

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City manager's report

September 21, 2023

**ATV Safety Enforcement Month:**

Starting October 1, the NPD will begin enforcing safety rules and regulations for city and state roads. Alaska has the highest Traumatic Brain Injury cases in the United States. Flyers were distributed to tribal governments, Alaska Native corporations, the school district and businesses. The flyer was also posted to the city Facebook page and the Nome Nugget advising residents and visitors the rules of the road when operating an ATV.

**Cruise Ships:**

The past two weeks businesses have seen hundreds of visitors touring Nome. The Carrie M. McLain Museum was opened special hours to host the visitors. In addition, the Richard Foster Building Community Room hosted a local craft fair for the visitors. The Visitor Center attracted hundreds of visitors with their new improved visitor experience.

The last two cruise ships of the season, unfortunately, will only transport their passengers directly to the airport with no planned local activities.

**U.S. Coast Guard:**

The Local Sector Coast Guard Commander, Captain Culpepper visited Nome this past Wednesday. Joy then hosted a familiarization tour of the Port for the sector command staff.

**U.S. Corps of Engineers:**

All of the paperwork has been submitted to the Corps. The PPA has been signed.

**Tax Conference:**

I will be attending a two-day tax conference being held by the AML on Thursday and Friday this week.

**Nome Fall Clean-up:**

The Fall Clean-up saw 124 visits to Mono-fill by homeowners, 42 pick-ups of household bulk items from homes through the U-Call, We-haul service, 11 vehicles removed and two dump truck loads dropped off at OSJ.

**Public Works Building:**

Estimated losses from the fire are expected to be more than \$800,000. Repairs to the building will not start until then next summer. Because of this the top floor of the building will be buttoned up for the winter. Staff will continue to use the first floor and continue to work out of the snow dump facilities. Iron Dog also will be able to use the building for their event

**Snow leases:**

Snow leases, that need to be renewed, have been sent out to the property owners asking for renewal.

**Right of ways:**

The annual notices to property owners to move their vehicles out of the city right of way has begun. This will allow better snow removal and improved vehicle passage way.

**Contracts to Vendors for Snow Removal:**

The annual contract to our third-party vendors to assist in snow removal in the city have been issued to the local contractors. The rate, which is based on the State of Alaska contract rates, did not increase from last year.

**Permafrost Mapping:**

The University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Alfred-Wegener-Institute (Germany) are partnering to conduct Permafrost fieldwork next summer in Nome and the region. They will be using LIDAR to measure what is happening to the Permafrost in the region.

I met with the researchers and advised them to reach out to our Tribal Communities, Alaska Native Corporations and the local college staff. As more information becomes available, I will keep you informed.

**Indigenous Peoples Day:**

This holiday is recognized by the City of Nome and is part of the Union Agreement. All city facilities will be closed that day excluding the Nome Police Station. The Rec Center is being rented out for a private event in the afternoon and evening by NSHC.

The council meeting scheduled for that night will be postponed to Tuesday night, October 10.

**City Morgue:**

Despite the poor weather this summer, the exterior of the building has finally been power sanded and stained. The next step is putting sealant on it. Over the winter an interior refresh to the building will begin to make it more welcoming for family members to prepare and view loved ones.

**Tribal Justice Summit:**

Kawerak sponsored a Tribal Justice Summit at the Mini last week for three days. While I was only able to attend for a few hours, it's sad to see our local surrounding communities are facing the same challenges as Nome. One of the issues the summit members recognized was curfews for young people. Other issues included domestic violence, sexual assault, lack of VPSO services, Elder service needs and more.

**Delays:**

There has been a delay in the planned meeting with our city property assessor to develop the model for the landing tax and anticipated revenue.

There is a delay in proposing amendments in the curfew ordinance. It is more convoluted than I thought and other portions look like they were lifted from a template. For instance, the current ordinance mentions "interstate motor vehicles".