

**MINUTES  
NOME PORT COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
May 07, 2020**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent:

Also Present: Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Joy Baker, Port Director (telephonically)

In the audience: Mark Johnson; Amanda (KNOM)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

Motion to approve made by Henderson, seconded by Smithhisler.

At the Roll Call:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Support for 2020 USDOT BUILD Grant Program Application – Development of the Snake River Moorage & Vessel Haulout Facility

PD Baker advised that the 2020 USDOT BUILD Grant Program is \$1 Billion total in funding with 50% required to be awarded to rural projects, an increase from 25% the previous year. It has a max 80% federal share for urban projects and a statement indicating the Secretary can award up to 100% federal share to rural projects. PD Baker stated she had recently met with Nome Eskimo Community who will be providing a resolution of support, and is considering how to contribute to the project.

Total project costs for the Snake River Moorage & Haulout Facility is estimated to be about \$14 million for a project critically needed to address the ongoing vessel overcrowding in the Small Boat Harbor. This project would alleviate congestion by providing additional moorage space for smaller craft that do not raft well with large tugs, barges and landing crafts, in an effort to avoid the types of incidents that have occurred over the years due to the overcrowding.

PD Baker informed the PC that the project would finish dredging the Snake River on the west side, install floating docks in the river and also develop the uplands to support the gangway to the float system. Details on administering of the grant are still being discussed, but Nome Eskimo's interest in partnering on this grant, makes it a Municipal/Tribal grant, which increases favorability.

Commissioner Sheffield stated she is appreciative that Nome Eskimo is working with the City on this project and was wondering if the project would score higher with this partnership. PD Baker responded that it would be beneficial to be considered under the municipal rural category, as well as the tribal organization category. Commissioner Smithhisler commented that the NEC board voted unanimously to support this project. Smithhisler noted that this is the second time the City of Nome as applied for this grant, in which they received NEC support. PD Baker added that the grant application notes a portion of the floats will be used to provide moorage space for subsistence users using Belmont Beach, or trailering their vessels. Commissioner Lean commented that he personally owned property near this area and it would benefit his property value so he would abstain from this vote.

West asked about our max allowable dredging depths and how deep we could go past -8ft. PD Baker noted that current authorization only goes to -8ft. Commissioner McLarty asked about changing up the Snake River dock configuration to allow for more turning room for vessels maneuvering around the High Ramp. PD Baker noted that was the next item for discussion on the agenda, to work with the Corps to increase the depth of the Inner Harbor to -12 feet. Large port users have complained since the 2<sup>nd</sup> ramp was constructed in 2013, that there is not enough space to safely navigate out. McLarty commented that the travel lift facility looked like a great idea and having deeper water in that area would allow for deeper draft vessels to haul out there away from the rest of the traffic and ramps. PD Baker added that if the Port Commission wanted to pursue this project and recommend some type of funding or in-kind match, they would need to pose it in a motion to the Council, as their next meeting is Monday.

Lean commented that he recalled discussion on the sediment coming downstream the Snake River and the frequency of dredging that would need to occur being every few years, not every year, and that it would settle in the cut out area along Belmont Point at the northern edge of the dredging limits.

Commissioner Henderson commented that he supports recommending this to the Council as the City has applied for this in the past, and it seems to be the next logical step toward preparing for a deep water port that will benefit our local residents and port users.

The comment was made by McLarty that he would like to see more advertising of this project and more chasing of dollars as this project could entice other port users to contribute money to the project.

Motion was made by Henderson, seconded by Rowe to; Recommend the Nome Common Council support application of the 2020 USDOT BUILD Grant funding proposal for design and construction of the Snake River Moorage Facility Project, and asks the Council to consider obligating up to \$300k in matching funds.

At the Roll Call:

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

Nays:

Abstain: Lean

The motion **CARRIED**.

Support to cost-share with the Alaska Corps District on a CAP 107 Feasibility Study to deepen the Inner Harbor to -12.5 MLLW

Based on discussion during previous New Business item:

Motion was made by Henderson, seconded by Lean to; Recommend the Nome Common Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a 50/50 Federal Cost-Share Agreement (FCSA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for Completion of the Nome Harbor CAP 107 Feasibility Study, requiring matching funds in the amount of \$721K, supported through a direct legislative grant from the State of Alaska.

At the Roll Call:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Smithhisler for adjournment – 8:01 pm.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2020.

ATTEST:

  
Joy Baker, Port Director

  
Jim West, Chairman