

Mayor's Report 3_2_2023

9th Avenue Fire

Thank you to our Fire Department, Police Department, first responders, volunteer firefighters, Manager Ryan, and countless members of the community who helped fight the 9th Avenue fire and lend support. Nobody was injured and the fire was contained and while the loss of the building is tragic, something can be built in its place.

I also received personal phone calls from Senator Murkowski and Senator Sullivan offering their support and expressing concern.

Along with Manager Ryan and Chief Rauscher, I met with the two State Fire Marshals on Wednesday. They plan on finalizing their report in approximately one month. This fire is a reminder that much of Skagway is vulnerable to fire (the 9th Avenue building was originally a WWII Army Barracks). Perhaps we should consider bringing back a municipal fire sprinkler grant program, especially for buildings located in the Historic District.

Waterfront Leases – First Reading

Skagway takes over its waterfront in only 17 days. Staff has been working tirelessly to ensure these upland leases are in place by this date. Because of the length of tonight's agenda and the fact that these leases require two readings, I encourage the Assembly to pass first readings in an expedient manner and allow for more refinement, if necessary, before the March 16 meeting.

Ore Shiploader

There are several issues pertaining to our Ore shiploader on tonight's agenda, so I asked Clerk Burnham to include eight photos of the loader I shared with the Ports & Harbor Advisory Board and an AIDEA report on the condition of the assets dated 2021. As you know, AIDEA is the owner of the ore shiploader and all other assets related to Skagway's Ore Terminal. Their report states, "The existing shiploader is in poor condition." Considering that the report came out nearly two years ago and mineral exports have continued since that time unabated, I have serious concerns about possible Ore Basin contamination related to these exports. Its vital that the MOS understands the nature, scope, and source of possible contamination to ensure we are financially protected if and when dismantling and cleanup is conducted.

Agreement with Yukon Government for Construction of a Marine Services Platform

Speaking of Skagway's role in exporting mineral concentrates, I support the adoption of Resolution 23-08R and appreciate the hard work by staff and the Yukon Government in swiftly moving this concept forward. The Marine Services Platform will ensure Skagway broadens the scope of its year-round economy while modernizing the way we export mineral concentrates. In my opinion, this project signals to the Yukon mining industry that Skagway wants their business as long as we maintain robust environmental standards that protect the health of our residents. This is also an opportunity to build a positive working relationship with our neighbors to the North that will last for generations and ensure the Klondike Highway remains open and well-maintained.

Royal Caribbean Donation

Thank you to Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and President Michael Bayley for their generous \$75,000 donation toward senior programs and a facility for year-round use. I support the adoption of Resolution 23-09R.

Special Port Event Budget

I'm requesting the Assembly approve up to \$10,000 for a special port event on April 19th, commemorating the achievement of taking over control of our waterfront. This modest budget will allow the scheduling of a Town Photo, special dedication ceremony, and materials to invite government dignitaries, industry partners, and other VIPs. Please review my memo in the Assembly packet to more information regarding this proposal.

- Andrew Cremata