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Harbormaster
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**NOME PORT COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 15th 2024 @ 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL**

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

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 6:30 pm by acting Chairman West at the City Hall Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Smithhisler; Lean; McLarty; Sheffield; West; McCann

Absent: Rowe

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

In the audience: Megan Gannon – Nome Nugget

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve made by West, seconded by Lean.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean; Smithhisler; McCann; McLarty; Sheffield; West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Discussion: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 18th, 2024 Regular Mtg.

Motion made by West, seconded by McCann to approve the minutes as presented.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: McLarty; Smithhisler; Sheffield; McCann; Lean; West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Discussion: none

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None

COMMUNICATIONS

- 24-01-25 – NEWS RELEASE USACE – City and Corps sign partnership agreement
- 24-02-01 – Arctic Today – Red Sea disruptions could be avoided in future by Arctic shipping, which may trouble ecosystems
- 24-02-09 – Arctic Today – No Shipments from Russia's Arctic LNG 2 Until March as Sanctions Block Delivery of LNG Carriers

Discussion:

- None.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

- Commissioner Sheffield stated there was traffic in the Straits January into February, involving two vessels drifting due to issues.
- Commissioner McCann stated the Alaska State Defense Force is conducting some local drills this weekend with a focus on coastal watch.
- Commissioner Lean stated there was a backlog of LNG vessels with no abilities to offload items. Lean mentioned there are research options and funding addressed to Congress concerning salmon for redistribution.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- Port Office Update – Impoundment Status/FY25 Budget Prep
- Repair and Maintenance Update
 - High Mast Lighting replacements – HM Stotts reported it was difficult to source since COVID. Ten light total have been ordered: two extra lights are ordered to keep on hand, four lights for the City Dock, four lights for West Gold Dock; Plans to install the lights are anticipated for the end of July for the FY25 season.
 - Port Restroom Upgrades/Possible New Locations – Portable Restroom Trailers with operating toilets/facilities, would be useful at other community functions as needed. Existing facilities are pumped via hired local company, Suck-N-Shine. The cost for Portable Restroom Trailers are estimated to be \$20,000-\$50,000 for smaller units.
- 2024 USACE NOM020 – Post Typhoon Murbok Causeway Bridge Repairs update – Bristol Environmental was awarded the job again.

Discussion:

- HM Stotts stated Port staff is focusing on account reconciliation. Collections efforts are in progress to bring down past due debts.
- Commissioner Smithhisler asked how the portable restroom facilities will be stored.
 - HM Stotts stated he discussed options with Public Works Director Cushman to determine best storage options or if these are even the best choice for Nome.

PROJECT MANAGER REPORT

- PM Baker gave a brief overview of the 24-02-12 PM Monthly Projects Report
 - Funding Opportunities vs Projects

Discussion:

- PM Baker stated Phase B will begin late March, early April. The Corps is pushing the Phase 1 solicitation packet out the end of February 2024. The project is anticipated to begin June 2025.
 - 2024 Season – Cape/Jetty Repair. Two grant applications will be submitted.

- Chair West asked if the contractor dredging the inner harbor is the same contractor hired in previous years. PM Baker stated that is the intent, pending documents to finalize award of the bid.
- Commissioner McLarty asked what the cost/award will be. PM Baker stated estimates are still underway with ranges of \$1M - \$3M.
- Commissioner Sheffield stated considering the incorporation of subcommittees to assist with organization and communication regarding projects.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- PON Tariff No. 16.3 Markup – Recommended Revisions

Discussion:

- PM Baker stated that there is a 6.34% increase to fees and charges in align with the CPI increase;
 - The Passenger Fees and Facility Charges for cruise ships were discussed.

Motion made by Commissioner McLarty, seconded by Commissioner Sheffield, to adopt the Tariff No. 16.3 revisions with addition of a \$5.00 Passenger Fee, leaving the \$2.50 Facility Charge fee; Changes to verbiage on page 26 of Tariff.

Ayes: McCann; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean; West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Motion made by Commissioner McLarty, seconded by Commissioner Sheffield, to request the City of Nome make a grant application to the RAISE Program for the Snake River Moorage; Phase 2 & Phase 3 of design fees.

Ayes: Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler; West; McCann; Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

- Sheffield commented WAISC is coming to Nome during April 2nd-4th, 2024. The theme is Western Alaska in Transition. Sheffield stated it would be nice for a representative of the City of Nome or the Port Commission present an update regarding the Port of Nome Expansion Project.
- McCann commented the Strategic Plans Meetings went well last month and he appreciated the public input at the meetings.
- Smithhisler commented it was exciting to have the Corps in Nome. Smithhisler stated Mayor Handeland did a good job welcoming the Corps.
- West stated he appreciates Mayor John Handeland's efforts with welcoming the Corps in town.
- McLarty none.
- Lean none.

ADJOURNMENT

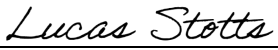
Motion was made by McCann for adjournment at 7:30 pm. The next Regular Meeting will be March 21, 2024 at 5:30pm

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 21th day of March 2024.



Jim West, Chairman

ATTEST:



Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster