

Mayor
John K. Handeland
Manager
Glenn Steckman
Clerk
Bryant Hammond



Nome Common Council
Scot Henderson
Doug Johnson
Mark Johnson
Adam Martinson
Cameron Piscoya
M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

102 Division St. ▪ P.O. Box 281 ▪ Nome, Alaska 99762 ▪ Phone (907) 443-6663 ▪ Fax (907) 443-5345

WORK SESSION - 5:30 PM

- A. Legislative Update with State Delegation and City of Nome Lobbyists,

VERBAL

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Form Submission of March 19, 2023 from Cindy Frankenberry to City of Nome re: Thank you for Supporting Iditarod,

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- B. Email of March 21, 2023 from Alaska Commercial to City of Nome re: Requesting Support for SNAP Petition,

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- C. Memorandum of March 24, 2023 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Tax Forgiveness,

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- D. City of Nome FY24 Budget Calendar,

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CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: March 14 - 24, 2023,

VERBAL

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: March 14 - 24, 2023,

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- B. Port & Capital Projects Update - March 2023,

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- C. February 15, 2023 Nome Port Commission Regular Meeting Minutes,

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CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: March 14 - 24, 2023,

VERBAL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

From: [Nome Alaska](#)
To: [Bryant Hammond](#)
Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 8:23:00 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Submitted on Sunday, March 19, 2023 - 9:46pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 98.247.177.202

Submitted values are:

First Name Cindy

Last Name Frankenberry

Email jabberwockynw@yahoo.com

Question/Comment

Thank you City of Nome for being one of the sponsors for the 51st running of the Iditarod this year. Your contributions help make these mushers dreams come true. Thank you for opening up your town for all of us around the world who enjoy The Greatest Race on Earth. Nome will always be special in our hearts. See you next year!

Happy mushing, Cindy

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.nomealaska.org/node/7/submission/1548>

From: [Shweta Banthia](#)
To: [Shweta Banthia](#)
Cc: [Kyle Hill](#)
Subject: Join us in a petition for SNAP recipients!
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 12:08:50 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[2023 - SNAP Freight Advocacy - FNS Letter.pdf](#)

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Hello,

Currently, the regulations governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) do not allow SNAP recipients to pay for freight using their Alaska Quest card when ordering groceries online or over the phone.

Given the geographic and supply chain complexities in Alaska, this is a major issue for SNAP recipients living in rural Alaska.

Alaska Commercial Co. are petitioning the USDA to allow SNAP recipients in villages off the road system in Alaska to pay for freight with their Alaska Quest Card. We will be grateful if you can join us in this petition by signing the attached letter to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

We will be submitting this petition next week. Please email your signed letter to sbanthia@alaskacommercial.com by Friday March 24th.

Kind regards,

Shweta

Shweta Banthia

Strategy, Planning & Analytics Manager

Cell: (907) 301-5193

www.alaskacommercial.com



Secretary Tom Vilsack
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20228

March 16, 2023

RE: Using SNAP benefits to cover shipping to rural Alaska

Secretary Vilsack,

We are writing to urge the USDA to amend the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Online legislation to allow SNAP benefits to cover shipping costs to rural Alaskan villages.

Currently, the federal statute authorizing SNAP Online states that SNAP benefits cannot cover delivery costs for groceries purchased online. This is a reasonable policy almost everywhere in the United States, but it is a major issue in rural Alaska given the geographic and supply chain complexities that we face every day. Issues with the current legislation include:

- **Food security:** The current legislation is exacerbating food insecurity in many Alaskan villages. 51 villages off the Alaskan road system do not have a SNAP authorized grocery store in their community. SNAP participants in these villages often travel to a nearby village via airplane, ATV, or snowmachine to use their SNAP benefits—a major barrier for low-income households.
- **Nutrition:** In the 131 Alaskan villages off the road system that have a SNAP authorized grocery store in the community, the current legislation is harming overall nutrition. Rural Alaska grocery stores often have little to no fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, and other healthy food. SNAP participants in these villages are largely limited to non-perishable groceries because the SNAP Online legislation cannot cover shipping costs for online purchases.
- **Value for money:** Food prices in the most remote Alaskan villages are extremely high. SNAP participants in rural Alaska could buy far more food with their SNAP benefits if they could purchase from a grocery store in a nearby hub community and cover the shipping cost into their community. Unfortunately, this is not allowed under the SNAP Online legislation.

The current Farm Bill discussions are a timely opportunity to fix the SNAP Online legislation and ensure that it works for the unique logistical challenges of rural Alaska.

We request that you allow SNAP participants off the Alaska road system to cover shipping costs with their SNAP benefits. We are happy to provide a full list of villages or any other information you require.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Name

Title

Signature



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 24, 2023

FROM: Bryant Hammond, City Clerk

TO: Mayor and Nome Common Council

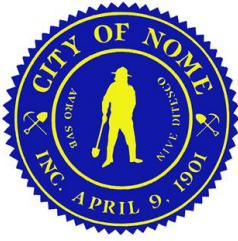
SUBJECT: Write off Balance for Personal/Business Property Account 50482

Mr. Yager stored a container at the Port in 2015 and 2016, making payments for both the storage fees and personal/business property taxes in those years. The 20' container was valued at \$2,500. He did not make payments for personal property tax after 2016. In June 2019, the Clerk's Office received a response to a mailed tax bill saying that he no longer owned the property in question. We explained that since he did not appeal within the time allotted and that the tax roll was certified for the year. A copy of his letter was filed for changes to the 2020 tax roll, where the value was reduced to 0\$. However, he did not pay the disputed taxes for 2017, 2018, and 2019. He was given the option of writing to the Council to request forgiveness. To my knowledge, he has not done so; rather he has called the Port and the Clerk's Office several times asking for forgiveness. Suspecting a letter will not be forthcoming, this memo is an attempt to clean up the account.

Since being billed, account 50482 has accumulated \$117.12 in taxes, penalty and interest. This is a similar amount that has been forgiven for Port users that have written asking for forgiveness in the past.

The Clerk's Office asks the Common Council to settle the question of forgiveness on this account – shall the Clerk's Office write off the accumulated taxes, penalty and interest on account 50482?

Thank you.



FY 2024 BUDGET CALENDAR

Date	Description
February 3	Budget instructions and worksheets are distributed by Finance Director to Department Heads
February 3	Staffing/Personnel templates are distributed by Finance to Department Heads
February 10	Administration distributes Goals & Accomplishments templates to Department Heads
February 13	Distribute FY 2024 Budget Calendar to Council
March 3	Department Heads submit completed budget worksheets to Finance and Goals & Accomplishments to Administration
March 3	Department Heads submit completed Staffing/Personnel requests to Finance
March 6	Rescheduled Council Meeting / Council work session to discuss City budget priorities for FY 2024
March 15	Notice of Assessment sent by City Clerk to Real and Personal Property Owners
Mar 27 - 31	School Administration meets with City Manager and Finance Director on NPS FY 2024 budget
Mar 27 - 31	Department Heads meet with City Manager and Finance Director on draft Goals & Accomplishments and preliminary FY 2024 Budget
April 10	Council joint work session #1 with School Board on FY 2024 School Budget
April 24	Council work session #2 on FY 2024 City Budgets
April 27	Council work session #3 on FY 2024 City Budgets
May 1	Nome Public School Board shall submit the school budget to the City Council for approval – Deadline to request for appropriation (NCO 2.25.070)
May 3 - 5	Board of Equalization



FY 2024 BUDGET CALENDAR – CONT'D

Date	Description
May 8	Council Work Session #4 on FY 2024 City Budgets
May 15	Council Work Session #5 on FY 2024 City Budgets (if needed)
May 19	Administration/Finance submits proposed FY 2024 City Budgets for 1 st reading
May 22	Council Regular Meeting – 1 st reading of FY 2024 City Budgets
May 22	School appropriation set by Nome City Council (NCO 2.25.070) "By May 31 st , the city council shall determine the total amount of money to be made available...and furnish the school board with a statement of the sum to be made available"
May 22	Mill rate set by Nome Common Council per AS 29.45.20 (b) "A municipality shall annually determine the rate of levy before June 15"
June 12	Council Regular Meeting – 2 nd reading of FY 2024 City Budgets
June 16	Tax bills sent
July 1	Budget implementation and monitoring

TO: Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager's report

March 24, 2023

Iditarod:

By all reports, the Iditarod race for 2023 was successful. Businesses reported strong business sales and a return to more normal business conditions expected from the race. The craft-fair at OSJ was busy and there was a strong turnout at events scheduled throughout town. Some people commented about the lack of downtown sirens greeting the mushers, but as you know, the downtown siren was impacted by the fire at public works.

Everyone, who previously had visited Nome, had a positive comment about the improvements to the Mini and the Visitors Center. The Carrie M. McLain had programming related to the Iditarod as well as the Kegoayah Kozga Library.

Public Works Building:

AML/JIA staff came up to Nome this past Tuesday to evaluate the damage from the recent fire in the building. It has been determined the fire was accidental. As part of the repairs, a portion of the third-floor ceiling will need to be replaced, the second-floor ceiling will need to be replaced and all of the first-floor ceiling will be need to be replaced either because of fire damage (third Floor) or water damage. The rest of the third floor will need to be repainted.

The downtown siren will need to be repaired or replaced due to fire damage. Tools are being ordered to replace the ones that were destroyed including the brand-new spray painter purchased this past summer.

Plans are being made to relocate public works operations to the snow dump for the summer while the insulation and sheet rock are being replaced and the interior of the building painted. The City will need to out to bid on the insulation and sheet rock replacement. Everything else will be handled in house.

As part of the repairs, the third floor will probably get a new layout. Another concern that is being discussed is what is being stored in the building. If we continue to store city records and other important and other potentially historical items, there should be an additional level of protection such as carbon dioxide fire protection system.

City Hall:

Instead of the Rec Center going out for heating and ventilation system replacement, I am recommending that the city go out to bid to replace the heating and ventilation system of city hall this summer. The project will be ready to go out to bid soon as the electrical plans are signed off. The Rec Center designs are still being worked on. The city has \$1,000,000+ in ARPA funds available for this project. The project is anticipated to cost \$1,100,000.00

General Obligation Bonds:

The city has numerous projects needs that have been identified over the past ten to fifteen years that have not been addressed. The Rec Center heat and ventilation system, the locker room and sauna improvement plan, long term storage needs, ice hockey facility, improvements to other building heating systems, the city radio and communication system, etc.

While staff is working on grant funding to assist to pay for some of these projects, the list will continue to grow unless we consider a more aggressive approach.

OSHA training:

Matt Barone and I attended a two-day training course on OSHA regulations which is the tip of the iceberg compared to the hours of training needed in all areas of OSHA regulation.

The training was helpful to assist us in identifying improvements needed in our facilities and to improve the handling of chemicals and their proper storage in our facilities.

Federal Engineering:

A representative of Federal Engineering was in Nome to begin the review of the radio transmission problems being experienced by city personnel. The plan is to develop by May a preliminary plan for the city to review for radio improvements.

Work Session on Monday:

Jay Sterne, our lobbyist in Washington, DC, will here at your work session on Monday night to discuss what is happening in the Congress and our priorities. I have also invited Wendy Chamberlin, our state lobbyist, State Senator Donny Olsen and State Representative Neal Foster to also attend to listen to the concerns in Nome.

Port Commission:

The Port Commission met this past week in what was a very quick meeting to discuss the port expansion project and the port tariff.

FEMA:

Staff met with FEMA officials to discuss the city's submittal for reimbursements in regards to Typhoon Merbok. The city will start submitting the detailed information requested by FEMA over the next several

weeks. I sent a letter requesting that the rates for fuel and rental vehicles be at a higher rate than the normal schedule used by FEMA. We are waiting a response from our request.

Regional Planning Meeting:

A meeting that was organized by Kawerak was held with representatives from Kawerak, BSRHA, NSHC, HUD and the Denali Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss housing and infrastructure needs in Nome and the region. One interesting tidbit of information that was came out in the meeting, is that the Nome Census District has been identified as the prime area of growth for the next ten years for Alaska.

Budget Prep for 2023/2024:

Nickie and her staff have submitted budget materials for department staff to review. Staff has been submitting goals and personnel needs for review as part of budget preparations.

Technology Difficulties in Council Chambers:

The City is still having technical difficulties with being able to broadcast our meetings. ICE that installed the system almost three years ago during COVID will attempt t correct the problem again. This week's meeting, we will have Zoom available but no streaming capabilities over you tube.

Police Radios in cars:

For your information, three in-car police radios systems are being replaced that are the oldest radios that the city owns.



Memo

To: Glenn Steckman – City Manager
From: Joy L. Baker – Port Director *JLB*
CC: Mayor Handeland & Common Council; Port Commission
Date: March 20, 2023
Re: Monthly PD Report/Capital Projects Update – March 2023

Administrative:

Planning is underway for recruiting temporary staff for the 2023 ice-free season, as well as continued recruitment for a full-time Purchasing/Office Manager that is shared with Public Works. In addition, we are planning for 2023 maintenance/repairs and purchases, along with budgeting for the FY 2024.

Causeway:Arctic Deep Draft Port – Nome Modifications Pre-Construction Engineering & Design (PED):

The project team continue to respond to comments provided by the NOAA/NMFS team on the application submitted in Dec 2022, and NOAA conducted a peer review on 9 March 2023, which appeared to go very well. A timeline on the approval of this required permit is anticipated for some time in April, but could be pushed out to May – in the meantime, NOAA will continue to coordinate with the City and Corps permitting leads.

The Corps has finished calculating the credit due the City for design changes to the steepness of the armored slopes, and the rock no longer needed due to the full-length dock. When reconciled against the costs of the additional E/F fill material required for the full-length dock, the City's credit for the above was fully captured, and there remained a balance due the Corps for the increased fill quantities.

The District has not yet received guidance from Corps HQ on the cost-share modification to 90/10%, and has recently requested additional funding under the original 75/25% Design Agreement, executed in June 2021. While the 90/10% cost-share was adopted into law in December 2022, the City awaits execution of the guidance required for the District to adjust the cost-share table, thereby reducing the amount already paid by the City from 25% to 10%, and the excess funds returned to the City for use in construction.

Local Service Facilities (LSF) Design Integration:

The City's designers did get their 95% packages submitted by 24 Feb 2023, with the Corps reviewers (across various states), providing comments back to the District and City design teams last week. Responses to all comments must be completed and submitted by 3 April 2023, then the package will move through the Corps' Agency Technical Review (ATR) process, and a few other levels, before the 100% design package deadline of 12 May 2023.

Causeway Bridge Repairs and Sediment Under Bridge:

The Corps is still preparing a contract solicitation to be released in the summer of 2023, with work now pushed out to the summer of 2024. Sediment that has accumulated under and west of the bridge is

being folded into the new Maintenance Dredging solicitation in Fall 2023 for the 2024-2026 contract.

Item B.

Arctic Port Reception Facility – Solid Waste Disposal (Incinerator):

New funding opportunities are being evaluated for this project,

Harbor:

Inner Harbor CAP 107 Study (Deepen/Widen the Inner Basin):

The City continues to make monthly inquiries on the status of this project, with District reporting they are awaiting direction from Corps HQ and their Division office.

Launch Ramp Replacement Project:

Hughes & Associates have finished crunching the survey data and submitted results that do not show any significant shoaling, which is good news. However, the survey showed scouring along a portion of the toe of the launch ramp. After reviewing with a small in-house team, a solution was reached that will bring the scour hole back up to grade. The work will be done after spring break up 2023.

Port Industrial Pad:

West Nome Tank Farm (Property Conveyance):

The City has made regular inquiries with the USAF, and has learned that a new project lead has been identified for this property transfer, and the AF is working to get up to speed on this significantly delayed issue.

Thornbush Laydown Site Development:

Funds to complete design/construction are being sought at federal and state levels. Dredge spoils from two Corps projects (port expansion and inner harbor deepening) are currently being evaluated for disposal into the undeveloped 9-acre portion of this property. These spoils would require dewatering before serving as a hardened base layer to the specified fill and surfacing to complete development. Discussions on this disposal are underway between the City and ADEC.

Port Rd. Improvements (ADOT Project cost-shared with City/Port):

The City talked with AKDOT Northern Region on 10 Feb 2023, and confirmed that the Port Rd project was postponed to 2024. Due to the conflict with the construction window of Phase 1 of the port expansion, there will be additional discussion/coordination on the Port Rd construction window. Port Rd Improvements will need to follow the completion of Phase 1 (anticipated to be 2026/27). There is talk of maintenance needed in 2023.

Italics reflects no change in project information from previous report.
Additional details available upon request.

City Manager
Glenn Steckman

Port Director
Joy Baker

Harbormaster
Lucas Stotts



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Nome, Alaska 99762
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**NOME PORT COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 15th 2023 @ 5:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL**

Nome Port Commission
Jim West, J
Charlie Lean, Vice
Item C.
Derek McLarty
Shane Smithhisler
Russell Rowe
Gay Sheffield
Drew McCann

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 5:34 pm by Chairman Lean at the City Hall Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Smithhisler, Lean, McCann, McLarty (telephonically)

Absent: West, Rowe, Sheffield

Also Present: Joy Baker (telephonically)

In the audience: Nome Nugget- Diana Haecker

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Lean asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve made by McCann, seconded by Smithhisler
At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean; McCann; McLarty; Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

Discussion: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 19th, 2023

Motion made by Lean, seconded by McCann to approve the minutes with Commissioner Sheffield's written additions added;

Discussion:

- Lean noted that in these minutes he was not trying to say that the current size of the crab being caught were illegal, but that majority of the male crab are sub legal. And that smaller crab being handled were often subject to frostbite.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: McCann; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 23-01-26 NOAA -Upcoming Changes to NWS Marine Forecasts
- 23-02-06 Ntnl. Snow & Ice Data Center -Arctic Sea Ice News and Analysis
- 23-02-08 Arctic Today -Alaska's Bering Sea Crab Crisis is a Sign of Big Changes

Discussion:

- Harbormaster Stotts spoke briefly about NOAA's changing marine forecast zones.
- Commissioner Lean commented that he was glad to see that the boundary for Nome's new marine zone is at the mouth of the Sinuk River and Stuart island as those are typically areas the sea-state changes.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

- Commissioner Lean commented on the Opilio Crab crisis, that the decline was unanticipated, unlike the decline in King Crab. Opilio Crab lost an age class in between when it was first noticed and by the time it should have matured. Opilio Crab are particularly cold loving animals and when the Bering Sea warms they do not do well. Though we do not know the cause, it is a bad omen because it could easily occur again.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- HM Stotts provided an update on;
 - AR collection efforts, and progress on impoundments and payment plans.
 - Updated 2023 cruise and other ship schedules with 13 calls total, for 7 at anchor and 6 at the dock.
 - The SCENIC ECLIPSE will be in on 5.27.23 which could be early depending on ice.
 - The OSHORO MARU will also visit Nome twice and require 24hr security while in port.
 - Maintenance, repair and planning.
 - Update on 2022 CPV funds expended on cruise ship shore-side landing items such as barriers, signs, cones, etc.

Discussion:

- Commissioner McCann asked about night time security staff schedules.
 - HM Stotts stated that we adjust staff schedules to accommodate these types of vessels and sometime utilize PWR staff that hold a TWIC card.
- Anna Rose McArthur with KNOM asked if this was the final vessel schedule.
 - HM Stotts stated that the schedule is always subject to change due to operations or weather, but at this time, it is the most up to date.

PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PD Baker provided an overview of the following:

- 23-02-10 Port Director/Projects Status Report
 - PD Baker stated that we are still on schedule to submit the 95% design package by the 24th of Feb, 2023. This will begin many layers of reviews and approvals, after which, the design team will need to respond with questions or requested changes.
 - PD Baker indicated the NMFS application was making progress through the NOAA reviewers and an approval is anticipated by early May.
 - We are still on hold for the CAP-107 study with the Corps, with the District and Division going back and forth on how to identify the alternative they will accept.

- DOT's Port Rd Improvements project was slated to start in 2024 but after discussions with DOT on the Port Expansion Project starting in 2024 also, the Port Road project was push out to be bid in 2026, with notice to proceed given in 2027.
 - It was determined that it would be an inefficient and ineffective use of state and local funds to improve the road and tear it up through 4 years of construction.
- Realignment of Center Creek Road was also pushed out to 2025.
- USACE and the City are planning on having a public meeting on the port expansion on May 17, 2023 at the Mini.
- We received the 2nd half of the CPI adjustment from the Anchorage CPI-U that we will use to adjust the rates for Tariff 16.3. The 5-year average results in an increase of 6.18%.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- FY2023 Port Operating Budget - Mid Year Amendment.
- FY2023 Port Capital Budget - Mid Year Amendment.

Discussion:

- PD Baker provided an overview of the budget and walked the PC through each section including Causeway, Harbor and Industrial Pad changes and highlights.
 - Garbage costs are going up drastically so staff are conducting an assessment on fees.
 - McLarty asked if there is anything we can do about non-port users dumping in the port dumpsters. Perhaps the City could cost share on garbage fees.
 - PD Baker stated this has been a long-term problem and we have worked with the public to ensure that garbage does not end up on the streets. Staff utilize cameras to catch the most aggressive offenders.
 - CM Steckman stated that we provide free dump day on Saturday, more trash cans and a marketing plan to keep Nome clean.
 - Lean stated that there is no other good place beside the Port to get ride of used oil and knows that service to the public is greatly appreciated.
- PD Baker also gave an overview of the proposed project laydown sites and material haul routes.
- Smithhisler asked with Joy retiring are we looking at a replacement? PD Baker and CM Steckman are currently working together on that plan.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

- Smithhisler liked the Port asset replacement schedule.
- McCann commented that the second piece of the asset replacement schedule is a formal agreement that those items will be replaced when their time comes up.
- McLarty – Good meeting and thanked PD Baker for the information.
- Lean stated we need to keep our eye on unintended costs from items like garbage and oil. It is important for the Port to set a leadership example in oil disposal.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by for adjournment at 6:54pm.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 23rd day of March 2023.


Jim West, Chairman

ATTEST:


Joy Baker, Port Director