

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Mayor Tutiakoff and City Council Members
FROM: Marjie Veeder, Acting City Manager
DATE: December 19, 2023

- **Shop with a Cop:** On Friday, December 8, a group of Alaska Peace Officers Association members of the Public Safety Department, along with volunteers from the Fire Department, picked up six kids from the Elementary School for the Shop with a Cop Event. The students, selected from applications distributed by the Elementary School principal, were given an allowance and taken to local stores to purchase Christmas presents for their family members. After visiting Three Bears, Bering Sea Office Supply, and Safeway, the children participated in a lights and sirens parade back to the Public Safety Headquarters. The children, assisted by the volunteers, then wrapped the presents while enjoying hot cocoa and an assortment of snacks in the elaborately decorated Patrol Room. The children were surprised with a visit from Santa, who gifted them with presents. The children had some time to play with their new toys while listening to Christmas music and enjoying the holiday spirit, before being picked up by parents. Upon pickup, the families of each child were given a frozen turkey and 2 food boxes that were made from donations received from Safeway and Three Bears.
- **Holiday Closures:** Apart from 24-hour service departments, City facilities will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1 for the Christmas and New Year holidays.
- **New Year's Eve Fireworks:** The community fireworks show is scheduled for 11:59 p.m. on Sunday night, December 31, 2023.
- **Update - Stabilization of Cliff Face on Ballyhoo Road:** Personnel from Southeast Road Builders and R&M Consultants arrived on island on Monday, December 4, 2023 to perform hand-scaling work on the cliff face behind the Latitude 54 Building on Ballyhoo Road. The hand scaling of loose rock and debris from around the work area was productive in removing a large amount of material from around the wedge rock. During the course of the hand scaling, the wedge rock was identified to be fractured in a way that makes drilling into it a hazard for personnel in the work area due to the potential for additional rock fall from vibration. Options were discussed on ways to remove the rock without drilling and blasting, or if there were ways to mitigate further rock falls with anchoring and/or netting on the cliff face. Bolting directly into the rock is not an option but there is potential to bolt anchors to each side of the rock and engineer a system to secure the rock to those anchors. SERB and R&M also suggested a larger barrier wall could be constructed around the perimeter of the building to contain additional rock falls in the future. SERB will continue to look into other options for rock removal and mitigation. R&M will assemble their notes and findings into a report detailing the work, complications and potential solutions. As it stands, this phase of the project is complete even though the objective of hazard removal was not completed as hoped. Additional study and engineering should take place utilizing the information gathered during this initial phase to determine the most feasible and economical long term solution.
- **Boiler Replacement, Unalaska City School:** Pursuant to our Code of Ordinances, the City is responsible for all major maintenance projects for the school buildings. There are three boilers at the Unalaska City School which heat the building and the aquatic center, including the water for the pool. One of the three boilers has failed and cannot be repaired. The remaining boilers are capable of handling the load for the school and aquatic center, but if a second boiler fails, we will need to shut down the

aquatic center because one boiler will not be able to handle both the school and the aquatic center. Plans are underway to replace the failed boiler this summer. We are waiting until summer so that there is no interruption in the school’s activities. City staff has received a quote for the boiler replacement and installation and we plan to bring a budget amendment to council in January to obtain funding for this project. The vendor indicated there is not a long lead time for this particular equipment and it would be ready to ship within 8 weeks after ordering.

- **Makushin Geothermal Project:** OCCP has delayed their projected commercial operation date for the Makushin Geothermal Project to November 2028, due to difficulty and delays in funding the project. OCCP requests finalization of a new Power Purchase Agreement with the City of Unalaska no later than March 2024.
- **Title 3 Classification & Compensation Study:** Consultant McGrath and City Staff are continuing to work on the Title 3 Compensation & Classification Study project. Market data has been collected and the analysis is nearly complete. We hope to present the report and recommendations to Council at the 2nd meeting in January, which will include a cost model.
- **DPU Director Recruitment:** Staff continues to work with Baker Tilly to recruit our next Director of Public Utilities. The consultant is building a profile of our ideal candidate through interviews and questionnaires with both internal and external sources. This profile and other information about the position and the City of Unalaska will be included in their recruitment brochure.
- **Staffing Update:**

Statistics November 16 – December 15

Type of Action	Number Of	Internal	External
Hires	2	0	2
Pending Hires	5	1	4
Pending Offers	0	NA	NA
Resignations	3	NA	NA
Separations	2	NA	NA

Position Openings

Department	# Openings	Notes
Administration	1	HR Mgr
Clerks	0	NA
DPS	3	Police Officer (2), Police Sergeant
DPU	8	Director, Water Op, Solid Waste Supv, SW Op I WW Supervisor, Util Lineman (2), Util Lineman Chief
DPW	3	City Engineer, Light Equip Mech, Installation Maint Worker
Finance	2	Controller, Network Admin
PCR	5	4 Lifeguards, Rec Coordinator
Planning	1	GIS Admin Replacement
Ports	0	NA
TOTAL	23	