

**MINUTES
NOME PORT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
July 19th, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman West in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Smithhisler; Lean; West; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty;

Absent: Henderson

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

In the audience: Sandra Medearis, Arctic News; Emily Hofstaedter, KNOM; Randy Harper, port user; Mark Johnson, citizen;

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

A motion was made by Sheffield and seconded by McLarty.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean, West, Rowe, Sheffield, McLarty, Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 14, 2018 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Lean, seconded by Sheffield to approve the minutes:

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Sheffield, McLarty, Smithhisler, Lean

Nays:

Abstain: West, Rowe

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Randy Harper spoke in support of port development. Met with Mayor in Portland, OR area a few months ago and lined him up with other Port Authorities that have experience in building sustainable ports. He's happy to help with development of the Port, as well as the Deep Water Port if there's anything he can do.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 18-06-25 Secretary Mattis Highlights U.S. Arctic (KUAC)
- 18-07-02 Gold Fever: A Driving Force in Nome (USCG Blog)
- 18-07-09 Circumnavigating the Arctic, Nome to Norway (Arctic Today)

- 18-07-16 Nome CDIP Wave/Current Buoy Flyer & Data Files

Discussion:

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (18-07-09 Report)

No questions on written report.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT (Verbal)

HM Stotts indicated vessel traffic has been busy as usual this time of year. The NOAA Ship Fairweather had to delay their departure for mechanical issues – which fortunately worked with the dock schedule. The ship will be returning several times this summer. USCGC Mellon anchored offshore and lightered in for supplies and shore-leave, and although there is sufficient depth in the outer basin to bring them into the dock, regulation requires that they have an assist vessel to do so. Efforts to locate a vessel of opportunity in port at the same time produced no positive results, as commercial shipping vessels were trying to maintain schedules in good weather. USCGC Stratton was offshore, just following the Mellon, and with a draft too deep for the Port, conducted some resupply at anchor, then had to follow a tanker to Port Clarence in order to fuel due to a swell off Nome. Fortunately, before weather impacted operations, the tanker was able to make a 2.2M delivery to Nome's shore-side tanks.

HM Stotts highlighted the efforts needed to prepare the Guardian vessel for launching the wave/data buoy and anchor system. A technician from NOAA's CDIP section, traveled to Nome to prepare the buoy an assist with launch. Big kudos goes out to Assistant Harbormaster, Chris Schuneman and Cole Cushman with Public Works for devising the modification to allow the vessel to accommodate the anchor weight. All went well, and data appears to be streaming accurately. He briefly reviewed some of the data that is being produced on the public link.

Discussion:

West asked what this operation is costing the City – PD Baker replied just fuel and labor to operate the vessel and handle the buoy during launch and retrieval, with minimal expense for heated storage in the Snow Storage Building. McLarty asked if the buoy was up on the AIS system; yes, the location is on the AIS map, and a link to the data is available on the Marine Exchange website, as well as AOOS and City sites. There was discussion about ground tackle, which AOOS had thought they could abandon and launch new each year. However, Port staff advised that leaving multiple sets of ground tackle offshore was not going to fly well in our region. Therefore, AOOS agreed to develop an option for using an underwater marker so the tackle can be recaptured next year during buoy deployment.

McLarty asked about areas at the Port that appear to have junk lying around, and users are being charged for these areas. HM Stotts indicated yes, everyone with anything on Port property is assessed storage fees, and owners of areas that a real eyesore, have been advised to clean it up and given a deadline.

PORT DIRECTOR REPORT (Projects Update) (18-07-13 Report)

PD Baker added a few verbal items to her written report; the repair of the barge/launch ramp is developing into a complex issue. PND is developing costs estimates and scope for a couple of options in construction methodology to the project. She requested that an August work session be held specific to this project. Also, she will be attending an Arctic Maritime Conference on JBER in ANC so will be out of town for the August 16th meeting. Various dates were discussed, with none working for all. PD Baker will get more date options from PND/Bristol, and send an email to the Commission to coordinate a good work session date. In the meantime, the engineers will produce the scope/costs for consideration, while staff investigates grant opportunities available for cost-share funding this project.

Discussion:

Various elements of the known and unknown conditions were discussed, as there are many moving parts to correctly approaching this project. West suggested moving the work session into September; possible, but pushes the bidding schedule another month further into winter.

Draft F18 Port & Harbor Operating & Capital Budgets – provided as information.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

U.S. DOT Discretionary Grant Application – Snake River Moorage

PD Baker updated the group on the Council resolution provided in the packet, as there was no time to get Commission concurrence before Council approval as the grant application was due yesterday. The Council authorized applying for the \$14M grant, with up to a \$1M City cost-share contribution. She advised that the Commission could do a motion for the record supporting the Council resolution, but it's not required.

Discussion:

McLarty asked if the design attached was submitted with the grant; Baker said yes, but it is a concept design that will go through final iteration if the grant is awarded. At that time, the design will come back to the Commission for further input and consideration. Lean commented that he noticed Telalaska moving things around on Lot 4 along the Snake River project site. Baker replied yes, and discussions are still in play as to how to accommodate Telalaska's property needs offsite, in order for the City to maximize use of their river side property.

Banning Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) in the Arctic – USCG Presentation (IMO)

Purpose of the visit was to determine if there is community support to ban HFO in the Arctic. There is time to weigh the options and provide input down the road.

Discussion:

Sheffield stated she thought the IMO presentation was thin, and was confused by the presence of the USCG. Baker indicated the visiting USCG Admirals learned that the HFO presentation was being made by a USCG staff member, and elected to listen into the meeting. Sheffield shared that when questioned about whether there are sufficient response mechanisms in place to clean up the oil, they indicated not really. The counterpoint was whether banning HFO will increase the costs of fuel, which is pitted against the environmental impact of a spill that the USCG indicated can't effectively be cleaned up.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Randy Harper added to his earlier comments that he had participated in various Commission meetings over the years, and thought this was an in-depth discussion about important issues.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

C. McLarty – good presentation by the Corps as a follow up to the Charrette. If the Corps has questions, it would be good to hear them. To the full ability of what he law can allow, he'd like to see the users with junk and debris clean up their area.

C. Sheffield – there are more NOAA fisheries surveys scheduled for next year to determine what is going on with our marine resources. It's possible we could see a few ships still this year. The whole eco-system is experiencing a shudder. (Lean added; the northern Bering Sea is becoming much more important for

fisheries because the shifts in the population, they're moving north. Bering Sea has historically been the most productive sea in the world.

C. Smithhisler – good presentation by the Corps. Excited to see it moving forward and that they communicate very well with the Port Director so City is giving full input. He asked if the City was aware of DOT's NWATP Planning Charrette scheduled for 7 Aug 2018.

C. Rowe – enjoyed the Corps presentation. Been absent a bit this summer and apologize for missing a couple meetings. An exciting time at the Port, and seeing the Snake River project, it's great to see the projects. Also agree with Derek on cleaning up any debris, and although I haven't driven up there lately, I will do so tonight. If folks are paying for a certain footprint, they should remain within it and keep it clean.

C. Lean – Joy does a great job attending these conferences and talking to the parties in D.C. The Port is top priority and this is the only way to get support so that we can afford this is to have DOD and other big governmental agencies on board. The map of the region shown by the Corps shows just the Norton Sound region, but they need to keep in mind that we are a regional port, shipping to the Kotz and Yukon Delta regions too. I am a proponent of the Snake River development. Not to be all gloom and doom, the pink salmon run in the Seward Peninsula was super, the chum salmon run was better than average, the sockeye salmon run was better than average – so there's a lot of things going right with the fisheries. The crab fishery is almost done for the season, but it was a disappointment. Next year might be pretty tough on the crab. (Charlie added that good friend on the Casa de Paga had a stroke about a month ago, and though it was a life changing event, he credits being alive to the emergency responders that met him in the harbor and took him into their care (specifically Jim West, Jr.).

C. West – I was very pleased to see members of the Council and Planning Commission came to the Corps presentation. We need more of these meetings to keep everyone informed. Glad to see the Corps moving forward, it's a good thing. Have the docking permit numbers less than previous years? HM Stotts said yes, there are some dredges still in dry dock, but wall space is still a premium with the vessels getting larger.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is SCHEDULED to August 16, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Smithhisler and seconded by Sheffield for adjournment – 8:12 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 16th day of August 2018.

ATTEST:

Joy Baker, Port Director


Scot Henderson, Acting-Chairman