



August 7, 2001
Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall 5:00pm

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Mayor Roy Gilbertson with council members Mary Leith-Dowling, Mark Weller, Lou Heinbockel and Nat Good present. Susan Kemp was excused.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gilbertson added an executive session to the agenda, at the end of the regular meeting, to discuss city finances and personnel matters. To New Business he added a letter of interest from John Sloan for council seat D and deleted the workshop with Mark Miller. Miller will be here at the August 21st meeting.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve agenda with the additions and deletion; Good seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Leith-Dowling changed the time on the July 25, 2001 meeting and workshop minutes to read 10:30 am instead of 'pm'.

Hallgren added to the August 2, 2001 workshop with the school district minutes that he attended telephonically and discussed the City getting all the land north of Deborah Street. Since it was Kimball Street that is being extended; now the property the City seeks is everything from the airport tie-downs to Kimball Street.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2001 regular meeting, the July 25, 2001 special meeting and workshop and the August 2, 2001 workshop with changes; Good seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received a thank you card from Ruth Chaney in appreciation of ambulance service. An email was received from George Tom with the Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association regarding the closure of the FAA weather stations located at Big Delta and Gulkana. Council will send a letter supporting both weather stations remaining open.

REPORTS

Airport - Weller thought Delta Surveys would have completed the job at the airport while he was gone, but it hasn't been done. There is another surveyor working in town that may be interested in the job if Saarloos is busy.

Mayor Gilbertson suggested contacting Saarloos first and see if he still wants to do the work.

Good stated he talked to Dr. Andreassen and he expressed concerns about the plans for the new area at the airport.

Hallgren stated the money the City is expecting to receive couldn't be used until a formal application is received and ours should be done by the end of the week. If we wanted to apply some of this money to the airport work, we would have to wait until the paperwork is completed.

Cemetery - Leith-Dowling reported the grass that was planted in the old portion of the cemetery is up and looking good. Tree cutting is being done on the next area to be cleared. The fencing is ordered and should arrive soon.

Clerk - Ellis reported the boiler inspector was here and there were a few things that needed to be fixed. Fund Balance was here and conducted training for Sorensen and Ellis for four days last week. The AML/JIA risk management report has been received and is in the office for review. Since Johnson resigned, Ellis asked if there was another council member that would be interested in the Gasline Port Authority meetings.

Department of Economic Development - Hallgren reported the City accidentally sold the same piece of property to two people. The Title Company and the appraiser that was here today caught the mistake. A letter of apology and a refund check is being sent to the second person that was interested in the land. The check was written out of the permanent fund account at Wells Fargo as the money was already deposited with the Dean Witter permanent fund.

Bernie Reichert from EDA will be at City Hall tomorrow around 10:30 to meet with Hallgren and council members. They will be discussing the million dollars and its use.

The labor management committee from Fort Greely will be using the City Hall for meetings. Everyone is invited to one tomorrow night at 6:00pm. Letha Burcham will be attending the meeting for the City and when Leanne Dube returns, she will take over the attendance.

Hallgren said he decided to retain Leanna Dube in her position when she returns from family leave in September. She has worked on the disadvantaged workers grant and he would like to see continuity there. It is very hard to let Letha Burcham, who has been filling in for Dube in her absence, go as she has been excellent help in the office and he would like to have her continue to work for the City if there is a position available.

We still haven't received the reimbursement for the 2nd quarter of the OEA grant. It should be here by the end of the week.

Hallgren is working with Jim DeWitt on the procurement ordinance for the City. A professional services section will be added to the ordinance, as this should be handled differently.

City employees and council members met today to discuss operating procedures and the chain of command within the organization. Linda Sorensen is doing the computer work for paying the bills and finance reports. Council will now review all purchase orders for the City bills.

The redistricting lawsuit has been consolidated to Fairbanks. There has been no word from Valdez about their help in paying costs. The Mayor will be calling Cotel about this. There

will be a meeting about the lawsuit on Friday, which will most likely be an executive session to discuss the lawsuit strategy, so there is no need for anyone from here to attend.

Finance - Good presented a budget printout for council review, containing all the City departments and grant balances. The next report will include unencumbered balances.

Landfill - Hallgren reported we are waiting for a letter from DEC approving the plan submitted to them to construct temporary septage pits and a cover plan for the existing landfill. When we receive the letter, we will issue an RFP for the work to be done.

Library - Leith-Dowling said the library is in its fifth week of being open five days a week and they have been very busy.

Park - Heinbockel reported the troopers stopped kids after they were reported for being in the park on a 4-wheeler.

OLD BUSINESS

Good moved to table Ordinance 2002-03 amending ambulance bills until the next meeting when the final draft has been reviewed by the City attorney and council members have had a chance to review it; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Heinbockel said he would like to see council members included in the ordinance.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Ellis asked for suggestions for the Capital Improvement Grant from the State this year. We are entitled to \$25,000.

Weller suggested a basketball court and tennis court for the park.

Hallgren said he has been discussing the idea of having some sort of welcome baskets for people new to the area and those affiliated with NMD.

Ellis handed out a rough draft of changes to the election ordinance. There will most likely be more changes made and any suggestions are welcome.

Leith-Dowling went over the changes that have been made so far.

Bill Donets presented council with a letter asking to purchase property. He said he has been asking about property for months with no results. There was a misunderstanding about the lots he wanted.

Ellis said he is on the waiting list for the two lots he wants.

Leith-Dowling said the appraiser was just here today and when the paperwork gets back from him and council approves his findings, then the lots will be available.

Council asked if Sorensen could call the appraiser and ask for a price on those lots as soon as they are available.

Letters of interest for Council Seat D were received from Henry Summers and John Sloan.

Summers told council and the audience that he works at Pump 9 and has lived in the Delta area for many years and moved into the City in March 2000. He has been interested in running for a council seat and was planning on running in the October election.

Sloan said he served on Council for three years with his term ending last October. He is willing to serve until the October election, but wouldn't be running again if appointed.

Council voted by secret ballot. The results were: Summers three (3) votes and Sloan two (2) votes.

Ellis swore Henry Summers into office as a council member for seat D.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Sloan asked how much money was in the television fund and if it was enough to complete the work. If not, the \$25,000 grant could be used for the work.

Ellis said there is over \$100,000 in the account for the work and the person working with the City will be attending the next council meeting.

Sloan added that the completion of the fence around the park should be considered for the grant.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel asked about the roof on the community center.

Sorensen said we would probably not be receiving any more money for repairs. It was patched to code and the insurance and FEMA paid for the work. She has been in contact with FEMA inquiring if more work is possible but hasn't heard back from them.

Good passed out packets from Wells Fargo and would like to set up a teleconference with them to discuss ways the City can wisely invest funds.

Good moved to go into executive session at 6:30pm to discuss city finances and personnel matters with Linda Sorensen, Pete Hallgren and Pamela Ellis present; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Weller moved to come out of executive session at 6:48pm; Good seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Weller moved to increase Sorensen's pay to \$15.00 an hour with an 8 hour work day, 40 hours a week, with hours from 8:00am to 5:00pm with an unpaid lunch; Good seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis
Clerk/Treasurer