

**MINUTES  
NOME PORT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 6:35 pm 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. Johnson; C. Michels; C. McLarty

Absent: C. Henderson - excused

Also Present: Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster; Tom Moran, City Manager; Joy Baker, Port Director

In the audience: Sandra Medearis, Arctic News; Zoe Grueskin, KNOM

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda – PD Baker asked to have the July 11, 2017 letter from NJUS to Mr. Engstrom regarding laundromat development added to Communications:

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

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean, West, Johnson, Michels, McLarty, Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

June 15, 2017 Regular Meeting

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

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: West, Johnson, Michels, McLarty, Smithhisler, Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

There were none

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- 06.20.17 Letter from Steve Pomrenke on barge haulout
- 06.26.17 Funding request to AOOS on wave/current sensor buoy
- 08.06.17 Alaska Designs Newsletter on Alaska Port Infrastructure

Discussion:

PD Baker added that follow up on the AOOS buoy funding was that they currently had no funding to support this request, but AOOS staff was reaching out to the Army Corps on an existing program that does have available funding to cover the request. The intent is for the City/Port to cost-share with an in-kind contribution for launch/retrieval, minor maintenance and secure storage of the unit. C. Michels recommended reaching out to UAF for buoy placement at other coastal sites. C. Lean stated that including monitoring of bottom temperatures along with surface temps would serve a broader interest. Various agencies can benefit from placement of buoys, but difficult to locate one with funding to support costs.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** (08/11/17 Written)

Manager Moran briefed the group on a few items not in the report:

- Unexpected visit by Senator Murkowski on 8/8 on her way to a new clinic site visit. The Mayor, Manager and Harbormaster made the most of the Senator's ground time to discuss the federal legislative priorities and our most critical issues.
- Brief meeting with the Alaska District on and some new staff on 8/15 to discuss a potential path forward on the Arctic Deep Draft Port study, which is still being met with resistance at Army Corps Headquarters. An idea to pursue the economic benefit of bringing the fuel tankers to shore was proposed, but further investigation of long-term gain is required.
- Lt. Governor Byron Mallot is expected to arrive tomorrow (8/18) for Sunday's visit by the Crystal Serenity, as invited by the Mayor.

Discussion:

None

**HARBORMASTER'S REPORT** (Verbal)

HM Stotts advised that the visit of the cruise ship Bremen and USCG Alex Haley today were both very successful calls. We expect a visit by two Canadian Navy (USCG) ships on Monday 8/21, with the Sikuliaq also on the schedule, followed by gravel and cargo barges. Preparations have been ongoing in anticipation of the Crystal Serenity visit, regarding parking, tour bus access and facility security – we expect it to go as smoothly as last year, with better weather.

Discussion:

Chairman West inquired whether the Vitus Marine barge hotwork that has been ongoing is working out well – HM Stotts indicated yes, the crew has been very cooperative and safety conscious. C. Lean commented that it appears the fall rush is on – HM Stotts agreed, indicating that yes, there are many vessels scheduling for winter haul outs, and identifying specific needs for space to conduct repairs.

**Port Director Report / Projects Update** (08.11.17 Port Director/Projects Status Report)

PD Baker stated as a follow up on the Corps 8/15 visit, that follow up with the delegation staff has already begun on the continued delay of study progress at the Headquarter level.

Thornbush Project is coming along nicely and getting close to completion. See the drawing in your packet showing the expanded westerly limits achieving a total of 9.2 acres of developed land, with about 2 acres covered in dredge spoils. Project will meet final completion date of 9/30.

The Cape Nome Project is complete – PND was in town for the final site inspection, and a few holes were located, which Knik immediately corrected. Otherwise PND reported that the stone placement appeared to be keyed in correctly to meet the established profile line – but final determination on that will be made once the topo and bathymetric surveys are submitted by the contractor.

The Surveillance Camera Project is on schedule – contractor has procured equipment, with a schedule to arrive in Nome in early Sept to begin construction. NJUS has placed poles and made room on the servers at the Power Plant, and Dana is coordinating on some in-house materials and working with NJUS on patching the new camera system in with the City network.

Lastly, we had a few visitors from the USDOT Maritime Administration (MARAD) into Nome on 8/9 to discuss the port expansion and ensure the City was aware of the funding opportunities made available by USDOT – as well as discuss the City's long term perspective of offshore fuel transfers.

Discussion:

C. Lean asked where the remaining 40% of the river spoils will be placed – PD Baker indicated they would be adjacent to the existing spoils for a suitable dewatering period, and wait for be ready for the next round of available funding to fill the remainder of the property.

C. McLarty inquired as to the percentage of existing developed land that was being utilized, and what dictated the need for the expanded area. HM Stotts replied that the intent is to push the yard of privately owned containers to a new layout on the TBS site, and there have been numerous requests from contractors for temporary project lay down storage during the season. PD Baker added that the existing useable area consists of 25 acres, with at least 85-90%% already in use. In order to meet the onshore lay down storage needs that corresponds to the growth in traffic, additional capacity is required. Once the USAF tank farm property is full accessible, the intent is to relocate the fenced-in boat yard to that area, and expand the approach access to the new TBS pad.

**OLD BUSINESS** There was none

**NEW BUSINESS**

EEIS Nome Bathhouse Project – 35% Narrative, Cost Estimate & Drawings

PD Baker opened the discussion by clarifying that the proposed cost estimate far exceeded any available funding for this project, and recommends scaling back the scope of the project.

Discussion:

C. Johnson stated that he's confident he could present a plan that could build something that would serve the same purpose for about half of this cost. C. Lean reiterated his comment from earlier in the year that it is a very bad idea for the City/Port to take on a laundromat – it is a high maintenance facility and requires an attendant. He envisioned a concrete-hose out facility for showers/restrooms, without laundry – he worked in one as a teenager and it requires ongoing and extensive monitoring. C. Michels echoed C. Lean's concerns and was also expecting just a shower/restroom facility, but also wants to ensure the engineering firm understands that there are qualified contractors locally that can do better than \$1200/sq. ft. Perhaps even force account? C. Johnson recommended having the scope significantly scaled back to provide a reduced cost version for showers/restrooms, whether we eliminate the laundry or not – then issue an RFP for local construction. C. Michels added that the climate for construction is very competitive and we could likely do much better than what is proposed in the package.

**Motion:**

The following motion was moved by McLarty and seconded by Johnson.

Table the EEIS Proposal on the Nome Bathhouse Project for further examination of the project scope to achieve reduce cost.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Johnson, Michels, McLarty, Smithhisler, Lean, West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS** - None

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

C. Lean - none

C. McLarty – Alaska Dispatch New article on the Anchorage Port and the problems they're having with the trying to get their sheet pile repaired – interesting reading if you're interested. Also, range marker lights are needed sooner rather than later.

C. Michels – Great meeting. Also Federal Highways Administrator Tim Hess was in town to meet with Kawerak and Tribal villages, and he also met with Joy and the City staff to discuss the port expansion. He's used to be an Army Corps guy, which means he understands their programming. Also, the EPW Committee is going to be here on 8/26 to meet with City staff and Kawerak, so a great partnership there. There is Public Comment is out for OCS Oil & Gas 2017-2022 Leasing so folks should look at that. Lastly, I appreciate the patience when I'm on the phone and can't be in the room.

Johnson – none

C. Smithhisler – none

C. West – been working with Vitus on the barge repair. They weren't sure they could complete the work as they had anticipated, but have been very pleased that they were able to make it work without having to go south for repairs. Work Session tonight went well on Capital Improvements – it is good to see us working on long term and short term needs.

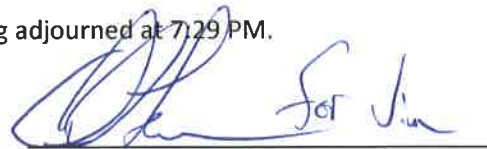
**SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting: August 17, 2017 at 5:30PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by C. Michels for adjournment – meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 21 day of September, 2017.



**Jim West, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

  
**Joy Baker, Port Director**