

# City of Delta Junction

Box 229  
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737  
907 - 895 - 4656  
*The North End of the Alaska Highway*

August 21, 2001  
City of Delta Junction  
Regular Meeting

## MINUTES

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:05pm by Mayor Gilbertson with council members Mark Weller, Mary Leith-Dowling, Henry Summers, Susie Kemp and Lou Heinbockel present. Nat Good was excused.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Added to the agenda under Correspondence were two letters from the State of Alaska regarding the FY02 State Revenue Sharing Program and the FY02 population determination. Resolution 2002-01 Requesting Payment in Lieu of Taxes Funding from the Department of Community and economic Development was added to New Business.

**Leith-Dowling moved** to approve the agenda as amended; Summers seconded.

**Motion passed** by unanimous consent.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Weller added that his idea for the basketball courts and tennis courts also included a skating rink, when discussing the Capital Grant improvements at the park.

Leith-Dowling changed the word 'regarding' to 'of' under Correspondence in the letter from Ruth Chaney about her ambulance service. On Page 2 where Hallgren was talking about the retention of Leanna Dube, Leith-Dowling deleted the word 'continue'.

Summer made the correction of the time of Adjournment from 7:50pm to 6:50pm.

**Leith-Dowling moved** to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2001 regular meeting with amendments; Kemp seconded.

**Motion passed** by unanimous consent.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS ON AGENDA**

Heinbockel asked if council was going to discuss the property appraisals that were just done and if they were going to make a decision to sell property tonight.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter from Robert Wagner, who inspected the City boilers, was received with items that needed to be taken care of. His letter states we need to install high temperature safety valves with manual resets and low water fuel cutoff devices on several of our boilers. Council discussed what would be the results of a boiler shutting down and no one being available to manually reset it in the event of the weather getting very cold. The question is, are these devices practical for our environment.

Ellis said she would talk to AML tomorrow and she has already talked to Bob Geise and Bob Morley about this.

A letter from the State was received determining our FY02 State Revenue Sharing/Safe Communities Program, stating the population is 840 residents.

A letter from the State was received with payment of \$32,310.00 for the Safe Communities Program.

### **REPORTS**

***Cemetery*** – Leith-Dowling reported the fencing has been ordered and should be arriving soon.

***Clerk/Treasurer*** – Ellis reported we have received the checks for the Safe Communities and the Revenue Sharing. Bob Morley has installed screen doors in the back doors of City Hall and the Library.

Ellis asked council if they wanted her to prepare an ordinance to include the exemption of the Public Officials Financial Disclosure Statement on the October ballot. Council declined.

The Alaska Science and Technology Foundation wrote a letter to the City stating that they had approved the transfer of the dry kiln equipment to the City. The equipment was originally part of a grant from the ASTF to Rodney Yamamoto, but he failed to meet the requirements. It was passed on to the City for disposal. Council has already agreed at a previous meeting to deed it to the Delta Mine Training Center.

Ellis said she got a call from Sandy Dighton asking about the use of the Community Center to hold a community wide teen night. They would have dances, games, and projects for the teens to do.

Council liked the idea and discussed the rules we would have to establish in the event of damages and/or public disturbances.

Ellis said the City now collects a cleaning deposit and we could make the same requirements in this case. They said the teens would be made aware if there were problems, it would be shut down immediately. They would like to see a place for all teens to go and have fun. The attendance at the school functions is not always open to all the children in our community, if they do not attend the school. We need a place for **all** the kids to go. Family Centered Services would sponsor the program.

Council would like to see a letter from Dighton with a little more in-depth explanation of her plans.

Weller will talk to her and explain what council requests.

Ellis introduced Mark Miller, who has been working at the TV translator site.

He asked council who owns the land because we need to replace the towers soon.

Mayor Gilbertson said the military owns the land the towers are on.

Miller said the stations in Fairbanks would be going to Digital TV in approximately 7 to 10 years. Right now, there are no translators made for digital television.

The City needs to purchase new translators now, and they are about ten thousand dollars per unit. The existing antennas can be used for now with some minor repairs. We will not be allowed to put any equipment on the Alascom towers. We will need a strong new structure installed at some point because the winds are so strong on Donnelly.

Mayor Gilbertson asked what it would take to bring it totally up to date.

Miller said the structures will probably be the most costly because they will have to be supported with guy wires and we will need four towers in the range of 20 feet each.

Hallgren asked if we could build new structure that are the same as the ones we currently have.

Miller said we could get big posts and build the same as what is there now and it would work as well.

Weller asked if the new towers would be okay for the digital translators we may have to get in the future.

Miller said he has been looking for someone in the area that could build and/or install towers that can hold the weight of the 65 pound antennas.

Mayor Gilbertson said we need to focus on what we should do for the next ten years to get better television service to the community.

Miller stated we also have some bad cable running to the translator. We should focus on replacing the translators and getting them installed. Also, we should get new towers installed in the near future. It would be best to get the new towers constructed and then switch the antennas over. This would provide less time without television reception. We won't need permission to switch the translators, but we could need it to build new towers on the property.

Leith-Dowling asked if it would be possible to get more stations from Fairbanks when we are translating on channel numbers that already exist.

Miller said we probably wouldn't be able to get more channels at this time. He says we need to replace all three translators. Channel 13 keeps going down and is in the worst condition of any of them. We could have new ones within a week or two of being ordered.

Council agreed to get price quotes for new equipment.

Miller said the antennas are usable but need some work as they have been shot at and have some damage.

Heinbockel asked why don't we upgrade the antennas also.

Miller said we have 'over kill' on the antennas, they are so big, but they are not in too bad of shape. He will look into the price of antennas. The new ones would be smaller and lighter. We need separation between the translators and the antennas, thus the need for several towers. Our towers shouldn't be installed higher than the Alascom tower.

Hallgren said if we ask for proposals for new translators, cable and installation, this should be adequate at this point. We will ask for a quote to include new antennas that will be optional at this time.

**Kemp moved to proceed** with getting proposals for translators and installation with antennas as a deductive alternate; Weller seconded.

Miller will provide the specifications for the towers and equipment.

Weller asked if it should be broken into three parts – translators, towers antennas.

Hallgren said if we don't have enough money for the project, we can ask for assistance from NMD to complete the work.

Miller estimated it would cost approximately 10-25 thousand dollars per tower.

Pole construction, like what is there now, would be less expensive and the same set up would work, as long as they were new poles and installed well.

**Roll call vote** with motion passing unanimously.

**Department of Economic Development** – Hallgren reported Lieutenant General Ronald Kadish would be in Delta for a meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. (later scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup>). There were information meetings held in Kodiak and the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce meeting was met with favorable response. However, the evening meeting was

full of doubters. We need to be sure Delta residents show up to our meeting. Delta had the largest turnout in the entire nation for the EIS meeting that was held here previously.

There was a very small demonstration at Fort Greely about the missile defense last week.

Mayor Gilbertson commented that where there are tests, there are sure to be some failures, and they will have to destroy those failures in the air or on lift off.

Kemp wondered what difference a failure here will be versus the bombing the military does now.

There will be an airport compliance meeting in Anchorage September 9, 2001.

The OEA grant money has been approved and they will be sending a check for \$126,000.00 this week. We have submitted the quarterly reimbursement report.

We received a call from EDA about the million-dollar grant and they say everything is looking good. They were here to review and discuss the uses of the money last week. We will be able to access the funds only after we put in a formal request. For example, we can't use the funds to do asphalt paving on a non-paved road, but we can use it to maintain the roads that are already built. There has been an increase in the grant to \$997,800.00 but that raises our local match to \$110,000.00. We may use the funding to do maintenance on D66, the landfill, equipment, buildings, and for personnel, etc.

Kemp asked if this is the money which had no strings attached originally.

Hallgren reported we could use it for those improvements planned for the landfill, but they can't issue it to us until our application is submitted.

We have failed to come up with a way to fund a planner position or conduct a regional government study. But we are still trying to find new ideas to make it happen. We will be submitting a grant request for the study.

The Community Impact Grant contracted by Hagerty and Associates to send to the Department of Defense includes money for salaries for the planner position. Our request for the FY02 budget from the Federal Government is about 9 to 10 million dollars and does not include schools.

We will have a draft request ready for the Governor's budget by the end of the week to give to Lamar Cotten.

We will need to come up with \$110,000 to match the Federal amount of \$900,000 to \$1,000,000.

We will be going to the legislature to get the million for the Allvest settlement, but it is looking dim in getting funds out of the Feds. Allvest has better relations than we do with the legislature, so they may be able to secure the funds.

We met with two Representative Harris staff people and had a heart to heart talk about our needs. We hope Representative Harris gives us a call for more discussion.

The reapportionment suit has a scheduling conference on Friday and will be consolidated to Anchorage. The Judge is Mark Ritner. Testimony will be taken in Fairbanks and Ketchikan.

**Hockey Rink** – Mayor Gilbertson reported the flooring is in for the locker rooms.

Heinbockel said the outdoor high school rink has been removed.

**Landfill** – Ellis reported that she wrote a letter to Joe Peters about compliance with the AML/JIA risk management report.

Hallgren says we can count on maintaining the structure well enough to get fire apparatus parked in the landfill building.

Ellis and Hallgren are writing a letter asking for compliance at the landfill to Delta Sanitation. It is time to review the lease agreement.

Weller would like to see an incinerator at the landfill. He was there last weekend and there is trash blowing everywhere that doesn't get burned and they need to maintain the burn boxes. There have been no bear problems recently, however there was a bear killed, most likely by poaching, near the landfill that was left to rot.

Heinbockel said there is a state and local law that states no one can hunt within a mile of the landfill.

Mayor Gilbertson said Peters has a contract with the City and it is his obligation to keep up his part of the contract.

Mayor Gilbertson said the City grader is in good shape and only needs a little bit of maintenance work.

Heinbockel asked if we upgrade our crawler, could we sell the Case?

**Land** – Kemp reported we have received three copies of the recently done appraisal. She is almost done reviewing it and will pass the copy she has onto someone else. She wants to be sure everyone has read it before any decisions are made. She will review it thoroughly and talk to Chilton Hines and see where and how he came up with the prices in his report. Our land sales were most of his comparable sales and the prices he quotes are down from the last reports. The City has sold some highway frontage lots recently, and they were the most attractive locations.

Hines says the economy hasn't grown much lately and won't in future without NMD.

**Library** – Leith-Dowling reported the first genealogy session was held with several people attending. The second meeting will be this Friday and you can attend part two without being at part one and still get a lot out of the session. The summer reading program held their end of the program party with Ellie Schneider playing music and leading a sing-a-long.

Joyce McCombs would like to thank City Council for the Friday openings at the library. It has turned out to be a very popular day.

We received a number of quality books as a donation from the State Library.

**Park** – Heinbockel reported the park was used by the Alaska Aids Ride this week and was left in good shape.

Weller said he delivered a handful of tent stakes that were pulled out of the ground there last year to one of the workers.

We have been informed this will be they last year for this ride until further notice.

Mayor Gilbertson discussed adding amenities to the park. He was at the park recently, and there were people there that use it every Sunday. He said people would like to see additions and improvements to the park. Bathrooms at the east-end of the park would be a welcomed addition. There is a need for two volleyball courts also. He felt the park would be used more because it is a very nice park. The overburden needs to be cleaned out on the southeast corner also.

A group that uses the park regularly asked if it is possible for them to use one of the fields to play ball.

Weller suggested scheduling sign ups during game times.

Mayor Gilbertson said the group will be happy to help mow grass on the east side of the park to help out.

Heinbockel asked about the outhouses by the playground equipment and if they need to be pumped and maintained.

Ellis said it was her understanding that Kel Weidner was keeping them pumped.

Hallgren and Ellis explained our park is part of the Mental Health Trust land. We have the park leased from the State through 2024, but after that, we will have the option to purchase the land or possibly lease it again from the Trust.

**Personnel** – Leanna Dube will be back to work the third week of September.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Hallgren explained the proposal from Dave Johnson, Outdoor American, to provide pictures and information on the City's web page for the community and for new people to look at when they are interested in Delta.

Hallgren's budget has \$1,200 to use towards this project and Ellis said she could use \$1,000 from the City's Administration budget.

**Weller moved to** approve Johnson's proposal; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Council commented that no one is as familiar with the web page and the material as Johnson is.

**Roll call vote** with motion passing. Heinbockel voted no.

Hallgren sent letter to the Chamber of Commerce asking for pictures of the Delta area businesses for the website and has never heard back from them.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Leith-Dowling moved to** approve Ordinance 2002-03 An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 3.30 Ambulance Fees, Section 3.30.020 and 3.30.040 and providing for an Effective Date as presented; Kemp second.

Heinbockel said he is against this ordinance because it does not include all the people that volunteer for the City, but only the Rescue Squad and Fire Department. He would like to see the definition of volunteer stricken from the ordinance, so it would be more inclusive.

Leith-Dowling said it is the least we can do for the years the Fire Department and Rescue Squad put in volunteering. She felt this ordinance clarifies the situation so it doesn't have to come to council every time. It also clarifies that it does not cover people that may volunteer for one-time events or sporadically.

Heinbockel said it's a shame we have to charge anyone that has been hurt for ambulance services.

**Roll call vote** with motion passing. Heinbockel voted no.

Council discussed the purchase orders presented for payment.

Kemp said that although we haven't all had a chance to look at the appraisal paperwork, the work by Chilton Hines has been done and we need to pay it.

Weller asked if we want to withhold it until the appraisals can be reviewed. He asked about the electric bill and if it was the usual costs for the City Hall/Library.

**Kemp moved to approve:**

- PO6306 to ACS for phone charges for July 2001 in the amount of \$756.48
- PO6307 to Guess & Rudd for Attorney fees for July 2001 in the amount of \$2,637.42
- PO6316 to Golden Valley Electric Assn. for July 2001 in the amount of \$628.23
- PO6321 to Aetna US Health Care for Insurance for August 2001 in the amount of \$3,377.50
- PO6322 to ATT & Alascom for Aug 2001 phone for 911 lines to North Pole in the amount of \$564.80
- PO6323 to Wells Fargo Bank for payroll taxes 8-15-01 in the amount of \$2,581.62
- PO6324 to PERS for retirement for 8-15-01 payroll in the amount of \$864.74
- PO6325 to Chilton Hines for property appraisals in the amount of \$2,800.00

Weller seconded.

**Roll call vote** with motion passing unanimously.

**Leith-Dowling moved** to approve Resolution 2002-01 Requesting Payment in Lieu of Taxes funding from Department of Community and Economic Development; Summers seconded.

**Roll call vote** with motion passing unanimously.

Summers discussed speed bumps on City streets to slow down drivers that run stop signs and speed. They are needed on the corners where Dewar's, Heinbockel's, Beck's and DuBois' houses are, and probably several others.

Heinbockel said he caught a speeder and took their license plate number. This seemed to help after he talked to the driver.

Mayor Gilbertson said he had seen the same driver speeding by Delta Building Supply.

Leith-Dowling said she was at a corner in City limits by the park and four times the same car went through the intersection while she was there and never stopped. It was a green pick up.

Summers said we would have to install warning signs before the speed bumps.

Ellis will ask insurance about installing them.

Mayor Gilbertson said it is hard to keep speed bumps in place in the winter because of the grader activity.

#### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tana Wood advised council to get together with the Chamber and their website so we aren't putting the same thing on both sites. Robert Anderson maintains the Chamber site at no charge. The website could be created to complement each other and provide links to many other sites.

#### **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Kemp asked if anyone knew about the F16 jets flying low over the park. They were less than 300 feet and circled around the Alascom tower.

She is concerned that if we don't say something to them about this, it could get worse. We have to live with some of the things the military does here that we don't all care for, but we do need to be a voice with our concerns. This was a single F16 pilot giving show for the people in the park and flying right over the residential area.

Mayor Gilbertson talked about the resolution for closing the area for hunting in Tanana Flats. They want to restrict any 4 wheelers on military land. He didn't see anything published about it, and Delta is considered part of Tanana Flats. We need to write a letter with our concerns. Hallgren and Ellis will work on composing a letter and anyone with other concerns can call or drop them off at City Hall.

Kemp said the convoy traffic is terrible and they don't slow down through town. She was behind some that were doing 55 mph right through the middle of Delta Junction where 35 mph is posted.

Weller suggested they travel in the night when the roads are not so busy.

Mayor Gilbertson has concerns with the military traffic on the highways also.

Weller says they shouldn't be flying over populated areas at any time.

**Adjournment** at 7:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis  
Clerk/Treasurer