

**MINUTES
NOME PORT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
September 17th, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 6:44 pm by Chairman West in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Rowe; Sheffield

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

In the audience: Ken Hughes; James Mason; John Keeley; Craig Coggins; Joe Fullwood

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

Motion to approve made by Lean, seconded by Smithhisler.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean; West; Henderson; McLarty; Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 20th, 2020 Motion made by McLarty, seconded by West to approve minutes;
Regular Meeting

At the Roll Call

Ayes: West; Henderson; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 20-07-08 USACE Nome SBH West Beach Dredging (Draft Figures)
- 20-08-28 US investigates interactions after Russia confronts trawler in Bering Sea
- 20-09-11 PON F20 Commodity Volumes Update (Draft)
- 20-09-12 PON F20 Revenue/Expense Update (Draft)

Discussion:

PD Baker stated

- That the USACE Nome SBH West Beach dredging figures were for the next three year USACE maintenance dredge contract that Alaska Marine Excavation has been doing these past years. This item would be added to the contract in an attempt to remove built up material from the West Causeway bridge area and West Beach, which would likely happen in the summer of 2021.
- The draft revenue/expense provided for the end of the fiscal year will not be final until the audit is complete toward the end of October.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

None.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

HM Stotts reported;

- Update of recent facility vessel traffic including;
 - The KASHIMA Japanese military training vessel with around 300 cadets on board was anchored offshore this past week. They gifted the City of Nome a Japanese Doll and the City of Nome returned the gift with an engraved gold pan. The KASHIMA also dropped off another doll for the USCG ALEX HALEY for me to deliver to the Captain. The ship conducted resupply offshore but was not able to have the cadets visit town due to COVID-19 on-board protocols.
 - Research vessels NORSEMAN II and QUALIFIER 105 have been in this past week with crew swaps and science gear resupply and will be operating in the region into November.
 - Crowley has been lightering fuel to the West Nome Tank Farm from tankers offshore all month but now most of their vessels have departed south for the season.
 - Ridge continues to haul gravel to Kotlik with the NOLA GAIL and the SITKA.
 - Orion is currently in port demobing equipment from Cape Lisburn and has 3 trips total to Nome planned for this season.
 - The USCG ALEX HALEY will be in Sunday for three days for crew leave and will be utilizing port services such as garbage, water and line handlers while here.
- Overview of upcoming southeasterly storm looking to blow through the 18th and 19th and facility prep for that and notifying users to ensure they take precautions.
- Assist. HM Schuneman has been working with PWR on various projects including replacement of bull-rail sections in the center of the City Dock and dealing with settling all over the facility and the effect of that on infrastructure such as fencing and container rows.
- Vessels have begun hauling out of the water already so HM Schuneman has been strategizing on where to place vessels on the Lower IP to make best use of the space.

Discussion:

Chairman West asked about the Deadman Anchor's location and to make sure we kept that area open for vessels if they wished to use it. HM Stotts agreed.

PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PD Baker reported;

- We have an upcoming work session with the Utility Board Monday to chat about the old Air Force Tank Farm and moving the NJUS fuel tanks to that location in the future, as well as upcoming work to port road by the state.
- The Inner Harbor CAP study job was awarded to Kinetic Labs under a work in kind project through the Corps. They will do the work the first week of Oct and use a small space inside the Garco building. There is also a Hydro survey needed for the project that will need to be set up in the next few weeks as well.
- The Concrete Ramp replacement package is going out to bid October 1st.
- The Anodes repair job will also go to bid on October 1st as well with the ramp project.
- The Snake River Moorage and Vessel Haul-out 14 million dollar grant we applied for was awarded today. Unfortunately, it was all awarded to Anchorage for the second year in a row. The application and program were targeted toward rural communities but continue to be awarded to Anchorage over rural facilities also applying.
- PND has done more work on a Port of Nome facility rendering for us realigning more with the 8b alternative the Corps chose as preferred.

Discussion:

- McLarty asked if the ramp replacement for next season was still operating on the same time frame as the last bid package. PD Baker responded that yes it was the same timeframe with folks needing to be launched in the water by June 1st and could not haul out until around September 15th.
- There was group discussion on the ramp being built in 2005 and what the material substrate was under the ramp. That spongy material has been the main issue with the ramp settlement over the years which is why it needs full replacement vs only a repair in place.
- West asked if we were still panning on a fuel line extension out to the new docks. PD Baker responded that all of the new deep draft docks are planned to have all utilities run to them including water and fuel lines/connections. Connecting those utilities to the East breakwater was still being figured.

OLD BUSINESS

Landside Property Development – Prioritize Short & Long Term Actions

Motion was made by McLarty, seconded by Lean to support they City of Nome's cost share for the West Nome Tank Farm topographic survey with the City's portion being around \$10,000, no more than \$15,000.

At the Roll Call

Ayes: Henderson, McLarty, Smithhisler, Lean, West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS

Rebuild and/or Replacement of 6" Block Valve at Fuel Header

Harbormaster Stotts informed the group on the following;

- The 6" valve for the jet line on the marine fuel headers has begun to weep and slowly build up fuel residue on the sides of the valve body, but has not built up enough to cause a drip.
 - This is most likely due to a failed o-ring in the valve body. A rebuild would replace that gasket and other interior components.
- This is the original valve from when the line was constructed in 1986 so is about 35 years old.
- The 6" valve rebuild quote is \$5,560.00
- The replacement quote for the last 6" valve replacement from 5 years ago was \$19,500. An updated quote is coming soon.
- The new valve is 28 weeks to ship from the date the order is placed which is why we would like to do both the rebuild and replacement.
- Rebuild the old one and reinstall it first thing in the spring before we hydrotest.
- Look to purchase the new valve on next year's budget and have it installed
- Keep the rebuilt valve as a backup for use at any of our 6" valve locations in the event of a future issue.
- We are not scheduled to receive any more fuel through the 6" jet line this season

Henderson commented that it was a great idea to have this rebuild done for the immediate need and then purchase a new valve on next year's budget and keep the rebuilt one in reserve for emergency replacements in the future.

Motion was made by Henderson to move forward with the 6" valve rebuild now and also purchase a new valve on the F22 budget.

At the Roll Call

Ayes: McLarty, Smithhisler, Lean, West, Henderson

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Joe Fullwood commented the following;

- Asked if NJUS was planning to extend their sewage outfall lines from the lagoon if the port expansion happens in the future.
 - Ken Morton noted that the length of the outfall pipes is about discharging a certain

distance from shore and should not be affected by the length of the causeway.

- If the USACE is planning to use the same bridge during the causeway extension project or if they will build new.
 - The PC body noted that it was too early to tell now.
- That the location of the East Causeway breach opening seemed to be in a better location as it is further offshore than the one on the West so is usable as a navigable waterway for small traffic.
- Extending the causeway further offshore will force small craft to transit further into deeper and rougher waters.
 - Leaving an opening on both the West and East seems needed to allow small vessels an option when transiting down the coast.

Ken Hughes commented;

- Thanked the Port Commission for their hard work and diligent efforts in planning and development for the facility.
- Contributions the Port facility makes through generating City sales tax is tremendous and does not accurately reflect in the Ports budget just how much of an impact that really is for the City.
 - That raising the tariff to help generate \$ was not enough for the fuel valve rebuild but the sales tax raised through fuel sales would more than likely cover repair costs and more.
- That the idea of one community location for all the tank farms in town is a great idea and could help consolidate those operations into one location.
- That he will be on the election ballot running for Mayor.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

McLarty commented that the rendering of the causeway extension shows a good presence of large commercial vessels using the facility but it does not show how that will affect the users in smaller vessels. Noted that having a separate side entrance for smaller vessels to enter/exit the facility would be a good idea for safety.

Henderson commented that the work session generated good discussion. Thanked Joy for her diligent efforts on the Deep Draft Causeway Extension pursuits and pointed out that this will have a large economic impact on the City of Nome's residents and businesses and we should keep those opportunities in mind as we move forward with planning development.

Smithhisler commented that it was good to keep airing out and discussing issues that arise around Port property and the tank farms and liked that we have good dialog among ourselves. That he was disappointed we were not awarded the BUILD grant for development of the Snake River Moorage Facility as he was excited to see more growth of the Inner Harbor area. That local tribes and entities working together was great to see on the project.

Lean commented it was a good work session and there is always more to consider. That he saw a picture of TSR employees in full PPE suits loading supplies on the KASHIMA deck while they were offshore. He noted that it was commented to him, this type of service may generate a lot of business in the future as an outbreak on a cargo or international vessel could be catastrophic.

West- no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Lean for adjournment 7:38 pm.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 15th day of October, 2020.



Jim West, Chairman

ATTEST:

JLBaker

Joy Baker, Port Director