



CITY MANAGER REPORT

Reporting Period: November 23 – December 12, 2024

Prepared By: Phillip A. Zavadil, City Manager

Date: December 12, 2024

ADMINISTRATION

AVIATION CHALLENGES

Ravn Status – DOT finally issued the order for Valdez EAS last Friday and today we filed notice to withdraw without subsidy for Unalakleet and St. Mary. Ravn will hold off filing withdrawal from Saint Paul Island until after the EAS bids for Unalakleet and St. Mary are well underway or completed.

Revisions to Instrument Procedures - Last month I briefed council on the activities of the Thriving Communities Team (TCP Team) and as part of their work, an effort to improve the Instrument Approach Procedures for our airport. One of our issues is the relatively high outage rates of the multiple pieces of FAA ground equipment. The outages have caused the procedure to be fully or partially degraded and this uncertainty has not been good for RAVN’s dispatch planning.

Although we have space-based RNAV (GPS) instrument procedures published for north and south arrivals at the airport, our review shows that those procedures require relatively high cloud ceilings (800 feet as compared to 200 feet for our best ground-based procedure). The TCP team has been looking into using a private developer to create a new version of a GPS procedure with potentially less restrictive cloud requirements.

During those conversations one of the FAA offices has noted that the GPS procedures we currently have were created before some enhancements had been installed on the GPS system (approximately 8 years ago). Their advice was to submit a standard request to update the GPS procedures. Then the FAA flight procedures office would respond with an indication of whether they can amend the procedures (as we think they can) to get to a 200-foot cloud ceiling value. The advantage of having the FAA do that we don’t have to fund it, the FAA does. On the other hand, the FAA determines how fast they will be able to publish it.

The goals are to publish new procedures as soon as possible, have them built for the lowest cloud ceilings allowable, and have them fit RAVN’s training and aircraft equipment so everyone is comfortable and effective at flying them. Then we would be nearly independent of the FAA ground-based equipment outages.

So, we have made that request and are waiting on their response. Depending on what the FAA says in their response, we still may want to pursue the private developer option.



Fueling Ravn –St. Paul Fuel is waiting on parts before they can start fueling Ravn again.

Runway Maintenance Issues – The week of December 2nd, our community experienced some runway maintenance issues that caused cancelations of Ravn and ACE. I reported these issues to the Alaska DOT/PF Commissioner’s office. The Alaska DOT/PF staff will work with the contractor to address the maintenance issues.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/GRANTS

Personnel

Project Manager – We interviewed two candidates for this position. Dean Maschner was selected for the position and an offer was made. We are waiting to hear if Mr. Maschner will accept the offer. We are hoping to have him start at the first of the new year.

Accounting/Grants Specialist – We have received one resume for this position, but the candidate does not have grant experience. The position is now advertised on Indeed.

EDA Small Boat Harbor Utilities Project

Easements – Kuna Engineering has updated the drawings for the easements the City is requesting from TDX. City’s legal counsel will be drafting the easement agreement to send to TDX for review.

Bid Documents – Kuna Engineering is starting on the bid documents for this project

USDA RUS Loan for Electric Utility Upgrades

USDA Loan Status – The USDA loan has been approved. We are in the process of meeting special loan conditions involving the debt ratios.

USDA RUS HECG for Airport Feeder Replacement

Materials Arrived – More conduit arrived on the last Coastal boat.

USEPA STAG for Aalax Solid Waste Facility

Nothing to report.

SOA CBDG and AEA for Bulk Fuel Facility Upgrades

Design Review –Kuna Engineering completed the review of EPS’s design for this project. The review was sent to EPS and EPS will adjust the drawings based on Kuna’s review.

Bid Documents –Bid documents for this project are expected to be completed next month and which time the project will go out for construction bids.

SOA VSW Lift Station Replacement Grant

Nothing to report.

USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant

Public review and council approval of the Pribilof Islands Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan will take place next month. We are still working on the dates for public meeting.

SOA-DHSEM State and Local Cybersecurity Grant for Cybersecurity Assessment

On December 9, 2024, I will be meeting with FR Secure to review the 2024 Road Map document.

SOA VSW Planning Grant for PER for Treatment Plant Upgrades, Valve House, and Water Main Replacement

Kuna Engineering completed the Alternatives Memorandum (*see attached*) that outlines the following alternatives for review as part of the PER process:

- Do Nothing
- Partial Water Piping Replacement
- Comprehensive Water Infrastructure Replacement
- Complete Water System Replacement

EPA Resilience Grant

Nothing to report.

EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

Nothing to report.

SOA 2024 Homeland Security Program Grant for Radio Equipment

Lynn submitted the updated Obligating Award Document and Quarterly Activities Plan to the State for review and approval.

Healthy Food Financing Initiative Planning Grant

On December 9, 2024, Lynn and I met with the Reinvestment Fund staff managing the City's HFFI grant to discuss the reduced funding amount and changes we needed to make to our workplan and budget. Lynn updated the workplan and budget and submitted to the Reinvestment Fund for review and approval.

EPA Water Technical Assistance

Nothing to report.

SOA Lead Service Line Inventory Grant

Inventory Survey – The survey is rescheduled for next month. I am working with Kuna on the dates.

Alaska Municipal League's EPA Environmental Justice Collaboration Problem Solving (EJCPS) Project

Nothing to report.

USDOT Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant

Lynn and I will attend a grant kick off meeting scheduled for December 17th.

USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Supplemental Grant

On December 4, 2024, Lynn and I met with USDOT SS4A staff to discuss the award and that the City of Saint George is no longer participating in the project. Lynn is making some minor adjustments and will be working on the award documents.

INSURANCE REPAIRS

TBI Construction arrived on island on Monday, December 9th to start on repair to the Harbor Office roof, City Hall roof, Public Works siding, and overhead door on the CBSFA side of the fire station. Door Systems arrived on island the following day to work on replacement of the overhead door. The repairs to the City Hall roof have been completed and the Harbor Office roof replacement has been completed.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

VPSO STATUS

One VPSO applicant passed the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety background check. Mike Nemeth is working on setting up an interview with this applicant.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION DIVISION

Roads – Grading of the roads has occurred when the conditions and staff time have allowed.

Building Maintenance – Facilities maintenance staff have been performing repairs and maintenance checks on City buildings and housing as needed.

MOTOR POOL DIVISION

Large Sander Truck – The large sander truck has some repairs that are needed. The parts have been ordered.

Water/Wastewater Utility Truck – The truck has developed a sever oil leak. The mechanic is checking what is needed to make the repair.

Customer Work Orders – The mechanic is getting to customer work orders when he can. Just a reminder that City equipment will have priority over customer work orders.

BULK FUEL UTILITY

Bulk Fuel Rates – Bill Wilks is working on the rate model for the City to assist with rate setting.

Fuel Supply – As of December 2, 2024 the City has approximately 64,796 gallons of gasoline and 465,974 gallons of diesel.

ELECTRIC UTILITY

Meeting with Steigers Engineering – On December 5, 2024, I met with Steigers Engineering engineers to review source testing for this next year and the air quality permit renewal. Based on the upcoming upgrades to the electric utility, Steigers is recommending that we request an extension on the source testing and hold off on the air quality permit renewal. I will revisit this recommendation with Steigers in Spring of 2025.

WATER UTILITY

Water Samples – Coliform were collected in November and sent to Alaska Water Laboratories for analysis (*see attached report*).

SEWER UTILITY

APDES Permit – I have been working to obtain a quote for the required wastewater sampling and a preparation of a quality assurance project plan for the sampling. The costs for these items are reflected in the budget.

REFUSE UTILITY

Nothing to report.