

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT Nov 2023 General Meeting

- We submitted the Crossett Fund Application for the playground equipment. We did not expect to hear back from them until towards the end of December but late last Wednesday afternoon, we received notification that they were funding the full 20K request. At some point in January, they want to schedule a Zoom meeting to get to know us and to perhaps arrange a visit to Gustavus at some point. The overall purpose of the Crossett Fund is to improve the health of children living in Southeast Alaska. Thanks to Jason and Margaret Custer for introducing us to Malia and the Crossett Committee and thanks to Mike and others for all the work to involve the school children, and his work on procurement with the vendors, installation RFQ, site selection and the rest yet to come.
- Council Member Taylor can report out on the RFQ process.
- Right now, I am working on the logistics for resolving our scrap metal container contamination, refused by the scrap metal company and which is currently being held in AML's yard in Seattle. Ian will have information in his report, but it involves procuring an environmental company to isolate the offending item or substance in question so we can hopefully remove it and send the 26K lbs. back to the scrap metal vendor. I am waiting on a cost estimate from the environmental company.
- I'm working with Leah, Sol, Mike, and Dr. Vaught on supporting ways to move the GVFD forward through increased volunteerism, support for more relevant training opportunities and promoting the department. Additionally, we are focusing department leadership on being more prepared for natural disasters through enhanced planning, training and prioritization of tasks both organizationally, and being response ready at all times.
- I continue to work with our road contractor, on road condition issues and complaints. Additionally, with Mayor Owens, Council Member Taylor and John Barry, on individual projects such as ditching and culvert placement in an attempt to help with drainage and to mitigate flooding when the heavy rains arrive.
- We've had some hiccups with the Safe Streets for All application which Jim Mackovjak can describe. Hopefully the information we have provided is now sufficient.
- We provided a letter to Alaska Municipal League to receive funding from federal DOT to help rural and disadvantaged communities for technical assistance and preplanning activities.
- The group application for Defending Alaska Communities from Wildfire through Community Wildfire Protection Planning has been submitted. Other municipalities were Koyukuk, Skagway and Dillingham. The Alaska Municipal League (AML) is seeking funding on our behalf to create or update Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) for AML member communities. A key objective of this project is to establish a replicable process that can be used in the future to assist the 165 Alaska cities and boroughs served by AML.
- Worked with Leah to develop a survey to businesses and residents on the absence or shortened season of Alaska Airlines regarding how that would impact their businesses or lives in general.
- With GCC, Bobbi Hudson and Dan Lesh, we finalized the flyer and arrangements for the Mariculture coming up this Wednesday.
- Met with Senator Kiehl and Representative Story to discuss Gustavus issues and happenings. Topics included PFAS continued legislation and testing, Health benefits inclusion for municipalities since that bill died last year in committee, CIP requests via CAPSIS, and potential for project funds, which we will need to reprioritize for council approval. A lot of those funds are predicated on price per barrel. We also discussed the Hydro Road issue among other items.