
MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Erin Reinders, City Manager
Date: June 8, 2021
Re: City Manager Report

Local State of Emergency: The current local state of emergency is set to expire on June 30, 2021. Unalaska Unified Command (IFHS and the City), have met with industry members and there remains a need for the City's involvement in managing the Isolation Site until December 31, 2021 for B-Season. We will be able to use some of the CARES Act funds and likely the Rescue Act funds to support this response. However, beginning July 1, 2021 the users will be charged a "per person per night" rate to help recoup some of the costs. Industry members have agreed with, and are appreciative of this approach. Because this effort is outside the typical scope of City duties, and is an ongoing operational initiative in response to the COVID 19 pandemic, we will be recommending a continued local emergency declaration through the end of the calendar year at the next Council meeting. So long as there are Council resolutions in place encouraging protective measures, staff will continue to greet arriving air-travel passengers to inform them of these measures and collect contact tracing information. At this point, I do not anticipate such measures to be scheduled for consideration at City Council meetings as frequently as they have this past year. We will reduce regularly scheduled news releases as well. In both cases, we will adapt when necessary.

Rescue Act (ARPA): We continue to learn more about ARPA. What we know for sure at this point is that the City will receive a total of \$1,069,850, split into two payments over two years through the State. The City will enter in to a grant agreement with them, which will require Council action via resolution. The state is currently developing these forms, but they have everything they need from us at this point. We anticipate this coming before council on June 22, at which time we will outline the proposed uses. Staff will also prepare a budget amendment to accept and utilize these funds.

Geothermal PPA: I was invited to speak at Commonwealth North's Energy Policy Study Group on June 4th. The topic is Makushin Geothermal: Powering the Future in Unalaska. I plan to give a brief overview of the past couple years, the City's activities in support of the project, and what some of our next steps might be. OCCP will be presenting as well. Should be interesting. OCCP is setting the Heat Pump Study aside at the moment, as it is challenging to determine some of the economics. OCCP and the City continue working on a MOU detailing how to proceed with the projects and improvements identified in EPS's Interim Intertie Study. This is so that we can get started on these projects in keeping with the overall timeline of the Geothermal Project, which remains unchanged. There may be some possibility to combine our cable replacement purchase for the City's project with OCCP's purchase for the Geothermal Project's submarine cable. We are exploring that option now.

Community Engagement Efforts: The City of Unalaska recently purchased an annual subscription to Polco to enhance its survey data and resources. The Planning Department is the administrator of the city's Polco platform, and the Planning Director has provided this overview:

The Polco Performance Plan offers the city more resources to build and maintain a panel of respondents, verifications of surveys, and the ability to create an unlimited number of surveys and polls using their platforms. The company offers valuable data and existing resources in support of its outreach efforts to the myriad of residents, businesses and visitors. We will add the surveys to our existing location on Unalaska's home page that serves as a HUB of data collection, including hosting surveys and results readily accessible for use by anyone interested in our community. Some examples of surveys we can use now include:

- Local Government Customer Service
- Police-Community Interaction Survey
- Community Equity and Inclusion
- COVID 19 Resident Readiness Survey
- Parks and Recreation
- Housing Needs
- Density & Housing Availability
- Code Enforcement

This includes some benchmark surveys that allow for us to compare to our previous results. We encourage your input about survey topics about which the City Council might want further information.

Finance Director: We are working with AES on a renewed search for a permanent Finance Director. They are honoring their guarantee, so we do not anticipate additional fees associated with their assistance this round. Recruitment efforts have already begun, and will expand in the coming days. We will have regular meetings with AES, with our next meeting planned for June 9.

July Legislators Visit to Unalaska: Our State Lobbyist, Mayor, Administrative Coordinator and I continue working out the details of a visit to Unalaska on July 29 and 30. We are blocking seats on flights and rooms, and putting the schedule together. This will include community tours and a public reception. We are also looking into potential sponsorships to help support this visit.

Current Directives to the City Manager:

- *Cost Benefit Analysis for Captains Bay Road Project (March 30, 2021). Initiated.* The directive reads, "Implement a cost-benefit analysis for the proposed road improvements and utility expansion for Captains Bay Road." The Public Works Director continues to outline the scope of work for this effort, which will include potential funding opportunities. Given the magnitude of the Captains Bay Road project, this analysis will serve us well. However, also given the magnitude of the project, we are unsure of the cost of this sort of study and plan to issue an RFP. Target to get this out on the street in mid-June.
- *CC Seat D Vacancy (May 11, 2021). Completed.* The directive reads, "Assign staff to advertise the vacancy of Council Seat D; to accept letters of interest through 10am on Friday, June 4, 2021 from persons who desire to be appointed to Council Seat D; and to invite such interested persons to the council meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at which time council will make an appointment to fill the vacancy." This direction has been completed with associated agenda item and resolution before you this evening.
- *Utility Infrastructure Fund (May 25, 2021). Initiated:* The directive reads, "Work with the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance amending Chapter 6.40 of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances to increase the sales tax levy by one percent (1%) for the purpose of funding a Utility Infrastructure Fund to supplement the Utility Proprietary Funds." The Clerk has begun drafting this ordinance for internal discussion and attorney review. We hope to have this before Council for initial consideration in July and final approval in August, in time for the October election.