



September 18, 2001
City of Delta Junction
Regular Meeting

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mayor Gilbertson with council members Mark Weller, Mary Leith-Dowling, Lou Heinbockel, Henry Summers and Nat Good present. Kemp arrived at 5:10pm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gilbertson added purchase orders # 6377 and # 6379 to New Business.

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

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2001 regular meeting; Good seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Lamar Cotten, State of Alaska, supporting the City's request for impact funds.

An email from Tom George was received stating the FAA weather offices in Delta and Gulkana will remain open after all the response they got from the communities and pilots.

A letter and resolution was received from AML condemning the Terrorist Attack on the United States and asking if the City would support a resolution of their own.

REPORTS

Airport - Mark Weller talked to Saarloos and he will get a rough draft of the survey to us soon and one approved from the State by October - we will be able to put the road and the 200' lots in soon. Jack Morris and Weller walked the land with Saarloos and they determined the road should run parallel with the Richardson Highway and with Andreassen's road. The City could build a ramp

out of dirt and gravel for access down to the airstrip where the ridge runs along the property.

Cemetery - Mary Leith-Dowling reported the fencing has arrived and Deltana has been contacted.

Kemp arrived at the meeting at 5:10pm.

City Clerk/Treasurer - Pamela Ellis reported it is time to send in the STIP nominations once again. Please let her know if there are roads you would like to see on the list. Ellis talked to the ACS and the Fairbanks Northstar Borough about getting Enhance 911 in Delta again. They will be calling her back. The last day to submit applications for the Council election is the 25th.

Ellis discussed insurance and bonding for the City employees. All the employees and Council members are covered under the insurance policy. Only the Treasurer needs to be bonded and at this time Ellis is bonded for \$5,000. If you would like to see the bonding rate higher, then she will research it more.

Hallgren said it is expensive to buy higher bonding but if something happens now, then the City would only receive \$5,000 in compensation.

Good asked what the rate would be if the City wanted a bond for \$100,000.

Ellis will research it.

Good asked what our insurance rates are for this policy.

Ellis will bring the breakdown to council at the next meeting.

Ellis reported we are not going to apply for the Village Safe Water grant or the DCBG grant this year. The community needs to be 50% or more poverty level to qualify, or the project needs to be only for the poverty level residents.

Department of Economic Development - Pete Hallgren reported the \$1 million grant paperwork is looking good. We have made some modifications and it has been submitted completely. Hallgren asked them for advance money to work on the landfill project and maintenance on the road to the clinic. This could possibly be used on the TV repeater project also. The \$10 million NMD grant is also looking more certain. The \$1 million grant needs a \$108,000 match and a \$1 million match is needed for the \$10 million grant.

Good made clear there is not 'extra money' flowing through the City. It is for very specific projects that have been previously approved. We don't have money for anything that isn't maintenance or specified in the grant papers.

Kemp said she would like to see the money before we start any projects.

Hallgren said there are still no guarantees.

A permanent fund report is included in the packet. The money is doing well in Morgan Stanley and is invested in the right areas. All of the money we have invested is insured. Hallgren has some recommendations for changes to the ordinance concerning the 90% interest allocation. If we take out 90% of our investment income each year as currently specified in the ordinance, or bond rates change much, we will not be ahead of inflation, thus a loss of spending power. The change would let council set the amount up to 90% at budget time, but it wouldn't have to be taken out if it were not needed.

The next recommendation concerns taking the money out at the beginning of the fiscal year instead of the calendar year. The letters from the auditor

crossed over with the withdrawal of the permanent fund's 90% in January. Hallgren recommends we don't take out any more money from the permanent fund this fiscal year and we don't make another withdrawal until July 1, 2002. We have already budgeted \$32,000 for the current years' budget, but we will make compensations somewhere else in the general fund budget.

Council would like Hallgren to move forward with drafting the ordinance changes. Hallgren would be happy to explain this in more detail with council members. All the funds that should be in the permanent fund are there. Hallgren discussed his memo about 'at will employees' who serve at the pleasure of the Council or Mayor. He would like to make a policy change that at will employees would get a 30-day notice of termination that is not for cause and the employees would give the City a 30-day notice of them resigning. Council directed Hallgren to move forward with the policy change.

Finance - Nat Good reported there are funds to pay bills that are coming up in New Business.

Library - Mary Leith-Dowling reported the library received a check for \$6,400.00 from the State for the annual operating grant. McCombs put in for a library cooperation grant for \$2,040.00 and we also received that check today. The grant is for using the school and public library resources in conjunction with each other.

Kemp said McCombs does a great job in the library.

Park - Lou Heinbockel asked if the park has been winterized.

Ellis will find out and have it done if it hasn't been taken care of already.

Personnel - Mayor Gilbertson reported Friday is Letha Burcham's last day at City Hall and everyone is invited to a luncheon at noon for her. Leanna Dube will be back in the office Monday morning.

Hallgren reported he and Dube will be going to Memphis October 2-4 for the FAA conference on joint airport use and Burcham will be in the office while they are gone.

OLD BUSINESS

Linda Sorensen compiled a packet regarding the status of the property on Block 22 showing who owns which lots and what is still available for sale. The only lots that are still available now are the two Bill Donets has requested to purchase.

Heinbockel moved to approve the sale of Block 22 lots 4 and 5 to Bill Donets at the current approved appraised value. If the new appraisal, after being approved by council, is less, then that will be his price; Weller seconded. Council discussed the appraisal that was recently done and the prices.

Mayor Gilbertson said that the property wasn't held from being sold because of the price, it was over the confusion of ownership.

Heinbockel said the new appraisal was done because Council felt that prices were too low, and we ought to go with whatever value the new appraisals come in at.

Mayor Gilbertson said there is land selling in Delta that has gone up in value by over a third.

Kemp said the appraiser is going to talk to the other realtor that he didn't speak to before finalizing his appraisal.

Good is against dropping the price of the land and selling it for less than the current values.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Council discussed the submission of the Capital grant priority list. They would like to see it less specific in case there are other projects that can be funded out of the grant.

Heinbockel reminded Council that anything we build, we have to consider future maintenance costs.

Kemp moved to approve Resolution 2002-02, A resolution prioritizing capital projects in the community for submission to the State of Alaska for FY2003 funding under the Capital Matching Grant Program (AS 37.06) with changes as stated; Good seconded.

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

Kemp moved to adopt Resolution 2002-03, A resolution supporting the President's work to defend the United States of America against additional attacks; Good seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Council discussed the Wolf Pack Cub Scouts using the conference room at no charge. They would like to see some work on the grounds at City Hall done towards their outdoor skills badge and would also like to see a flag ceremony performed for Council when the scouts have learned it.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the request from the Wolf pack Cub Scouts for a waiver of fees for the use of the conference room for their meetings, with the stipulation of a paying customer requesting the room, with a week's notice, comes first; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Good moved to approve the list of purchase orders including the add-on of PO#6377 and PO#6379; Summers seconded.

Good is glad council is seeing the purchase orders to see where the money is spent.

Weller commented the summary sheet is very helpful.

Heinbockel asked why we are paying for the Channel 17 repairs.

Ellis said to her knowledge there has never been a written agreement with the State on this. Nothing has been approved. Do we want to own it?

The State told us that if we wanted it to operate, we would pay for part of it.

Heinbockel gave the history of the channel being in Delta.

Heinbockel asked at what point any council decided they would help pay for this?

Ellis said council never made that commitment. She explained that she talked to the State awhile ago and they said the City would take it over. She told them the City would pay for the materials only and not labor for the repair they were doing and that repair was about \$100.

Council wants the charges checked out.

Weller asked if we called to have the service performed, or did they just show up?

Good amended the motion to exclude purchase order #6358 to the Dept of Administration for Channel 17 repairs for \$1,345.00;

Summers, who seconded it, accepted the amendment.

PO#6346 to Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc. for Wiggins land sale for \$10,500.00

PO#6348 to George Sandlin for land care contract (final) for \$2,500.00

PO#6349 to Outdoors American Communications for website maintenance for \$549.00

PO#6359 to Delta Industrial Service for Fire Truck Maintenance for \$897.50

PO#6362 to Delta Fuel Company for Fuel for the Community Center and Fire Department for \$604.91

PO#6363 to ATT & Alascom for phone charges for Aug 01 for \$564.80

PO#6365 to Aetna US Health Care for Insurance for \$3,377.50

PO#6366 to Brodart for Book Lease for July 01 to June 02 for \$559.80

PO#6377 to Public Employees Retirement for PERS for payroll ending 9-15-01 for \$860.68

PO#6379 to Wells Fargo Bank for payroll ending 9-15-01 for \$2,497.88

Roll call vote with motion passing on the amendment and motion.

Heinbockel said we need to look into this billing and the City's authorization.

The State needs to be responsible for the repairs and pay for it themselves, as the City doesn't have funds or grant funds approved for another station. The State pays for the stations in the other communities and should in ours as well.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Hallgren said the City website now has all the photographs on it and it looks great. The website address is www.delta-junction.org.

Good discussed Kevin and Lowen Ewing's sheep hunt and the problems they encountered. The horns have been confiscated and the State told him they could be put on display at a public facility. Good thought City Hall could be a good location for the horns and we could make that request. This would be a good way for the community to help them out in this situation.

Ellis said she has talked extensively with Ewing and will make the offer to him on behalf of the City. Right now, the horns are in possession of the District Attorney's office.

Leith-Dowling said the Library Board has discussed the offer also.

Kemp attended the Military Affairs Committee meeting at the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. Kemp told them about the City of Delta's interest of better communication with the Fairbanks community. Their committee chair, Karen Washburn, felt Fairbanks hasn't done their part, as much as Delta has, to keep the lines of communication open. Washburn will email the City with any information in the future.

Weller said this has been a hard week for him and his family and wishes the best for everyone that has been affected by the terrorist crisis.

Leith-Dowling said Channel 17 was carrying the news about the terrorists and was watched at the school for the past week. The school should be able to help with the maintenance of the station.

Kemp said it is a valuable service to the isolated communities.

Heinbockel said Channel 17 had a value, but the State should fund it and not the City or the school. They shouldn't be coming to us to pay the maintenance costs.

Mayor Gilbertson agreed that it is statewide and they need to fund it. Hallgren will check out the station's status and the bill to the City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Kemp moved to go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person at 6:20 pm; Good seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Heinbockel moved to come out of executive session at 6:55pm; Good seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Kemp moved that the City approve and adopt the actions numbered 1 through 4 in the 9-11-01 memo (attached) entitled "funding, positions and salary" and that the City budget be amended accordingly; Good seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Hallgren stated No Nukes North rented the Community Center for a meeting this weekend, but has since cancelled the meeting.

Mayor Gilbertson stated we need to find someone to run for the vacant council seat.

Hallgren said AML has a great conference for newly elected officials and we should send our new members.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis
Clerk/Treasurer