

**MINUTES
NOME PORT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
March 21st, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 7:28pm by Chairman West in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Sheffield (excused);

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

In the audience: Sandra Medearis, Arctic News; Ken Hughes; Capt. Howard Farley;

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

Motion was made by Lean to approve the agenda, seconded by Smithhisler:

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, Rowe, West, Smithhisler, Rowe

Nays:

Abstain: McLarty

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February, 18th, 2019 Motion was made by Rowe, seconded by McLarty to approve the minutes:
Regular Meeting

At the Roll Call:

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

Nays:

Abstain: McLarty

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Ken Hughes, as a citizen, noted that he was unable to find the PC regular packet on the City's website as early as he had hoped and asked if it could be posted sooner so the public can access. Ken Hughes, as a Planning Commission member, thanked the Port Commission for the joint work session, it was helpful.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 19-02-27 Overview of the Tanker Lightering in Western Alaska- Nuka.
- 19-02-28 2 Bills Could Advance American Presence in the Arctic- Arctic Today.
- 19-03-12 US Navy Plans to Send Vessel Through The Arctic- Arctic Today.
- 19-03-18 Incidents of National Significance Workshop Flyer- 19 April 2019.
- Letter to Andrew Lee on need for adequate vessel to maneuver his barge this season.

Discussion: There was some discussion on letter to Mr. Lee, specific to the content and intent of the letter, followed by his immediate response that he is working on securing a tug boat for maneuvering his vessel. There was a brief discussion on the exact location of the Boundary Line and USCG management.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT (Verbal)

HM Stotts advised Commissioners that he was scheduled to return to the Port office on 1 April 2019, and had been already receiving numerous requests for snow removal in all of the port storage areas. He will continue coordinating with PWR until this has been achieved. The focus on debt collection continues, with further impoundment efforts underway in preparation for a spring surplus sale. HM Stotts provided an overview on the various cruise ships coming to Nome, both into the docks and anchoring offshore, and elaborated on some alternative landing sites for the cruise ship tenders with floating dock configurations.

Discussion:

West asked about how the Fuel Float was connected to the sheet pile walls and also if we had any extra. HM Stotts indicated there were mooring lines to pad-eyes to secure the float and that there were no extra floats, but the Fuel Float could be used if modified and we purchased another ramp for access. West also asked about the old steel ramp that the port currently has for use on the causeway, with HM Stotts giving specifics on the ramp actually being too short.

Smithhisler asked about snow removal at the Port facility and if people who were paying for storage and access have to wait for that snow removal. HM Stotts responded that in the winter months we typically get PWR to give someone access within 3-4 days of the request but that this year that was difficult. Smithhisler asked about the port hiring private contractors for snow removal in the spring and if there should be a line item in the budget for that expense. There was more discussion on the port's Closed Season as defined in the tariff, and that snow removal during that time is considered an extra service to users and provided as needed, and as equipment is available. McLarty added that he had brought up in the past the idea to lower the price of winter storage fees so people could then afford to hire private contractors to do the snow removal for them.

PORT DIRECTOR REPORT (Projects Update) (19-03-18 Report)

PD Baker updated the commission on some highlights including;

The Alaska Corps District is working with Headquarters to on how to use the combined authorities under the study (Economics, Remote/Subsistence Harbors and National Security) to justify the plan selection.

The District has received confirmation from Headquarters on the Federal Interest Determination for the Section 107 CAP Program to deepen the SBH and Snake River to -12.5' and to push the federal dredge limits further up river in an effort to capture the future expanded moorage facility area. The Corps is preparing appropriate documents to make formal notification to the City.

Discussion:

West asked if anything under -8' the City would have to pay for. PD Baker responded that the SBH is currently -10' and that papers were submitted last year requesting to take the SBH down an additional -2' to prevent vessels from grounding. PND Engineers has confirmed that their sheet pile walls in the SBH have a dredge tolerance -14 (allowing for 1-foot over-dredge), except for the Low Dock with a max of -9' MLLW.

There was discussion on the port expansion, with the potential removal of alternative 4A due to the steady infill of the dredged access channel through a shallower contour into a deeper basin. Lean added that the TAMS study showed compact soils, suitable for construction, overlain with ten feet of soft sand at the 30 foot depth. That sand flows along the shore and will fill the dredged channel on most storm events. 4A

dredged to 40 feet would not be realistic. West asked if this Causeway project would extend out into mining claims and if that could cause some issues. PD Baker responded that she believes there are some mining claims in the approach to the expansion area, but the Corps Real Estate Division is working that out with the State of Alaska.

There discussion on KNIK to use the TBS pad to operate their asphalt batch plant for the temporary runway repairs. This work should only last a couple weeks, with the plant then shut down and relocated. Information exchanges are underway between Knik and the City Engineer regarding the ADEC permitting requirements to meet inspection, monitoring and reporting compliance during the brief operations.

Discussion:

Lean asked if the batch plant would put up a big steam plume and if that would impact the Nome runways. PD Baker responded that the h batch plant operation site has been given approval through DOT and the airport. Henderson asked if there would be vibration concerns, with a general consensus that the plant would not generate vibration. West noted there would be truck traffic up there and there will be some heat but should not be any open flame. It would be about 350 tons of final product so would be short term.

OLD BUSINESS

Port-related planning & development plan updates

PD Baker noted this was New Business in the last meeting and wanted to see if any ideas had sprung from the work session or if we were ready to start on some to-do lists and achieving goals that require action or if we are not there yet. No questions or discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

FY20 Port & Harbor Operating & Capitol Budget Drafts

PD Baker gave an overview of the budget numbers and line items (expenditures and revenue), noting that she and HM Stotts will be meeting with the City Manager and Finance Director next week, with several work sessions to follow with the City Council. PD Baker encourage Commissioners to please inquire if any further questions arose regarding the FY20 budgets, and final numbers will be brought back to the table.

Discussion:

PD Baker touched on the need for a new harbor work skiff for oil response and SBH operations.. HM Stotts gave a brief overview of the current 16' Boston Whaler work skiff and its condition. West asked if we could store it for the winter inside to dry out the saturated foam hull. Lean commented that fiberglass hulls were hard to fully dry out and took an extremely long time. Discussion continued on platform options and most cost efficient solutions.

NOAA Survey of Nome Offshore Soundings – Anchorage Locations

PD Baker asked the Commissioners if they had any input for suitable anchorage locations offshore of Nome that could be shared with visiting vessels, and codified in the Coastal Federal Regulations (CFR). She has been in communication with NOAA and the USCG on the issue, which have requested input from the City.

Discussion:

Howard Farley suggested asking the Alaska Marine Pilots as they have some preferred locations offshore. Lean noted the location of the sewage outflow and the Quintillion fiber optic line as areas to be avoided, as well as not anchoring in line with the approach to the port entrance. Rowe recommended that maybe we should just identify the areas to be avoided instead of preferred anchorage locations. PD Baker indicated that was a good idea and she will discuss with NOAA and the USCG to determine which areas are already identified and which need to be added.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS (None)

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

C. McLarty – none

C. Henderson – Enjoyed the work session with the Planning Commission, as it sparked good discussion on housing and business development. The seasonality of Nome can sometime hurt with a significant closed season, but a larger facility combined with longer shoulder seasons will decrease that extreme. The longer summers could bring more people but that may not affect the winter season as much. Good meeting.

C. Rowe – Appreciated the discussion with the planning commission and thanked Ken Hughes and Howard Farley for sticking around for the regular meeting as well. Agreed with Smithhisler on snow removal and that people would want to access their stored items and maybe we should look at adding money to hire contractors if needed. The port project may increase jobs in the region during construction but that would die down after completion. He recently visited NACTEC and saw the heavy equipment simulators and encourages the youth to get training and look for possible employment in the region.

S. Smithhisler – The Planning Commission asked a lot of good questions during the work session and asked why there isn't a City Manager Report included in the Port Commission meeting packets. PD Baker explained that was due to us having an interim City Manager that is very busy with both jobs.

C. Lean – This year's crab quota is much reduced from last year's we will see but crab seasons do cycle and we may see lower numbers for the next few years. Concerning training in the region, there have been 6 pack and vessel familiarization trainings in Nome over the years, but most of this is demand related so if people are interested, they should approach NSEDC, Kawerak or NW Campus to request training. There is opportunity, and locals should encourage others to get the training needed for these jobs in the region.

C. West – Spoke of fish migrating north and that in the future Nome may be more ice free than now and have increased shoulder seasons. The meeting with the Planning Commission went well and both groups have a lot of diversity between the two and is a great benefit to the community of Nome and as we grow, so will Nome. Noted the utilities settling pond needing to be expanded as it is at capacity and that local housing has always been an issue.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is SCHEDULED to April 18th, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

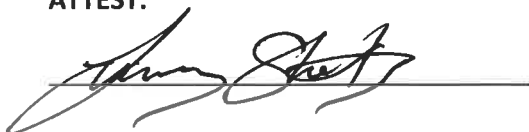
Motion was made by Smithhisler and seconded by Henderson for adjournment.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 18th day of April 2019.



Jim West, Chairman

ATTEST:



Joy Baker, Port Director

