
MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Erin Reinders, City Manager
Date: March 9, 2021
Re: City Manager Report

Upcoming Deadlines & Events:

- **March 31, 2021** Deadline to apply for Senior Citizen Sales Tax Refund. Applications available on the city website and the vestibule at city hall.
- **March 31, 2021** Property tax assessment notices will be mailed by the Clerk's Department
- **April 30, 2021** Deadline to submit property tax appeals
- **May 11, 2021** Board of Equalization hearing on property tax appeals
- **August 12 & 13, 2021** City Council Strategic Planning Sessions (Thursday, August 12 planned for 9:00-3:30 & Friday, August 13 planned for 9:00-1:00)

Geothermal PPA: OCCP has requested an extension of the deadline to obtain funding. Council is considering the amendment to the PPA providing this extension at tonight's meeting. You will hear some of the challenges that delay creates in the CMMP discussions planned for tonight. As communicated previously, OCCP is working through the permitting process with the Army Corps of Engineers, in hopes to begin access road construction this spring. We were invited by the Corps to be a signatory on a Memorandum of Agreement for the project. The Tribe and OC have also agreed to be signers of the MOA. City staff reviewed the draft MOA that the Corps drafted, and provided comments by the deadline of March 16. Our primary questions and comments focused on Ownership and Consultation Flow, Project Scope and Area Limits, and Right of Way Designation. I shared these comments with the Chris Price, Chris Salts and Natalie Cale as well.

Financial Update & Fisheries Impact: The Finance Director will be presenting the February financials tonight. You will see that year to date (month ending February 2021), the General Fund revenues are just over \$24 million, and we have \$30.7 million budgeted for General Fund revenues -- meaning we have received 78% of our budgeted revenues. We have spent 54% of the General fund budgeted expenses. For context, we are 66% of the way through FY21. The Finance Director and I met our Fisheries Consultant this past week and he has advised us that, at most, we are looking at a about a \$500,000 hit on revenues for FY21 but that we should still meet our budget because of our conservation budgeting approach. He did not see the need to revise the FY22 revenue projections.

Potential Federal Earmarks: As I mentioned in the last Manager's Report, we received word from our Federal Lobbyist that there may be an opportunity for federal support on specific projects through earmarks. Brad Gilman suggested we identify two projects. Specifically that we focus on support for the entrance channel dredging project as well as one of the CAPSIS projects. After considering Brad's suggestions on the second project, we selected Bobby Storrs Boat Harbor A & B Floats. Brad is moving forward and advocating for those projects, with a letter of support signed by the Mayor.

American Rescue Plan: Our Federal Lobbyist sent out a good overview of the plan on March 10 (this was distributed to City Council). AML held an information call on March 16, with several staff member participating. Our Cares Act Committee, now transitioning into more of a Covid Funding Committee, met and reviewed our key takeaways. American Rescue Plan is a federal relief package that includes direct funding for all cities and boroughs, by formula, but there are still unknowns. We are likely looking at between 1 and 2 million dollars over the course of two years, in divided payments. There are plenty of details and opportunities to work through explore. Areas of particular interest to City staff at this point is support infrastructure projects. The Treasury has yet to release guidance on the details of this rescue plan, so it is challenge to develop a plan just yet.

Vaccine Rollout: IFHS Clinic and Unalaska's EMS providers partnered with the Eastern Aleutian Tribes to provide a Community COVID-19 Vaccination events for industry and the community. Wednesday the 17th and Thursday, March 18th were full days. City of Unalaska offered logistical and staff support, and the UCSD provided use of their facility. I do not have the final numbers of those who received the vaccine, but will provide an update when that is known. The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, the City of Unalaska, the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, and the Iliuliuk Family Health Services Clinic continue working together with the shared goal of getting vaccines into arms. City staff, primarily PCR and Fire/EMS, is assisting with hosting APIA and IFHS Vaccine Events at the Community Center.

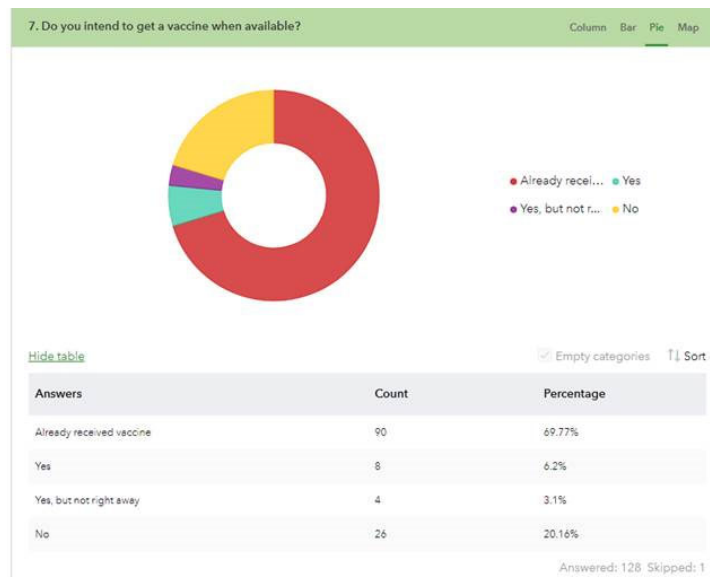
Emergency Operation Survey: City Council requested a follow up online survey and for staff to make stronger efforts to reach more people in the community. The last survey garnered 100 responses and a few of the answers assisted with changes in how the COVID statistics were reported locally. This survey may assist us with understanding the effects of COVID-19 on the community; to examine the impact on people's daily routines; to gauge public perception about local mandates; and finally, to determine what percentage of the community intends to receive the vaccine. The survey is available in English, Spanish, Tagalog and Russian and can be found through this link: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a3fd68a5385b481f8bc347f2bfba8083>.

The survey period is March 8-April 8, 2021. A summary of the responses will be provided to City Council at their regular meeting April 13, 2021. Below is the Planning Department's status update as of the morning of March 18, 2021. As of that date, there were 129 respondents. Response summary is as follows:

- *How likely would you be to visit [bars, restaurants, library, etc.] without mandates in place tomorrow?*
- - *Answers are all strongly bimodal – respondents would either be very likely or not likely to visit*
 - *Generally unlikely to visit bars and more likely to visit the library and City admin buildings.*



- **Contact Tracing**
 - 8% have been notified of a possible COVID exposure
 - Of those, 81% chose to get tested and 90% isolated afterwards.
- **Vaccine**



- *Most are aware of USAFV's programming*
- *Travel*
 - *74% have travelled to/from Unalaska since the start of the pandemic*
 -



- *Most received paperwork and completed contact forms at the airport. Many respondents who did not travelled before those procedures were in place.*
- *Quarantine*
 - *74% have quarantined at some point*
 - *Very few visited public facilities during quarantine*

State Budget Public Testimony: The Senate Finance committee accepted public testimony on the proposed operating budget this past week. I called in on March 18 and spoke about some of Council priorities as well as those factors impacting Unalaska. Several of these points complimented AML's priorities. Namely, support for recapitalizing the Community Assistance Fund, retaining the shared taxes in place for distribution to communities in the proposed budget and PCE payments. The AMHS remains underfunded in the proposed budget, so I did stress the importance of the ferry for Unalaska. I voiced support for the Harbor Facility Matching grant program, as Council has long supported that program. I added a special note about the Unalaska's Bobby Storrs Boat Harbor, which was inherited by the City of Unalaska from the State of Unalaska, supporting funding for that project. I also advocated for support for Community Jails Funding, which have remained flat since 2015, as well as Local Emergency Planning Committee funding.

Amaknak FUDS: Unalaska has several sites that are subject to the Department of Defense's Formerly Utilized Defense Sites environmental program due to contamination, which occurred during WWII activities. These contamination sites hold up construction projects and negatively impact subsistence living. Environmental remediation of these areas has long been on City Council's priority list. The Amaknak FUDS Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) held its initial meeting on March 16. The mission is to establish and maintain a forum with all stakeholders for the exchange of information in an open and interactive dialogue concerning the environmental restoration activities at the Amaknak FUDS. The meeting focused on introductions and setting up the operating procedures, but also included an updated on the project itself and the sites. The next meeting is planned for May.

Directives to the City Manager: There are no outstanding directives.