the USACE to participate in the Nome Inner Harbor Section 106 Mitigation Ideas Meeting and was planning to attend. PD Baker noted that this meeting was about mitigation of potential adverse effects to the Snake River Sandspit Village and Nome Subsurface Historic District.

#### **HARBORMASTER'S REPORT**

HM Stotts provided a written 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report copy as well as a verbal update on;

- Port Staff closing down for the season the last week of October.
- Season closing operations including removing camel fenders, ladders and last vessel of the year, UAF's SIKULIAQ.
- Collection efforts to include a new round of impoundment letters to go out this January and preparing for a spring 2022 surplus sale with other city departments.
- 2022 cruise schedule overview including an estimated 22 cruise vessel calls for next season. Port staff are expecting a very busy season and may need to hire additional temp staff to help with cruise ship security needs. Noted that a few dates have one cruise vessel offshore delivering PAX to the floating docks and another at the City Dock, also working PAX. This will require two separate security teams.
- Noted that one of the biggest user requests is for additional moorage space for skiffs and support vessels in the 12-25ft category. Users have expressed interest in connecting the existing docks with smaller floats at the bottom of the ramps (shoreside), extending to the Low Dock north end, between the existing floats, and then to the fish Dock north end.
- Success of 2022 shipping season exporting around 270,000 tons of gravel for one project alone.

#### Discussion:

- C. West stated that this was a very busy season for gravel and close coordination was needed during haul and load operations, but that the season was an overall success.

#### **PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

PD Baker provided an overview of facility projects and their status including;

- 2021 AAHPA Conference and Banquet Dinner in Anchorage. HM Stotts received the 2021 AAHPA Harbormaster of the Year award which PD Baker, CM Steckman and Mayor Handeland were present to receive on his behalf.
- Brief overview of Inner Harbor CAP 107 Study to deepen/widen the Inner Basin.
- STG completing the Concrete Launch Ramp Project for vessels to begin hauling out Oct 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. There remain some punch list items for STG to complete in the spring such as re-driving the northern bollard piling and subsurface cleanup work.

#### Discussion:

- None

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

Discussion:

- None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Action on Deep Water Basin Dock Options

- There was some group discussion on the three dock options presented to the group.
  - Option #1- All three docks new separated with offshore dolphins in between each dock. Considered by USACE as base option for design.
  - Option #2- Two west docks connected with sheet pile and separated from south dock with offshore dolphins in elbow and east of south dock. There are anticipated cost savings with this option as it uses existing sheet pile for cell ends on the dock face and removes some of the offshore dolphins.
  - Option #3- All three docks connected with sheet pile, including the elbow. This option provides the most amount of moorage and uplands storage space. This option is considered about even in cost to the option #2. It was noted by the USACE that this option may cause minor additional wave refraction off that east facing sheet pile wall but they were not able to quantify that.

**Motion:**

The following motion was moved by Lean and seconded by Smithhisler;

Port Commission supports Option #3 within PND's Dock Design Concepts as a modification to the proposed layout of the deep water basin docks initially conceptualized by the Corps.

Discussion:

Brief group recap of the above Deep Water Basin Dock Options.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean; West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Action on Inner Harbor Dredging Layout Changes

- This was tabled for a future meeting while the USACE works with other corps teams to move forward with this.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

None

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

- C. McLarty stated that he was unhappy with contractor performance on the Nome Concrete Launch Ramp Project, with the substantial project completion date going past the contract date and potential debris still remaining underwater within the ramp approach.
- C. Smithhisler congratulated HM Stotts on the HM of the Year Award.
- C. Rowe stated that he was happy with tonight's WS and meeting and enjoyed the discussion. He also congratulated HM Stotts on the HM of the Year Award.
- C. Sheffield commented she would keep the group posted on the Inner Harbor Section 106 Mitigation Ideas Meeting and also congratulated HM Stotts on the HM of the Year Award.
- C. Lean congratulated HM Stotts on the HM of the Year Award.

- C. West congratulated HM Stotts on the HM of the Year Award.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by for adjournment 8:01pm.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.

*Jim West*

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**Jim West, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

*Joy Baker*

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**Joy Baker, Port Director**