The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 5:30 pm by Commissioner McLarty at the City Hall Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL
Members Present: Smithhisler, West, McCann, Sheffield, McClarty
Absent: Lean, Rowe
Also Present: Glenn Steckman and Joy Baker (via Zoom)
In the audience: Howard Farley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Commissioner McLarty asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve made by Smithhisler, seconded by McCann.

At the Roll Call:
Ayes: West; McCann; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler;
Nays:
Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
April 21, 2022
Motion made by Smithhisler, seconded by McCann to approve minutes;

Discussion:
• Sheffield expressed concern on the minutes not reflecting discussion verbatim.
• PD Baker stated it is the City’s practice to do summary minutes instead of verbatim.

At the Roll Call:
Ayes: West; McCann; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler;
Nays:
Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS
• Howard Farley shared he will have an addition to his vessel fleet, to be used as needed; He plans to have it available for various uses during the season.
• Sheffield requested the Port Commission adopt rules of order for meetings.
COMMUNICATIONS
- 22-04-07 DOT – SOA M-5 Route Extension - MARAD
- 22-05-04 KNOM – Nome Port Expansion Project Needs Additional Funding by November
- 22-05-16 NOAA – West Coast Alaska Winter Storm Impacts

Discussion:
- PD Baker summarized the written communications.
  - MARAD Route Designation Request; with a final letter showing updated information.
  - NOAA holding virtual webinar opportunity on June 13 regarding forecasting winter storms.
- Sheffield asked about schedules for anticipated Research Vessels and other marine traffic.
  - PD Baker stated schedules may be provided for Research Vessels/Cruise Ships; schedules are not provided by cargo shipping companies as schedules change regularly. Not all science vessel missions have secured space yet.
- CM Steckman stated that:
  - Discussions regarding perceived conflict must be expressed prior to beginning of meeting.
  - Verbally provided Rules of Conduct for review by commissioners/participants.

COMMISSIONER’S UPDATES
- Sheffield stated she is invited to National Academies of US Coast Guard Authorities to represent the City of Nome and Port.
  - PD Baker added Sheffield will be sharing input on Arctic risks, opportunities, and challenges.

HARBORMASTER’S REPORT
- PD Baker provided a brief update;
  - HM Stotts has been occupied with Public Works, but prepping for season startup.
  - Siobhan Bradley-office starting 6 June in front office; Port did not receive any apps for full-time position intended to be shared with Public Works.
  - Still seeking applicants for Dock Watch, Deputy Harbormaster; both positions are seasonal.

PORT DIRECTOR’S REPORT
PD Baker provided an overview on progress tied to the port expansion:
- City’s $175M in matching funds for phase 1 of expansion project passed the Legislature in the State’s FY2023 Operating Budget; waiting for Governor to do vetoes and sign the budget.
  - PD Baker recognized Senator Olson’s & Representative Foster’s efforts in keeping the City’s match funding in the budget to build phase 1 of the port expansion.
  - Senator Sullivan: responsible for provision in the draft WRDA bill to change the federal/local cost-share to 90/10 instead of 65/35 – WRDA bill moving in Congress.
  - Congress Young being recognized for his efforts in driving the ADDP at Nome.
  - Spring 2023: will shift to on-shore development to tie to the off-shore construction.
- Cost estimates are expected to increase due to the 15% price increase for steel.
- Phase 1: Entire docks, roads, utilities; the expansion of the Causeway.
PD Baker stated the included spreadsheets provide insight on the grant applications that have been applied for; targeting what the money would build, and the cost shares anticipated.
- Regional Port Reception Facility: the ability and capacity to receive waste from the vessels.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS
- FY2023 Port and Harbor Proposed Budgets;
  - Increased labor, fuel, services, equipment and shipping costs are expected to affect operating costs of the Port and Harbor; some with significant delivery delays
Discussion:
• Commissioner West stated budgeted gravel revenue is expected to be higher than projected.
• Smithhisler asked about budgeting for full-time positions to attract more applicants.
  • PD Baker stated challenges are city-wide any responsive labor pool being so small.
  • McLarty suggested raising the wages to increase attraction for seasonal applicants.
    ▪ PD Baker stated the Port cannot arbitrarily increase wages to entice applicants.
• Smithhisler noted the budgeted wages states previously $220,000 and is now $253,000.
  ▪ PD Baker replied the office position was changed to year-round for sharing with Public Works, and 3-year delay in labor negotiations was finalized and went in effect 1 Jan 2022.
  ▪ There was no response to the year-round office position so a seasonal hire was chosen to get through the summer.
• Sheffield inquired on the $144K for events; PD Baker indicated that line item encompasses many elements associated with the Port & Harbor Conference at the end of September.

Motion:
The following motion was made by Chairman West and seconded by Sheffield:

Recommend the Nome Common Council adopt the FY2023 Port & Harbor Operating and Capital Budgets as presented:

At the Roll Call:
Ayes: McCann; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler; West;
Nays:
Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS
Howard Farley commented on the waste incinerator. His business does anticipate transporting the waste from vessels to the Port’s harbor.

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS
• West commented we need to thank Senator Olson and Representative Foster with an email, letter, handshake, for their support.
• McCann stated Happy Birthday to Mr. Farley; commented he would like the Port Commission to recognize the efforts of all of our Congressional Delegation and Alaska State Legislators.
• Sheffield commented there should be increased transparency in the meetings regarding the funds for Port Development. Looks forward to being on the same sheet of paper with the City and Port. The Avian Influenza is in wild birds in Alaska, she cautioned on symptoms/contagious of the virus.
• McLarty looks forward to a successful season this summer; thanks Joy for all of her hard work.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion was made by for adjournment at 7:00pm.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 21st day of July 2022.

Joy Baker, Port Director