

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

February 19, 2021

Corp of Engineers:

Major General William Graham and two Colonels, Kirk Gibbs and Damon Delarosa, a Captain and a Lieutenant made a last minute tour to Nome this week. Discussion was on the port expansion and to discuss where the city was with its partners on funding the expansion. Major General Graham had never been to Alaska and the two colonels were new to their commands.

The message was clear to them from the Alaska Congressional Delegation to Washington and their commanding officer in Washington to get this project moving forward on the development of an artic deep water port in Nome.

Airport:

Discussions have begun on the return of twice daily flights by Alaska Airlines. What does this mean for the testing services provided at the airport? What are the staffing needs? To add an additional level of stress, the City has been getting mixed signals on the start of this increased level of service.

Much of the discussion at the meeting focused on vaccinations and the percent of the community needing to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity. The Hospital would like to see 80% of the city population vaccinated. This level of vaccination would allow the community to return to a level of normalcy.

While many people are accommodating to the testing at the airport, there is a contingent that are extraordinarily rude when coming to Nome. I want to commend Chip Leeper, Rose Reale, Hunter Bellamy and Clark Bruno on managing this negative behavior.

Public Safety Advisory Commission:

The next commission meeting will be held on March 1st at 6pm. On the agenda will be the new “use of force” policy and a presentation by Greg Russell on the accreditation program.

Swimming Pool:

The swimming pool has re-opened to lap swimmers and the swim teams. Because of the lack of senior guards, the pool is not ready to open for general swim. Testing is to begin on the next group of senior guards.

The Port Commission:

The Port Commission met to discuss the scheduled increase in tariffs which will be 1.66% for 2021. The Commission reiterated their request for a separate line item pointing to a “capital” fund to demonstrate to port users that money is being set aside for port improvements.