

City Manager
Glenn Steckman

Project Manager
Joy Baker

Harbormaster
Lucas Stotts



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

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**NOME PORT COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 18th 2024 @ 7 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 7 pm by acting Chairman Lean at the City Hall Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: West; McCann

Also Present: PM Baker (zoom); HM Stotts (zoom); Glenn Steckman; Angie Nguyen

In the audience: Megan Gannon – Nome Nugget

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Lean asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve made by Smithhisler, seconded by Sheffield.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Discussion: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 16th, 2023 Regular Mtg.

Motion made by Smithhisler, seconded by Sheffield to approve the minutes as presented.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Discussion: none

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None

COMMUNICATIONS

- 23-12-14 – KUCB News – Fed Fisheries Managers Hold Bering Sea Pollock Steady
- 23-12-14 – KTOO News - NOAA's Arctic Report Card - Climate Change
- 23-12-22 – AAHPA 2024 Scholarship Flyer

Discussion:

- Lean commented on the Fisheries report and noted that there is a Salmon meeting starting the 19th on the US/Canadian treaty regarding Salmon. The Chinook salmon have been on the decline for 20 years and the Chum have been for about half that, with the last 4 years being most intense. Bering Seas Sockeye have been strong the last several years, except for Norton Sound. All other salmon are not doing well. Salmon are also being found in the Canadian/Arctic Slope area where they have not been observed in the past.
- Rowe commented that he has been working with some fisheries groups doing aerial studies of rivers involving climate change and fish habitat and it was very interesting.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

- None.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- HM Stotts gave an overview of the following;
 - FY24 2nd Qtr Report
 - AR/collections efforts overview; currently 32 port accounts past due/delinquent which port staff are working with on payment plans. Accounts that are non-responsive will be included in February/March impoundment rounds.
 - Working with folks at the UAF earthquake and Tsunami center to develop resources for Nome to educate the public and Port users on hazards and information on tsunamis and earthquakes. This will help develop better emergency management practices for the Port and City of Nome.
 - Bering Sea Gold will be filming end of January for Season 13 BSG on the Ice and ice miners will be gearing up to be out on the Ice.
 - Update on regular office work by port staff with good progress.

Discussion:

- Lean commented that the ice has not been in the best shape last week and is very treacherous this time of year, but is now starting to set up better. Stated that the commercial crab season opens February 15th.

PROJECT MANAGER REPORT

- PM Baker gave a brief overview of the 24-01-15 PM Monthly Projects Report
 - Have been busy with notifications on the upcoming Strategic Development Plan public meetings at Old St Joes church next week. We have consultants coming in to get input from the public. We are hoping all of the PC members can attend the of the meetings, but especially the Wednesday Work Session to encourage good discussion.
 - Stated the City recently signed the Project Partnering Agreement (PPA) with the USACE and they are working to get the Project Solicitation Package out sometime in late February.
 - Next Thursday at noon in Chambers there will be a USACE team coming to Nome for the ceremonial signing of the PPA. Council, PC, Media and others have been invited.

- Port staff are still working with FEMA on several items such as the Inner Harbor dredging to clean up sediment along the South Wall and East gravel ramp; as well as the repairs out at Cape Nome, both to be performed in the 2024 ice free season.
- Port staff are also working on potential Tariff changes which we hope to bring to you in February. We are hoping to have the 2024 Anchorage CPI adjustment, and will bring recommended PAX/Facility fees scheduled to begin in 2024. There are also some language changes on impounding equipment that the City attorney is currently drafting.

Discussion:

- Sheffield asked if we sign the PPA next week, when will the RFP be awarded?
 - PM Baker stated they are projecting a date sometime in February for the contract solicitation to go out on the street and will not be awarded until later in the summer of 2024.
- Smithhisler asked if there were any other items left for the USACE to get done for Phase 1 to start such as the Contract Labor agreement.
 - PM Baker stated, no, that should not delay anything but is something they are working on.
- McLarty asked if the bid will be awarded to the lowest bidder?
 - PM Baker stated with will be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- PON Tariff No. 16.3 – Recommended Revisions

Discussion:

- PM Baker stated that there are some language changes in the tariff we are looking at;
 - Page 7 has some language dealing with impounded items. Some of these do not follow standard rules for impoundment such as vessels and vehicles. They City attorney is looking into these language changes to clean this section up and streamline the process.
 - Page 21 has the section on Passenger fees and the Facility Charge for cruise ships. This section only ran from 2021 to 2023, so we need to project new rates starting 2024.
 - Page 24 has the CPI adjustment which does not need approval by the council, as it is already a part of the Tariff. We do not yet have the rate but will soon.
- WPM Baker stated that we will need the PC to look at Page 7 and 21 items and give recommendations we can then bring to the council and they get it out to the users in March.

This was tabled for next months meeting to discuss more in depth.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

- Sheffield commented that we recently had a 4.6 earthquake on Sunday- it was about 30 miles NE of Brevig which was felt in around Nome. Stated we did have a Polar bear with ok body condition that was found dead at Utqiagvik in October. The lab results just came back and determined the bear died from Avian Influenza. Possibly that particular bear ate a contaminated bird. There are events going on in the southern half of the Pacific Ocean (Argentina and Peru) that are causing mass mortality events for sealions and elephant seals that indicates the transmission rate may have changed. CDC is seeking more information. This coming 2024 summer, if anyone see something weird in our marine resources, they report that to Kawerak or Sea Grant so they can get the work out. Sheffield also stated UAF NWC and UAF Alaska Sea Grant are hosting the Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference 2-4 April.

- Smithhisler commented that the tariff rate study was interesting and is curious to see how much this may help port staff and the PC.
- Rowe commented that a lot of PAX fees and facility charges for other ports are posted online. It looks like several ports charge a little more than Nome, but also provide more services than Nome does. Stated that airports do a similar thing with passenger facility charges (PFC) which DOT has a cap on at \$4.50 per PAX. Airport can decide if they want to charge less than that; Anchorage charges \$3.40. Feels we should keep the term at 3 years so we not locked into something that may need to change as Nome begins to provide more services. Feels we should not increase it too much too soon.
- McLarty none.
- Lean stated that it as good to see everyone and it is good to see the upcoming public meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Sheffield for adjournment at 7:50 pm.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 15th day of February 2024.



Jim West, Chairman

ATTEST:



Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster