

**City Manager**  
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**Harbormaster**  
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**NOME PORT COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 18<sup>th</sup> 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 6:31 pm by Chairman West at the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Smithhisler; Rowe

Also Present: PM Baker (zoom); HM Stotts

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 Sheffield, seconded by Lean.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean; West; McCann; Sheffield; McLarty

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Discussion: none

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 Regular Mtg.

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

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: West; McCann; Sheffield; McLarty; Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

Discussion: none

## **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- None

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- 24-01-31 Arctic Shipping Update - Arctic Council Working Group
- 24-04-08 Western Alaska tribes, outraged by bycatch. turn up heat on fisheries managers and trawlers.
- 24-04-09 Report on the Arctic Capabilities of the US Armed Forces – summary
- 24-04-13 Planned Research Vessel Movements- 2024 Research Season – IARPC Collaborations

### Discussion:

- HM Stotts commented briefly on the 24-01-31 Arctic Shipping Update and the vessel traffic stats it provides. Also noted that the 24-04-09 Report on the Arctic Capabilities of the US Armed Forces – summary specifically named the port expansion project as of strategic importance to the nation.
- Commissioner Sheffield asked about the POLAR CODE Area and how far that extended.
  - HM Stotts responded that he was not sure how far south that area extended but the POLAR CODE is intended for all vessels in Polar Waters.
- HM Stotts commented on the 24-04-13 Planned Research Vessel Movements- 2024 Research Season; that the full report was on the table as a handout and lists all of the research vessel activity that will take place this 2024 season.
  - Commissioner Sheffield commented that the categories on that paper are a little confusing as some list Bering Strait and others North Pacific, but the vessels are coming through the Bering Strait. Also, not sure if they are coordinating with the State Department on foreign vessel movements.

## **COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES**

- Commissioner McCann noted that April 29<sup>th</sup> Northrim Bank will have their Chief Economist coming to Nome to give a State of the Economy talk at Old St. Joes. This will be the first time in Nome.

## **HARBORMASTER'S REPORT**

- Port Office Update – Impoundment Status/FY24 Purchasing and FY25 Budget Prep
- 2024 Ship Schedule Update overview
- BFI 2024 Tank Stabilization – Temp Traffic Plan overview
- Project Prioritization List Overview – Northern Economics
- Repair and Maintenance Update

### Discussion:

- HM Stotts stated that Office staff have been successful working with Port Customers on past due balances and getting payment plans set up for those accounts.
- Briefly discussed the BFI 2024 Tank Stabilization – Temp Traffic Plan overview and how that aligns with plans to relocate container rows to the new pad, leaving laydown space for freight operators.
- Commissioner McLarty asked about the East Gravel Ramp and if it was still possible to work with NJUS to lower or reroute that power so PWR can lessen the slope of that ramp for customer ease of use.
  - HM Stotts said he would add that to the list and reach out to NJUS to start planning.

## **PROJECT MANAGER REPORT**

- PM Baker gave an overview of the 24-04-15 PM Monthly Projects Report

### Discussion:

- Commissioner Sheffield asked who would be the new Port Director.

- PM Baker stated that we have the Port Director position being advertised on the streets, but we have not had any good leads on a potential replacement yet.
- PM Baker stated that Northern Economics is finalizing the Tariff Rate Study and Analysis. That they had some staff changes which set them a little behind, but they are now almost finished with the report for use to review.
- That the budget amendment in February for F24 incorporated phases B and C which have been executed through a contract amendment with PND. Once we wrap up phase A they will move forward with the next phases B and C sometime in June/July.
- Causeway Arctic Port expansion Phase 1 construction was solicited on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The due date was extended from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup> which means an award sometime in the September timeframe, give or take 30 days, which would mean in-water construction would begin in spring 2025.
  - Commissioner Sheffield asked what caused the delay. PM Baker stated that working with the Federal Government is difficult at times and it was a combination of delays on the Corps side including; Environmental IHA permit, Design Work, the Hawaii Division office going through PPA agreement, and other external forces.
- PD Baker Stated that;
  - The processes we are at now are less cumbersome but there are still hurdles to jump.
  - The CORPS and City are confident we have enough funds set aside for Phase 1 to at least award a base project and perhaps Option 1.
    - Base project removes the spur and take the extension out to around Station #115 (just a specific distance).
    - Option #1 would take it out just beyond the 90-degree bend in the extension.
    - Option #2 would build it all the way to the end
    - Option #3 would build it and all the utilities.
    - The USACE is confident they can award the Base Project option with their Phase 1 money, and hope they can award all the way to Option #1.
  - The \$11.25M grant we were awarded by MARAD, will assist in constructing the utilities at the end of Phase 1.
  - There are potential funding opportunities through ADEC and EPA to develop the Arctic Port Reception Facility; initially an incinerator to process APHIS regulated galley waste, and then eventually shoreside treatment facilities for handling ship grey/black water.
  - CAP 107 Study to deep and widen Inner Harbor; USACE wants City to accept responsibility for East and South sheet-pile walls in order to agree to move this project forward. The City said no so the project was paused, and being evaluated at headquarters.
  - Submitted a RAISE grant application in Feb 2024 to build the Snake River Moorage Facility and are hoping for an award announcement sometime around Aug/Sept.
  - Submitted another RAISE grant for design funds for Phases 2 and 3 of the Port expansion.
  - DOT Port Road work is now pushed out to 2028/2029 for when the Port Expansion is done and Seppala/Steadman is now pushed out to 2025.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 24-04-03 DRAFT PON Strategic Development Plan Update- Phase A update

Discussion: edits/markup during the work session will be provided to the contractor performing the work.

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- None.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

- McLarty commented he will be back in Nome next month.
- Sheffield commented that they just finished the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference in Nome which had a nice turnout. The City of Nome provided a donation and they had their reception at the Museum. 134 registrants from around the state, with 56 being from Nome. Nome Belts Highschool won the best student presentation with their harmful algae blooms research.

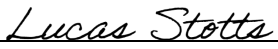
**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by McCann for adjournment at 6:31 pm. The next Regular Meeting will be May 16, 2024 at 5:30pm

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024.

  
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Jim West, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
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Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster