

**MINUTES  
NOME PORT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 6:30pm by Chairman West in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: C. Smithhisler; C. Lean; C. West Jr.; C. Henderson; C. Johnson, C. Cox; C. McLarty;

Also Present: Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster;  
Joy Baker, Port Director; John Blee, City Engineer (both telephonically)

In the audience: Lauren Frost, KNOM; Sandra Medearis, Arctic News;

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman West asked for an approval of the agenda.

A motion was made by C. Lean and seconded by C. Henderson to approve the agenda as presented.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean, West, Henderson, Johnson, Cox, McLarty, Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

November 17, 2016 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by C. Lean and seconded by C. Johnson to approve the minutes.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: West, Henderson, Johnson, Cox, McLarty, Smithhisler, Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

December 15, 2016 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Johnson to approve the minutes.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, Johnson, Cox, McLarty, Smithhisler, Lean, West  
Nays:  
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

None

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- 01.03.17 Arctic Infrastructure as Unintended Victim – Forbes
- 01.06.17 Water Bill Requires Fresh Look at Arctic Port – AK Journal of Commerce
- 01.08.17 Polar Code Heralds Safe Navigation in the Arctic – Arctic Now
- 01.11.17 Russian Icebreaker Ends Longest Navigation Season – Arctic RU

**Discussion:**

None

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (01/16/17 Written)**

**Discussion:**

None

**HARBORMASTER'S REPORT (Verbal)**

HM Stotts gave a brief maintenance update to include modifications and repairs to existing harbor ladders, in between the ongoing demand of snow removal. There have been a few reports of ice impacting the Fish Dock piling, but nothing specific has been found. Staff will continue to monitor.

The first round of impounds is wrapping up, with a second round schedule for February. Also, he's been advised the Japanese research vessel, *Oshoru Maru*, will be in Nome for 3-4 days during the 2017 season. Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the tariff designation of the *Closed Season* period; which is specifically pertains to activity related to water/ice operations, thereby allowing the Port to grant or deny authorization to conduct activities during the winter, based on their purpose and safety.

**Port Director Report / Projects Update (Written)**

- 01.16.17 Port Director/Projects Status Report

**Discussion:**

PD Baker highlighted the ongoing discussions with the Congressional Delegation and the Army Corps Headquarters office regarding forward progress of the ADDP study based on the passage of the WIIN Act and NDAA 2016 legislation. Corps is internally developing their timeline and implementation of the new law.

Also, additional funds for the remaining Additive Alternates of the Cape Storm Repairs were approved and we are awaiting execution of the formal grant documents, followed by award to Knik.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Mid Dock Ramp Extension Change Order

### **Discussion:**

Extensive discussion took place regarding the need and purpose of the ramp extension, clearly driven by the need to protect the slope surfacing from eroding during significant southerly storms. The layout of the design was evaluated with questions being raised about the exact measurements of the extension and how it would tie into the existing ramp. The operational use and benefit of the ramp was further discussed, which highlighted the effectiveness of extending the ramp to alleviate the need for continued maintenance after each storm surge to replace and compact the sloped surfacing. Questions also included quality of existing contractor and any performance issues relating to original project – none were identified.

Based on the questions relating to the design layout and specs, this issue was tabled until answers could be provided and discussed at a follow up work session and reconsidered at the next Regular Meeting in February.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

None

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

C. Lean – read article icebreaker running convoys on a round robin along the Russian coast, which he believes is omitted from the Corps justification on developing infrastructure on the U.S. coast. He believes it is a standard that the Corps should be effectively considering as justification for the Port expansion.

C. Smithhisler – no comments

C. McLarty – items discussed in the tariff during the work session referencing specific service tools, equipment and materials not being assessed charges when working on vessels on port property, and some type of payment plan offered that is more structured and not a bunch of certified letters and other fees place in the tariff or approved by Council, and would not like to see any increase in the tariff rates this year

C. Johnson – no comments

C. Cox – no comments

C. Henderson – good discussion and likes that we're being proactive in looking at where we're putting money, and what assets are generating revenue at the port. He's very concerned at raising tariff rates based on potential declining revenues and declining business, although we have a responsibility to maintain infrastructure. Also, very interested to see how the seasonal sales tax rate increase is going to affect operations at the Pot.

C. West – good discussion tonight, like the interaction between the members and staff in sorting out issues and take on challenges. He looks forward to the protection of our infrastructure into the future.

**SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING**


The next meeting: February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 5:30PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by C. Cox for adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 16th day of February, 2017.

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Tony Cox, Secretary**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jim West, Chairman**  
JW