The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 5:36 pm by Chairman West at the City Hall Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL
Members Present: Smithhisler, Lean, West, McCann, McLarty

Absent: Rowe, Sheffield

Also Present: Joy Baker (virtual), Glenn Steckman

In the audience: Megan Gannon – Nome Nugget; Howard Farley; Greg Knight – KNOM;

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

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

Ayes: Lean; West; McCann; McLarty; Smithhisler
Nays:
Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
February 15\textsuperscript{th}, 2023  Motion made by Lean, seconded by McCann to approve minutes;

Discussion:
• None

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: West; McCann; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean
Nays:
Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS
• Howard Farley
COMMUNICATIONS
- 23-03-13 AK Headlamp Graphite One Update
- 23-03-17 USACE Request for Additional Design Funds

Discussion:
- None

COMMISSIONER’S UPDATES
- None

HARBORMASTER’S REPORT
- Floating Docks – Spring Maintenance Project
- F23 Cruise Passenger Vessel (CPV) Funds $6465 – Potential Projects
- 2020-2022 Facility Garbage Expense vs User Revenue (handout)

Discussion:
- PD Baker detailed maintenance for Floating Docks – 2 pieces of equipment that will be shared with the Public Works team – Sandblasting Machine and a Paint Stripper
  - One set of floats this spring, and other one next spring
- PD Baker stated the F23 Cruise Passenger Vessel (CPV) is part of the State funds, not what the City collects. The City gets $5/head from the CPV funds for each passenger on vessels which call on Nome within the first 7 ports of call on their voyage.
- PD Baker stated the facility garbage expenses are being reconciled due to some incorrect billings, and once resolved, will be shared at an upcoming meeting.
  - Commissioner McCann asked if there was any wiggle room in the budget
    - PD Baker advised more info will be in the next meeting, but some is built in
  - Howard Farley stated Farley Marine assists with Garbage being brought in from Cruise ships.
    - PD Baker stated fees should be charged for use of the harbor dumpsters
    - PD Baker clarified the garbage dumpsters are included with the Docking Permits, but that does not include the commercial usage of said dumpsters.
  - Chairman West stated the garbage contractor should be separate from the utilities to ease disputes process.
  - PD Baker stated there are regulations the apply to garbage coming off foreign-flagged vessels. Farley agreed this is an important discussion prior to the season start.

PORT DIRECTOR’S REPORT
- 23-03-20 Port Director/Projects Status Report
  - 2022 ANC CPI-Urban (5-year average)
  - 2015-2023 Tariff Rate History Report
  - USDOT RAISE Grant Strategy – Ongoing Design Costs

Discussion:
- PD Baker stated things are progressing along with the Corps.
- City’s Design elements are on track with the Corps, in providing LSF details.
- The Corps is planning to complete the causeway bridge repairs, but work is scheduled for 2024.
- Alaska Marine Excavation is on the last year of their 3-year contract – Corps will solicit in winter.
- Commissioner Lean inquired whether the match has been finalized at 90/10
  - PD Baker stated it has become law, but Corps HQ is moving slow to execute the change.
- Commissioner Lean shared the difference between Sea Ice and Freshwater Ice in terms of proceeding through the design steps.
- Commissioner McCann inquired about further delays with the construction/agreement
PD Baker stated there can be no further significant delays based on high visibility
- PD Baker discussed the increase in tariff rates due to CPI increase, shared in the packet, changes will be incorporated into the tariff, which will be labeled as #16.3 and distributed to the public.
- Commissioner McLarty stated increasing beyond the 6.18% CPI would make costs harder/impactful
  - Commissioner Lean and McLarty inquired on the specifics of the 5-year average of the CPI
- PD Baker stated the RAISE grant was submitted on 28 Feb 2023

OLD BUSINESS
- None

NEW BUSINESS
- USDOT PIDP Grant Strategy – Utilities Expansion Construction Funds
  - PD Baker stated intention to use SOA Funds which are eligible for match to Federal Funds $11.25M for the Small Projects at Small Ports Program.
  - This would cover all the costs of utilities in Phase 1; adding to state funds as an additional and helpful source of funding.
  - There is little financial risk, due to the matching funds already being available.

Motion made by McLarty, seconded by McCann, to show support for the USDOT PIDP Grant Application

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

The motion CARRIED.

Discussion:
- Chairman West inquired why the hesitation in decision of the Port Commission in regards to the USDOT PIDP Grant Strategy.
  - Commissioner Smithhisler inquired if no success with this Grant, what options will be left
  - PD Baker stated there are more options, not putting all eggs in one basket, this was the best first opportunity
  - PD Baker stated it is a good opportunity due to the matching benefit

CITIZENS' COMMENTS
- None

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS
- McCann – No Comment
- McLarty – No Comment
- Lean asked for emails not to be sent to his work email, as he is retired and does not check that email often. Office of Subsistence of Land Management is being absorbed by Bureau of Indian Affairs from Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Smithhisler – Should have mentioned for commissioner comments, a transportation committee meeting on Tuesday, Sitnasuak is contracting with Bristol to update the inventory, attempting to get the Port Facility into the inventory, progress is happening after two- or three-years of collaboration.
  - CM Steckman inquired if Nome Eskimo Community had hired an Executive Director yet.
  - Commissioner Smithhisler stated NEC filled the position to address various projects that have been in queue.
- West – Nice to see the guys out drilling and sampling as part of the Corps/Construction project; Hopefully they will be able to get their work complete as it is more expensive when they have to cease work before they are done, then remobilize.
CM Steckman stated there is a Council Work Session on Monday, to get an update from Jay Sterne, our federal lobbyist, and will also include our state lobbyist Wendy Chamberlain, along with Senator Donny Olson and Representative Neal Foster.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion was made by for adjournment at 6:40 pm.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 18th day of May 2023.

ATTEST:
Joy Baker, Port Director

Jim West, Chairman
Derek McLarty