

**MINUTES
NOME PORT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
August 16th, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 5:35pm by Acting Chairman Henderson in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Lean (excused); West (excused);

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

In the audience: Sandra Medearis, Arctic News; Emily Hofstaedter, KNOM; John Keeley, port user;

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Acting-Chairman Henderson asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

A motion was made by Smithhisler and seconded by Sheffield.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, Rowe, Sheffield, McLarty, Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 19, 2018 Regular
Meeting

Motion was made by Smithhisler, seconded by Rowe to approve the minutes:

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, Rowe, Sheffield, McLarty, Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain: West, Rowe

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

- 18-07-25 Port of Nome 2019 Cruise Ship Schedule (Draft)
- 18-08-02 Defense bill directs spending to Alaska – ADN
- 18-08-03 FY2019 NDAA bill icebreaker provision
- 18-08-07 Icebreaker fight; battle between slogan and substance ADN
- 18-08-07 Arctic Maritime Symposium (14-16 Aug 2018 – JBER/ANC)

Discussion:

Commissioners noted the significant increase in cruise ship calls scheduled for 2019, with preliminary information from cruise liners indicating that future years will be similar. This increased cruise ship traffic heightens the need for funding and construction of the incinerator facility to handle the regulated waste. Port staff continues to peruse federal and state funding agencies for programs that align with the project.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (18-08-10 Report)

In the CM's absence, HM Stotts shared highlighted that the monofill and landfill inspections went well, and pointed out the report attachments identify the life expectancy of cell #2 at the landfill. PD Baker added the report attachments were included as a precursor to later discussions on accepting construction debris from regional projects. C. Sheffield inquired about the NWATP Planning Charrette held in Nome – PD Baker replied the meeting was facilitated by a contractor (Remote Solutions) for Alaska DOT to discuss regional transportation projects. C. Smithhisler added that a number of villages were represented a variety of different types of projects were discussed.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT (Verbal)

HM Stotts gave kudos to his assistant Chris Schuneman for doing a great job covering the facility while he took personal time to travel to Minnesota last week for a wedding. Chris was able to make some quick adjustments to accommodate changes to the last cruise ship call from 1 day to 2 days, with the assistance of public works for lines and security. We have 3 tankers offshore today for do ship-to-ship transfers, but weather is complicating those plans. We anticipate the launch of the Myrtle Irene sometime in the next few weeks, which will be followed by the installation of the deadman anchor for large haulouts. Lastly, the wave buoy offshore has been producing great data, according to the NOAA weather offices. We are now coordinating with the AOOS folks on the plan for retrieval so we are prepared in advance.

Discussion:

C. Henderson inquired if the buoy retrieval is an involved process – HM Stotts replied that no, under the current plan, it's an acoustic release to drop the anchor chain and lift the buoy onto the boat. C. McLarty asked whether there would be suitable space for the upcoming yachts in the harbor – HM Stotts stated that there is a possibility that space will be available, but there is also a draft question on one yacht so, if any conflicts, the yachts will be given space on the Causeway to refuel and resupply. C. McLarty added that he'd like to see the regular users stack up if necessary to allow for suitable wall space for the yachts.

PORT DIRECTOR REPORT (Projects Update) - (18-08-10 Report)

PD Baker touched on the Corps MFS points listed in the written report being the basin depths, design vessels, updated analysis on the economics and broader justification allowed under the 2006 RSH Authority. We are still looking into the possibility of a test pilot program for an assist tug in Nome in 2019. There are a number of elements that need to be evaluated to determine whether it's time to test this operation.

Discussion:

C. McLarty asked what the tug company was looking to get for the test pilot program – PD Baker replied that we've been discussing mostly operational information regarding traffic and assist volumes, so will get more into the mechanics of an agreement during an upcoming work session with the Commission. McLarty added that he thought there were probably other roles this vessel could serve in the facility.

C. Sheffield asked about the Arctic Maritime Symposium identified in the report; what was the most common topic of discussion? PD Baker replied that in addition to infrastructure development on the Russian side was the predominant/frequent mention of the Corps project being investigated at the Port of Nome. Sheffield added, what was the most unexpected thing that was learned? Baker indicated she was surprised that all of the service branches were all finally in agreement that “the military is behind the curve in the Arctic and we must up our game” – which is a change from their mantra that “we are currently meeting our missions in the Arctic”.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Concrete Barge Ramp Replacement Plan
NSEDC Funding Opportunity

PD Baker outlined that the purpose of this business item tonight was to garner support for submitting the funding proposals to the grantor agencies.

Discussion:

McLarty asked if the grants were being applied for under the methodology discussed during the latest work session, which he missed – Baker replied yes. McLarty elaborated further regarding his thoughts on various approaches to the project, many of which had been previously discussed and evaluated with the engineers during the work session. McLarty asked if a history of elevation shots on the ramp could be made available – Baker indicated she would research that information and bring back to the members. McLarty reiterated his intent was whether we are locked into a construction methodology with the application of these grants – Baker indicated additional information can be provided to the funding agencies if needed. C. Smithhisler asked if there was a percent complete provided from PND on these drawings – Baker replied these are at 65% with more updated drawings to be provided prior to submitting the grant applications. C. Henderson added that his recall from the work session was a consensus to replace rather than repair the ramp.

Motion:

The following motion was moved by Rowe and seconded by Smithhisler:

Support making application to NSEDC for a 2018 Large Infrastructure Outside Entity Funding (OEF) Grant for the Inner Harbor Launch Ramp Repair Project.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, Rowe, Sheffield, McLarty, Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

EDA-Public Works Funding Opportunity

Motion:

The following motion was moved by Rowe and seconded by Smithhisler:

Support making application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) under the Public Works/Economic Development Program Grant for the Inner Harbor Launch Ramp Repair Project.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Rowe, Sheffield, McLarty, Smithhisler, Henderson

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

AOOS/Marine Exchange – Port Entrance Weather Camera

PD Baker alerted the members that this is essentially a second step to the offshore AOOS buoy which serves to give mariners a link on the same website as the buoy for a real-time photo showing the entrance to the Port of Nome specifically for weather conditions. We are working with the City IT folks on the mechanics of the arrangement, as well as coordinating with the Marine Exchange, who will facilitate the camera purchase as funded through AOOS. The placement of the camera requires a 5 year agreement (MOU) with the Marine Exchange, which would benefit from a motion from the Commission.

Discussion:

Sheffield asked if this would require an additional tower – Baker replied no. McLarty asked what the usage might be and if there would be additional costs for the live streaming – Baker replied no live streaming, just snapshots every 60 seconds or so. Rowe confirmed that Baker mentioned any costs for additional internet would be included in the agreement with the Marine Exchange – Baker replied yes.

Motion:

The following motion was moved by Sheffield and seconded by Rowe:

Support entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) for the joint operation of a weather camera at the Port entrance with a public viewing link – through funding from the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS).

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Sheffield, McLarty, Smithhisler, Henderson, Rowe

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

John Keeley with Phoenix Marine – asked about whether the grant funding agencies would allow grantees to keep remaining funds if value engineering was used to lower project costs? Baker replied no, any unused funds would have to be returned to the funding agencies.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

C. Sheffield – no comments.

C. Smithhisler – no comments.

C. Rowe – only one; just curious about the cleanup issues from last meeting? HM Stotts said the items from west beach were removed. The vast majority of the area around the container has also been cleaned up.

C. McLarty – thank you to HM Stotts for the cleanup of those areas, and my apologies for missing the ramp work session as that is one that I wanted to be at.

C. Henderson – I like the direction that we're going, whether it's the assist tug or the weather camera as these are all good things for the users. Really excited about that as well as all the cruise ships that are coming in and that City staff are taking a creative approach – and agree with Joy in the approach to the assist tug in getting other vessels into the dock as this will stimulate more activity and other business at the port.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is SCHEDULED to September 20, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 20th day of September 2018.

ATTEST:


Joy Baker, Port Director


Jim West, Chairman

