

**MINUTES  
NOME PORT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 7:12 pm by Acting Chairman Lean in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: C. Lean; C. Henderson; C. Johnson; C. Michels; C. McLarty

Absent: C. Smithhisler – excused; C. West, Jr. - excused

Also Present: Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster; Joy Baker, Port Director

In the audience: Sandra Medearis, Arctic News; Zoe Grueskin, KNOM; John Keeley, Phoenix Marine

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

A motion was made by C. Henderson to approve the agenda as amended, and seconded by C. Johnson.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean, Henderson, Johnson, Michels, McLarty,

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

August 17, 2017 Regular Meeting

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

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, Johnson, Michels, McLarty, Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

John Keeley with Phoenix Marine reiterated his request to obtain authorization to leave his only remaining flexi-flote (RT) mining barge in the harbor for winter. Mr. Keeley is confident that his barge will sit well in the ice, as it did on the beach near the Causeway last winter, and all fuel would be removed from the deck. The excavator and plant would remain on the deck of the barge, and he believes the best location would be in the Snake River as it is shallow. Mr. Keeley expressed his appreciation for the Commission's and staff's consideration of his request.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- 17-08-31 Letter from Phoenix Marine on Flexiflote haulout
- 17-09-03 USCG tests new Arctic oil spill technology – AK Dispatch
- 17-09-13 China sent scientific ship to the Arctic, then announced a new trade route – AK Dispatch

Discussion: There was none

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** (09/19/17 Written)

PD Baker made one comment in Manager's absence that 9/14/17 meeting with Sector Anchorage did go well for discussing USCG SAR response, as well as facility and vessel inspections. Further, and also part of the same group, the City met with Captain Kevin Keifer and Shannon Jenkins with USCG HQ Arctic Policy to discuss increased maritime traffic and USCG missions and strategy. Both groups were very responsive to the City's questions and interested to learn more about the needs of the region and community, and how the USCG can continue to play a role in serving those needs.

## **HARBORMASTER'S REPORT** (Verbal)

Several of the smaller users have started hauling out for the year, along with some of the NSEDC tender fleet, with more to follow. NJUS received their annual fuel delivery, which went off without a hitch. There have been a number of research vessels scheduling numerous trips at the dock while conducting their seasonal missions in the Arctic and Bering Strait region. We continue to do what we can to integrate them into the schedule when their lead time for resupply is shorter than normal. An unusual, but somewhat exciting occurrence, was the ability to moor the cruise ship Le' Boreal on 13 Sept, which at 466', is the longest vessel to ever dock at the Port of Nome. These vessel typically anchor but the residual storm chop was making it very difficult to move passengers and cargo via the tender vessels, so the Captain, Pilot and Harbormaster agreed on the attempt to back into the outer harbor and use bow/stern thrusters to crab the vessel over to the City and Middle docks for lines. It worked pretty slick, and hope this is the new plan for the Ponant vessels that visit Nome.

## Discussion:

C. McLarty inquired about what the latest is on the plan for hauling rigs out on East gravel ramp? HM Stotts replied that Port and Public Works crew are working on a plan with Pomrenke Mining, who was recently met with NJUS for locating the buried electrical supply line for the South Wall lighting. We anticipate the first vessel being hauled out in late Sept/early October, with potential for one or two others that will winter on that side of the harbor. At this point, the intent is to keep the vessels west of E Street, on the old channel pad, and retain the modified gravel slope to allow for vessel repair opportunities.

## **Port Director Report / Projects Update** (09.08.17 Port Director/Projects Status Report)

PD Baker touched on a few highlights of the report; specifically the CAP Section 107 opportunity that allows for a cost-share project with the Corps to deepen and expand the federal dredge limits and depths of the inner and outer harbor basins.

- Middle Beach/Sand Spit Properties Map – (provided as info).
- USDOT TIGER Grant – Snake River Moorage Facility Application – PD Baker outlined the plan for submitting the grant application to fully develop the Snake River Facility, as an overflow facility to mitigate significant congestion in the Small Boat Harbor.
- USDOT INFRA Grant – Deep Draft Port Study/Design (PND Proposal on Cost Estimates/Renderings) – PD Baker outlined the developing scope of the framework and objective to submit an application for the Deep Draft Port as there is a smaller project for

planning, and a larger that requires construction that must begin within 18 months, with cost-share in-hand.

Discussion:

C. Michels recommended pursuing the INFRA grant for the continuing EA at -28', as the feds are trying to streamline the permitting process. PD Baker and C. Michels agreed to strategize off-line on the best way to pursue the INFRA grant for the bigger project.

PD Baker requested the Commission consider recommending approval of PND's proposal to provide cost estimates and renderings on the Deep Draft Port Expansion, that would be used in pursuit of the INFRA grant as well as for other legislative purposes and discussion with the Corps.

**OLD BUSINESS** There was none

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Capital Improvements Plan – Cordova Consulting (Final Draft for Consideration)*

Discussion:

Commissioners agreed that more time was needed to review and evaluate the plan, and bring it back as Old Business at the October meeting.

*Phoenix Marine Request to Freeze in Harbor*

C. Lean commented that the barge that spent the winter in the ice was mostly out of the water/ice, as the north portion was essentially beached. Discussion ensued regarding whether there was a suitable location to winter the Phoenix Marine barge in the harbor for winter, but a consensus could not be reached. There were differing opinions as to whether the vessel would be better off if it were grounded or if it were to freeze in while floating. C. Michels asked about historical issues with ice overtopping vessels that were left in the harbor; yes, which is why the *No Wintering in Harbor* rule was put into effect.

C. McLarty suggested that the issue be viewed as an opportunity rather than a concern or risk. C. Henderson suggested the Commission not avoid something just because it might set precedence, when it could turn out to be a great opportunity. C. Lean and C. Johnson pointed out that the bottom line is there really isn't a suitable location for the vessel to winter in the harbor/ice. The potential of several locations was considered further, but no sites were determined ideal for the changed circumstances surrounding this specific vessel. C. Lean said the best way to this is to ensure the vessel is hard aground, as that will minimize damage. More info is required before a decision.

*Tiger Grant Funding Request for Snake River Development*

**Motion:**

The following motion was moved by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson:

Support submission of 2017 Tiger Grant application for Snake River Moorage Facility Project:

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, Johnson, Michels, McLarty, Lean,

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

Discussion:

*PND Proposal to Provide Cost Estimates/Renderings of Deep Draft Port Expansion:*

Motion:

The following motion was moved by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson:

Recommend award of contract to PND for delivery cost estimates and renderings of Deep Draft Port Expansion for a not-to-exceed estimate of \$22,000.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Johnson, Michels, McLarty, Lean, Henderson

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS** - None

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

C. Henderson – glad to see that we're thinking broader concepts on requests such as Keeley's in the interest of opportunities and the Port. Also glad to see the progress that's been made on the plan for Capital Improvements.

C. McLarty – good luck to C. Johnson on his campaign for City Council

C. Michels – thank you for allowing me to attend by phone, it was a good meeting.

C. Johnson – when we were discussing leaving Mr. Keeley's boat in the harbor, setting precedence wasn't my primary concern, it was about the safety of everyone concerned, including the facility.

C. Lean – busy time of year with a lot of us doing last minute clean up and I was chasing fish around so didn't have a lot of time to review the packet. Having been a fisheries manager for many years, I know all about keeping things equal for all intended, but I do see the need for storing boats and last year we talked not only about that was a different vessel, but as a way to investigate new opportunities. But I do believe we need to set unambiguous standards if we're going to store vessels in the water, they need to be hard aground, period.

**SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting: October 19, 2017 at 5:30PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

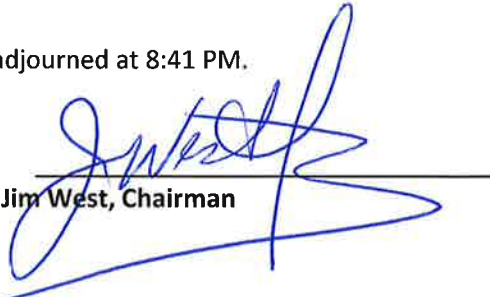
Motion was made by C. McLarty for adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 19 day of October, 2017.

**ATTEST:**



**Joy Baker, Port Director**



**Jim West, Chairman**