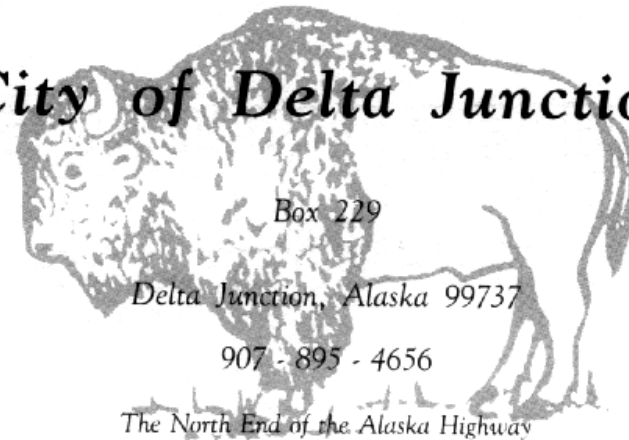


City of Delta Junction



April 17, 2001
Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:02pm by Mayor Roy Gilbertson with council members Mark Weller, Susan Kemp, Mary Leith-Dowling, Rick Johnson and Nat Good present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gilbertson added the minutes of the special meeting held on April 16, 2001 to Approval of Previous Minutes.

Kemp moved to approve agenda with addition; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Lou Heinbockel arrived at 5:04pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2001 regular meeting; Good seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2001 special meeting; Kemp seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Heinbockel deleted from the April 16th minutes, on page 2, the second paragraph, last sentence starting with "for other reasons..."

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2001 special meeting with corrections; Good second.

Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Cemetery – Leith-Dowling reported she has talked to DOT about putting a fence back up along Mil-Tan and they have denied the City's request to construct it where it was previously. She will look at it again and determine where the best place to build it will

be. This may cause some difficulty in digging the plots that are along the fence line if there is someone already in an adjoining gravesite.

Donna Gardino said the Deltana Community Corporation has been working on a plan to help participate with the fence construction. They will be willing to help with funding to get it done and have members donating labor.

Leith-Dowling has concerns that the youth doesn't respect the cemetery and they have done damage and vandalism there with vehicles.

Heinbockel volunteered to serve on the cemetery committee.

Gardino said the plan Deltana has come up with uses treated wood painted white with gates and parking areas.

Clerk – Ellis reported it is time to have budget workshops. The departments have been reminded to submit a budget for the next fiscal year soon.

A \$750.00 bicycle rodeo grant has been awarded to the City this year and Linda Sorensen will be directing it again this summer.

Ellis asked council for a leave of absence to take care of her parents. Council showed no opposition to her leave. Kemp said we need to find some temporary help in the office.

Department of Economic Development – Hallgren talked to Dave Lappi who gave a presentation to council about gas exploration in the Delta area months ago. He is now partners with Evergreen Resources Inc. who are in coal bed methane production in Colorado. He would like to meet with council and other members of the community on Saturday May 5th.

The settlement agreement paperwork has been signed and will be filed tomorrow in court. The settlement agreement and ordinance can be read on the City web page.

Hockey – Heinbockel said the school rink is being torn apart for surplus and wondered if it could be used by the Hockey Association. It is being torn down because of disrepair, so parts of it may not be good for salvage.

Good said he heard both rinks may be torn down.

Land - Kemp presented a request from Ray Patterson to purchase Block 31 lots 12 and 13.

Weller expressed a need for a current broker's opinion of value or appraisal on the City property.

Heinbockel said we have talked about it, but council needs to take action to get quotes for appraisal costs on land City owns if that is what we indeed want to do.

Kemp will come back to council with a recommendation on how to proceed.

Kemp moved to approve the sale of Block 31 lots 12 and 13 to Ray Patterson; Heinbockel seconded.

Good said he would like to see a map on what property is requested and also what property the City still owns.

Leith-Dowling said she has no idea what property we still own, so agrees with Good.

Roll call vote with motion passing. Good voted no.

Library – Leith-Dowling reported the baskets are being made for the library open house which is on April 28, 2001. Everyone is invited to attend. Joyce McCombs had a teleconference with North Star Library personnel and we getting grants from the State for the Delta summer reading program. We had 90 youth signed up last year for the program.

Park – Weller reported baseball league has started. Recently, a player fell and cut his hand on a tent stake, which required stitches. The stake may be left over from the bike ride, and they should be notified. The Softball Association is possibly being reorganized, so there may be a season this year for those interested in softball.

Heinbockel said he observed someone climbing over access gate that had a board nailed across it. It will be removed and the gate repaired if needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Good moved to approve PO 06028 to Guess & Rudd for \$11,898.40 for attorney fees; Kemp seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Council discussed the discount/write off list for ambulance bills which was presented at an earlier meeting.

Good moved to discount and write off the ambulance runs for the patients as requested; Heinbockel seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing. Weller voted no.

Council discussed upgrading the accounting software for the finances.

Johnson stressed the need to act on this as the books are a very important function of the city.

Council discussed upgrading what we have versus changing to a new software package.

Heinbockel said we need to hire someone that could be an administrator and a financial officer.

Johnson said in the meantime, we need to take care of business at hand now. The program we have now is reputable and city staff are familiar with it. It costs less to upgrade and provide training for Ellis now. This needs to be done regardless of when we hire new personnel. All accounting software is basically the same, as far as the functions are concerned.

Mayor Gilbertson instructed Good to research the options.

Good move to upgrade the current software and provide training for Ellis and Sorensen and have the trainers for the software brought to Delta; Kemp seconded.

Johnson said he would like to see a quote from accounting firms from Anchorage and a quote from fund balance. He said there are training opportunities in Fairbanks for accounting methods.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Hallgren reported the draft landfill master plan has been adopted and the final will be out this week. We need to develop an operations plan for the existing landfill and Richard Bonwell said he would help us with it for a nominal fee. Hallgren will find out what that cost will be and report back to council at the next meeting. There are two areas of concern with the existing landfill; the requirement for a bear fence and the septage pits. In the new permit, the septage pits are allowed to be used for the next 3 years as they are, but will need to be added to and improved soon. Hallgren will have Bonwell give us a rough quote as to what he thinks it will take to write an operations plan before proceeding.

Mark Weller reported on the meeting held about the airstrip development on the southeast corner of the Richardson Highway and Rapids Street. Council needs to make a decision about the lots so developers can get going on the property improvements.

Jack Morris said we would need to have a taxiway and a road on the other side of the strip if we were to develop the City land there.

Mayor Gilbertson said he talked to Matt Freeman, who will be here on the 20th to meet with the airport committee. He has money for Allen Army Airfield joint use, which may be allocated in part to help us with D66 if asked. If the City were to develop the larger block of land on the other side of D66, it would be better for the community in the long run, but it would be more expensive to develop. We need to upgrade the strip as well as construct a taxiway and road.

Morris said if we obtain funding, developing the acreage on the north side of the strip can cost quite a bit, but it would be to our advantage. If we don't receive the funding, we can still develop the small parcel. Time is a factor and we need to decide what we are going to do before the building season starts. Saarloos has given us an estimate to survey the smaller lot. If Teck moves its operations out on the Alaska Highway, then there will probably be supplies coming up from Anchorage and Seattle and businesses here may suffer from that loss of local business.

Johnson said he heard Teck was already moving off our strip.

Morris said Jason doesn't want to move out the highway and Teck would like to support us here.

Johnson would like to see an attorney look at a lease plan before it is passed by council. Council discussed lease versus sale of the land. This project is on the wish list for funding we sent to Juneau.

Kemp asked what we could do to push through the request for funding to support this project.

Morris said any information we can show Representative Harris to help push this through would be useful, including tonnage, flights, and what materials are flown off of the strip.

Hallgren said there is a City master plan for the airport that was done years ago, so that won't have to be redone. The larger parcel is more advantageous than having to cross Rapids Street.

Morris will have a draft at the next meeting and council can make a decision upon recommendations from the information gathered. He will be talking to Teck about weights and loads flown off D66.

Weller asked what a taxiway would cost to build.

Morris said we would need road access and as well as a taxiway. There are also survey costs. There will be a lot of traffic on the road to the loading site, including semi trucks.

Joyce Duff said that if there is no joint use at Allen Army Airfield, we will have to consider lifeline flights and where they can land and take off. There won't be use at Allen at all if it's not plowed in the winter.

Mayor Gilbertson will look at the area and estimate a cost to build a taxiway and road to the property across the strip.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis
Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator