

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Mayor Tutiakoff and City Council Members

FROM: William Homka, City Manager

DATE: August 13, 2024

- **USACE CHANNEL DREDGE PROJECT:** The USACE awarded the Dutch Harbor Channels dredging project to J.E. McAmis and issued a Notice to Proceed on 26 July 2024. The project amount awarded is \$9,295,000.00. Construction has been delayed to Spring 2025.
- **ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY RE-VEEP GRANT:** The city's second round application to the AEA grant was awarded the entire \$200,000 requested, bringing the total grant amount for the two grants to just under \$370,000. This funding will be utilized to replace about 560 fixtures and lights for energy efficiency.
- **INNOVATIVE READINESS TEAM VISIT:** The IRT will be in Unalaska on August 19 – 20 and will meet with the Trilateral team on Monday, August 19 to provide governance training. The IRT will turn its focus to the Q Tribe on August 20 for other work.
- **EPA-CPRG Grant:** Although a decision was not expected until October, the EPA announced who will be receiving CPRG funding. This is the source of funding we applied for \$135 million to fund the exploration of Makushin as a viable resource for geothermal. I learned Unalaska was not selected for funding.
- **FY25 SENATE BILL:** The FY2025 Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) passed an appropriation bill that includes \$5 M in transportation funding for the Captains Bay Road project. The Senate Interior Approps Bill has also been marked up and it includes \$3.4 M in EPA funding for drinking waterline replacement. Congress must still pass the bill but these are definitely positive developments in the process, courtesy of Senator Murkowski.
- **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL:** The RDC is visiting August 7-9, 2024. Our team presented a "lunch and learn" session with the 22 visitors at the Library on August 8. We provided an overview of the city organization and our services, with added focus on utilities per the RDC's request. Ports is provided a tour of city port facilities on August 8. A reception is scheduled for that evening at the Grand Aleutian.
- **STATUS OF OUTSTANDING COUNCIL DIRECTIVES TO MANAGER AND AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS:**
 1. Senior Citizen Sales Tax Refund (6/25/2024): Bring forward to Council a review of the senior citizen sales tax refund language and possible changes to address concerns of public comment on June 11, 2024 by Peggy McLaughlin.
 - Status: This matter is on tonight's agenda.
 2. Community Support Grant Program and Funding Sources (6/25/2024): Bring forward to Council a review of the community support grant program and funding sources for possible changes to address large requests and to also clarify language of the community support grant funding sources.

- Status: On June 28, 2024, the Deputy City Manager emailed Mayor and Council with the plan to address this directive. Staff will meet with Council Member Looby on August 22nd.
3. Animal Control Ordinance (6/25/2024): Bring forward to Council a review of the city's animal control ordinances and possible changes to address concerns of public comment on 5/28/2024 by Suzi Golodoff.
 - Status: On July 1, 2024, the Deputy City Manager contacted the City Attorney to begin work on this directive.
 4. Budget Process (6/11/2024): Research and recommend improvements to the City of Unalaska operating budget process and presentation.
 - Status: No action as of yet.
 5. Ordinance change to allow APV use on public roads in Unalaska (6/11/2024):
 - Status: The City Clerk assembled all prior documents presented to Council on this topic for review by the City Manager. No further action yet.
 6. Nuisance Abatement (2/27/2024): To move Option 2 as presented on 2/27/2024 memorandum to Council.
 - Status: The City Attorney prepared an agreement to reimburse the City for nuisance abatement of the two-story building on Blue Fox Alley, and Staff presented the agreement to the presumed heirs of the property, which remains in probate. This agreement is voluntary, and as discussed at the February 27 meeting, the City has no practical means to pursue a normal nuisance abatement process. The presumed owners appeared to be supportive of the agreement, but have not yet signed. The City has offered to waive landfill fees for both properties if they are demolished.
 7. Investment Policy Statement (2/27/2024): Initiate the development of an Investment Policy Statement for the establishment of the permanent fund.
 - Status: Council will hear from Alaska Permanent Capital Management at their meeting on August 27. Additionally, in September, we plan to hear from BDO about recommendations for reserves for emergency funding and the development of a fiscal sustainability policy.
 8. Electric Power Cooperative (2/13/2024): Seek consultation on the development of an electrical generation and transmission cooperative between the private and municipal power producers in Unalaska.
 - Status: On Tuesday July 30, 2024 City staff and Matt Scott of Optimera met with representatives of seafood processing companies at the library. There is agreement about the next step which is to prepare a Request for Qualifications for obtaining professional services to assist with leading the group through an Integrated Resource Plan. In general, an IRP identifies the path forward that will meet everyone's needs, focuses on an initial 10 year transition period, and develops a 5 year action plan. The organizations will share the costs of the study.

- **EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT:**

- Our recruitment consultant, Baker Tilly, has restarted the Director of Public Utilities recruitment process and as of last week, we have 12 applicants. First review of resumes will be August 14.
- We are also using Baker Tilly to recruit a Deputy Finance Director (previously titled Controller).
- New positions approved during for FY25 have either been filled or are in active recruitment. These positions include Maintenance Mechanic in Public Works, Medium Equipment Mechanic in Utilities, two Firefighters and Administrative Assistant in Fire.
- Our open police positions continue to be a focus for recruitment efforts. Officer Julian Govea and HR Manager Amy Stanford will be representing the City at a number of career events in the Fresno, California area in September and October. Events are located at UC Merced, Tulare King County Police Academy, Madera County Workforce and Fresno State. These events are geared to police and public employer job opportunities. Officer Govea has ties to the area and sees Unalaska as an attractive option for those looking for opportunities outside the area, just as he did. Career fairs provide an opportunity for employers to meet candidates in person, assess their communication skills, and gauge their enthusiasm for the organization and roles. The human connection is especially important in communicating the benefits and advantages of living and working in Unalaska. All open City positions will be marketed and featured in recruitment materials.

- **STAFFING UPDATE:** The tables below summarize HR actions and position openings.

Semi-Monthly HR Statistics

Date Range

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

Position Openings

Department	# Of Openings	Notes
DPS	6	Police Sergeant (3), Corrections Officer Police Officer (2)
DPU	8	Director of Public Utilities, Water Operator (2), Power Plant Operator I, Util Lineman (2), Util Lineman Chief, Apprentice Lineman
PCR	3	Lifeguards, Head Lifeguard

Fire	3	Firefighter (2), Administrative Assistant II
Planning	1	Grants Management Coordinator
Finance	1	Controller
TOTAL	22	