

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Mayor Tutiakoff
City Council Members

FROM: William Homka, City Manager

DATE: September 12, 2023

- **Alaska Municipal League:** Attended the AML summer session in Homer August 8 – 12, 2023. The conference was well attended with municipal representatives from all over Alaska. Mayor Tutiakoff and Vice Mayor Robinson also attended.
- **Legislative Fly-In:** Unalaska hosted legislators on August 17 & 18. The program went well and I received positive feedback from many who attended the reception to hear from the representatives.
- **Ports, Navy & Flowage Fee:** Several Navy vessels have visited Unalaska recently and purchased fuel at the city dock. All the Navy's arrangements were handled by vessel agents. The city bills the vessel agents, including a "flowage" fee to pay the city's charge for taking fuel at the UMC. The charges are outlined in the tariff which is approved by city council. However, the vessel agent did not include "flowage" charges in their contract with the Navy. Navy said they won't pay it to vessel agent; vessel agent requested the city exempt them from the flowage fee or offer a discount. We politely declined to reduce or remove the charges as we cannot arbitrarily enforce the tariff. I do not know if the vessel agent will appeal to city council but you might be called about it.
- **Department of Public Utilities:** Scott Brown is the Acting Director of Utilities. Steve is with the city through September to keep the City compliant on reporting and provide some level of continuity. He is carrying a City cell phone and is monitoring emails and texts. He will respond to any outages and emergencies however he is only in his office on Wednesdays. I've hired Erik Hernandez to be the Deputy Director of Utilities. Erik worked in the Department of Utilities, Water Division and is very familiar with the department. His first day is September 18. Steve will work with Erik for the last two weeks of September to help with Erik's transition.
- **Barge/Metal:** Trident's barge arrived on August 16. We were expecting it in August but only had two days' notice. We were able to load all of the prepped cars and metal at the landfill. I'm working with Trident to exact a schedule for the future barges, which I presume will be spread out more since the company announced the project completion date has been pushed back one year. I'm working with OC and the Q Tribe on a program that will include community outreach, staging areas, and prep areas so we can be sure the vehicles are prepped properly for transport.
- **Captains Bay Road:** AKDOT announced it will take another look at unfunded projects in the STIP. Worked with Dianne Blumer to submit a letter of interest to the agency.
- **North Pacific Fisheries Management Council:** The Mayor and Council Member Tungul have expressed interest in attending the NPFMC meeting October 2 – 10, 2023, in Anchorage. The agenda includes important issues such as the next crab quota. Frank Kelty says we will have a small Red King Crab fishery that opens on October 15, 2023. He will share more details regarding the NMFS review of survey information.

- **Classification & Compensation Study for Unrepresented Employees:** A representative from McGrath Human Resources Group visited Unalaska on August 28 & 29. The representative met with all department directors and some subordinate staff to gain a clear understanding of employee roles, responsibilities, etc. The project is progressing as scheduled.
- **Staffing Update:** New employees hired to fill director/deputy positions and their anticipated start dates are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Erik Hernandez	Deputy Director of Utilities	September 18, 2023
Patricia Soule	Finance Director	September 25, 2023
Kim Hankins	Police Chief	September ##, 2023
Cameron Dean	Planning Director	September 25, 2023

Department	# Openings
DPS	4
DPU	7
DPW	3
Finance	1
Planning	1
Admin	1
PCR	3
Ports	1
TOTAL	20

Retirements

Chris Chamberlin is retiring from the Ports Department on September 8, 2023. Chris is a billing & scheduling clerk. She is moving to Anchorage and says she will look forward to seeing her former friends and co-workers whenever we are passing through.

Steve Tompkins is retiring from the Utilities Department on September 29, 2023. Steve is Director and was the Deputy Director prior. He plans to remain in Unalaska for the time being.

- **Ports Rock Scaling Project:** The analysis by R&M indicated that hand scaling needed to be performed first, and then a full analysis of the rock face could be done after the loose material is removed. We solicited several vendors (including local contractors) to provide a scope of work and cost for the hand scaling, but only one company expressed interest and will visit the site very soon so they can submit a scope of work and a quote. We will report back to Council once the scope of work is received. Once the hand scaling is complete, R&M indicated they can return and provide a full analysis of the rock face and indicate if any further stabilization work is recommended. This is the plan at this point, which may need to change depending on what is found during the scoping of the hand scaling project, and the actual work of hand scaling.
- **Travel:** I will be off island on vacation starting the evening of September 15 – October 17, 2023, and will return Wednesday, September 18, 2023. Marjie Veeder will be Acting City Manager in my absence.