



July 25, 2001
Special City Council Meeting and Workshop
City Hall 10:30am

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting and workshop was called to order at 11:00pm by Mayor Roy Gilbertson with council members Susan Kemp, Mary Leith-Dowling and Nat Good present. Mark Weller and Lou Heinbockel were excused.

Participating in the meeting were Kelley Hegarty, Community Planner; Nancy Webb, Community Planner and Fairbanks Northstar Borough Assembly Member; Lamar Cotten, State of Alaska; Paul Knopp, Deltana Community Corp.; Claire Wingfield, Chamber of Commerce; Michelle Trainor, Delta/Greely School Board; Pete Hallgren, City of Delta Junction.

Hallgren explained the special meeting was called to gather input for the City to make an impact grant request concerning the National Missile Defense project that will be started soon at Fort Greely. The City was told last week that such a grant request should be filed no later than September 1, 2001. Supporting documentation concerning the expenditures and personnel (in a very rough draft form) was received yesterday.

Mayor Gilbertson gave a brief history of events concerning the realignment of Fort Greely and the closures of many of the facilities and what impact they will have on the civilian community of Delta Junction.

Hegarty complimented the military for helping to develop the community and making the community an important part of their plans. Their involvement will be good for the area. She talked with Ken Cole, NMD, and has a better understanding of what they will look for in the community.

The City needs long term plans with the capital projects and needs to have goals and objectives lined out for the area.

What Hegarty proposes to do for the City is to provide a cost proposal for the work that would be done, an outline of items for the final report, and have for council review, a final document before the September 1st submission deadline, that will be submitted to NMD. She feels the City can do this with the help of the State, but the City will have the ultimate say in what its goals and plans are.

It would be difficult to hold public meetings before the September 1st grant request deadline, but there have been many sessions and meetings with the public that have been held over the past years formulating the material that will be used to compile this study. Mayor Gilbertson said there has been a great deal of public input at council meetings. Leith-Dowling asked if the needs of the library that have been previously submitted will be considered.

Hegarty would like to see input from all the area's entities.

Kemp said the community has done an EZ/EC study and already has champion community status, so there are hours of community input and needs in these reports.

Cotten said we need to ask what the obligation from the Federal Government is for operation and maintenance for the facilities would be.

Kemp said the City has talked about establishing an endowment fund for these needs.

Hallgren stated operation funds from grants are generally not available. Because we don't have a tax base, it would be hard in this small community to take care of the facilities even if we had taxes. The grants we have had in the past all needed matching funds and we don't have the funds to match the grants at this point. This NMD grant needs to come without a match requirement or the State must meet the match.

Cotten said the assumptions change daily and everyone needs to keep this in mind. Also, the City needs to establish what the changes are compared to what is definite and won't change.

Mayor Gilbertson believes the ratio of family that is going to come to the area with the workers is going to be higher than what is predicted by NMD. We will need to build schools and expand what we have.

Trainor said the school is old and pieced together. We need a new school.

Kemp thinks the most important thing we need in the community is a new school no matter what comes to the area. She would like to see all of the schools located in Delta. Since the State owns the school and land that it is on out at Fort Greely, that may be a piece of property they can trade to NMD for a school in town.

Leith-Dowling said having a construction contract in a community that is located on the road system allows workers to bring their families with them opposed to jobs in the bush. This will have an impact on the number of children in the schools.

Cotten said the State won't get totally on board with this project until they know the NMD project is a sure thing in Delta. The Federal Government should be the ones to take on the project, anyway. He suggested the City propose a definite plan to the State to include what specific projects they want the State to provide. With the community not having a tax base, it is viewed to some, that the community doesn't have involvement itself in the projects, but relies on the State and Federal Governments for support.

Good said he would like to see a clear plan of what the State's role is going to be with the community.

Kemp said that our economy base went away when the post closed and we don't have anything here to improve Delta. The State won't finance a planner or any position that would help us lay out our future. Without help, we can have no economic development.

Cotten said having taxes is a way of pushing back with the legislature.

Hegarty will research the roles of the State and Federal Governments and include it in the September 1, 2001 report. Council agreed that it would be something that should be included in the report.

Hallgren reported OEA grants required a local match from the City. If the funding were to flow through the State as it had once before, it would be possible that the State could come up with the match again. The State also has much more manpower and expertise for the administration of this size of a grant.

Kemp asked if there has been any meeting with the NMD group that was formed in Fairbanks. This project will have a huge impact on the Fairbanks area as well. We need to start working and meet with them soon.

Hallgren said NMD is interested in tying in with a university and offering a satellite campus in Delta for distant education. That is also in their proposal to the community.

Cotten would like to see NMD staff, Boeing and the other entities involved come to Alaska to talk to the State and its Commissioners about the project. He asked what the housing market is like in the area.

Kemp stated the business grants need to be offered in FY02 so they can start the businesses up right away.

Mayor Gilbertson said the request for power from GVEA was enough for 180 silos.

Cotten said a meeting needs to be called with all the interests concerning this project just after this report is done in September.

If the site is a test only, the number of National Guard members will be considerably less than expected but will have more civilian rocket scientists.

Hegarty said this meeting has been an excellent beginning for the report and they will stay to gather more data today, if hired. The only thing she would change is, the City needs to jump in and take the lead on this project.

She sees the report being a 5 to 10 page document that clearly spells out the needs and goals of the area.

Mayor Gilbertson said we are going to need assistance from the State in preparation for the big influx of people in FY03 and FY04.

Kemp moved to immediately hire Hegarty and Associates, due to a unforeseen timeline constraint making bids impossible, to complete the study for submission to NMD by September 1, 2001 for the amount of \$13,600.00, pending approval by the City Attorney; Good seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT at 1:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis
City Clerk