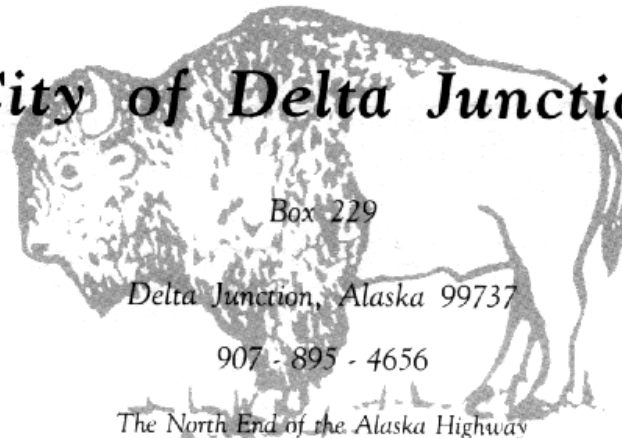


City of Delta Junction



January 22, 2002
City of Delta Junction
Regular Meeting

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:03pm by Mayor Gilbertson with council members Mary Leith-Dowling, Susie Kemp and Henry Summers present. Nat Good attended telephonically. Lou Heinbockel and Mark Weller were excused.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Added to the agenda under Request to Speak was Elias Grossman. Added to New Business was PO# 6806 to Roger Harris for airfare for Lynn and Roger Harris to travel to Indiana to inspect the new ambulance in the amount of \$996.00 and a request for a waiver of fees from the scouts for the use of the Community Center on February 22, 2002 for their meeting.

Kemp moved to approve the agenda as amended; Summers seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leith-Dowling made grammatical corrections to the minutes of the January 8, 2002 meeting under the Department of Economic Development report.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2002 regular meeting with that change; Kemp seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

Hallgren reported on a letter from the State awarding the grant for the Regional Government Feasibility Study in the amount of \$30,000. Leanna Dube and Pamela Ellis wrote the grant and scored 17th out of 60 submitted that made it to the final round. Hallgren gave "kudos" to Leanna and Pam.

Hallgren reported the airport plan was received from Delta Surveys today. Council discussed the prices for power, roads, construction and what other costs will be involved in developing the site. Saarloos submitted a statement for

\$4,600.00. He is requesting a partial payment of \$1,600.00 now. Hallgren recommend Council approve payment for \$1,600.00.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Elias Grossmann presented council with a request for support to play hockey in the Arctic Winter Games in Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada.

Leith-Dowling moved to sponsor Grossmann for \$100.00; Kemp seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

REPORTS

Clerk – Ellis reported the staff at City hall is going to start classes with North Star Bookkeeping Services and an agreement will be signed before the start. They will be meeting two times a week for a month, then assess the need for more classes.

The appeal to the Supreme Court was heard in Anchorage on December 11 and the court dismissed the case and deemed it moot as the recall election was already held. Ellis has sent for the tapes of the hearing.

Ellis noted to council the letter she put in their boxes concerning the Mental Health Trust Land and their interest in the park. She will keep them informed as to their actions on that land.

The conflict of interest statements are due to the Clerk's office no later than March 15, 2002.

Ellis handed out information about a business credit card through Alaska Airlines. The application is being mailed to the office and will be completed and sent in. The faxed copy was hard to read, thus the delay.

Department of Economic Development – Hallgren told Council about the meeting with the School District, Deltana Community Corporation and the City to be held at 7pm as a joint work session at the District Office on Thursday the 24th. The meeting has been advertised in order for all council members to attend. Hallgren reported he testified in the redistricting lawsuit in Anchorage. It is moving along and should be decided by February 1st.

Hallgren met with Point Hope and Brice Construction about coming back to Delta Junction in March for the extension on their clearing contract. They indicated there would be more local hire than last time they worked here.

Hallgren is composing the City's "legislative wish list" to include with the trip to Juneau he and the Mayor are going to take tentatively the week of Feb 11. Good is already there and will be joining them in the meetings.

Hallgren talked about the missile defense plans at the last Chamber of Commerce meeting. He reported to them that there would be a lot of people here in the spring to start construction. There will be workers through the Corp of Engineers and the Missile Defense Agency (MDA).

A mission of the MDA is to have 5 silos at Fort Greely completely operational by the end of September 2004.

The MDA is advertising a construction contract to be awarded April 12th for 100 – 125 million dollars. This is an open competitive contract and not for native corporations only. The clearing contract is separate, as well as the demolition contracts. We should expect 300-400 unaccompanied construction workers this

spring. Many of the permanent workers will be Department of Defense civil service employees who will be living in Delta and not in Fort Greely housing. These jobs will be showing up this spring. There are plans for one more fire station at Fort Greely with a staff of 10-12 fire fighters and for many DoD civilian security positions. These will be civilian security employees living in town with their families. The construction security will be separate from the Missile Defense security, providing even more jobs.

The permanent new jobs appear to be in addition to the Public Works jobs presently at Fort Greely.

The current estimate is for about 100 families living in the community by year-end as a result of the projects' permanent jobs. More permanent jobs could be expected in the following year also.

The Allen Army Airfield work is going to be underway soon with the issue of a contract for 5-6 million dollars in the next 2 weeks or so.

Construction work for the 172nd Brigade is not included in this year's budget.

Kemp asked if these numbers have included the Cold Regions Test Center personnel. She knows a person that has a 5-year contract with them.

Mayor Gilbertson said information needs to get out to our residents for the additional community services needed and housing availability.

Hallgren said the question often comes up asking if the City has a grant or loan guarantee program in place. We don't have one now, but that could change in the future if funding becomes available.

Hockey Rink – Summers has had requests from parents who would like to see insulation put in the rink. Year round use of the building has also been discussed. He would like to see the rink paved to accommodate roller-skating and other activities in the summer.

Mayor Gilbertson has people looking into the insulation now. The building is used a lot and there is always a big turn out at games. We need to get letters out to Alyeska thanking them for the use of the heater at the Hockey Rink and to the Fire Chief for the years of service to the City and community.

Landfill – Mayor Gilbertson said we will be working on the new landfill this summer.

Land – Hallgren explained to council that there is more land than what was on the last appraisal done by Mt Hayes Realtors. It was discovered entire blocks of City owned property were not included in the paperwork submitted to the City. They were listed on a previous appraisal that was done by Mt. Hayes in 1983, but not included on this one that was funded by the Delta/Greely Community Coalition.

Now that the missile defense will be a reality, Hallgren recommend we look at the lands we have and not sell any more until we know what we might need to retain for future use. There is the likelihood that it may go up in value, and it would behoove the City to retain it now rather than undercut the local private land market.

Mayor Gilbertson agrees with Hallgren and thinks the City land is under valued at this time. Council didn't approve the last appraisal because the prices were too

low. It is also not fair to realtors in the community to undersell them by offering the land at the prices it is marked now. We need to take a good look at the future needs for the City.

Good moved to freeze the sale of land until new policies, procedures and prices can be put in place and approved, and the City can formulate a competitive basis for selling land in the future; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Kemp said we need to use caution and retain property until we know where we are going in the future. The City may be able to use that land for its own needs.

Good said he understands we don't have to sell anything if we don't want to. It is ok for us to hold on to the land until we know what direction we are taking.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Library – Leith-Dowling reported Letha Burcham has been chosen to work as the part time employee at library. She has filled in at the Library in the past.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the hiring of Letha Burcham; Kemp seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Leith-Dowling reported the new computers are working well and the staff has processed a lot of books since they have been installed.

Tax forms and permanent fund booklets are available in the library now.

On Friday, the Alaska State Library representative Mary Jennings will be here to visit our library. We get a lot of good reviews from the State Library Association.

She wants to talk to regular patrons as they visit the Library, and the Library Board will meet with her also.

Personnel – Hallgren is working on the planner/project manager description to get out to newspapers to be advertised.

Mayor Gilbertson said we need to look to the community and have input meetings with the public about the impact funds we will be receiving. The public needs to let us know what they would like. We should consider setting up a committee similar to the old ILRAAC to get help and input from the community.

Hallgren hopes to get the planner on board to work on the project as millions will probably be available to the City in the spring. At this point, the City doesn't have the money to guarantee the planner job as long term employment.

Until we have the money issues settled, we still have a liability out there with Delta Corrections and we know we can't use the NMD money or the million dollar grant money to make that payment.

Kemp said it would be hard to come up with an impact list if we don't yet know what is going to happen in the community and exactly how much is going to be here. For now we can only project what could be on a "what if" basis. People want to participate and get involved in the planning and they need to come forward and start now.

Leith-Dowling said we need a planning commission again.

Public Health and Safety – Summers reported Chief Bobo has resigned from the Fire Department and Norm Hilliker is filling in. He talked to Deltana about the situation and there are volunteers that are on both Deltana and Delta's Fire Departments, so there are several possible solutions.

Hallgren reported there is a new furnace to be installed in the building at the landfill.

A request for a long term loan of the Betty Crocker Fire Truck to Deltana Fire Department has been received and they would like to rebuild it and get it back in service. Since the truck has such meaning to the City and the community, they want the City to retain ownership.

There is other work being considered for the landfill building, such as pouring a concrete floor where the trucks are located. They are looking into a buried insulated water source at the landfill as well.

Kemp move to approve a long-term loan of the Betty Crocker Fire Truck to Deltana Fire Department for them to repair and run; Good seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Leith-Dowling moved to approve draft audit report from Mikunda, Cottrell & Co.; Good seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Kemp moved to approve:

PO# 6774 to Winnebago Software for bar code reading for library in the amount of \$550.00

PO# 6776 to Wells Fargo Bank for payroll taxes ending 1-15-02 in the amount of \$2,467.97

PO#6778 to Public Employees Retirement for payroll ending 1-15-02 in the amount of \$1,065.74

PO#6784 to Provident Life Insurance for employee life insurance in the amount of \$571.35

PO#6788 to Golden Valley Electric Association for power in the amount of \$1,309.69

PO# 6790 to Pete Hallgren for per diem and transmission for ambulance in the amount of \$2,510.30

PO# 6800 to ATT Alascom for phone charges and electricity at Donnelly Done in the amount of \$564.80

PO# 6801 to Aetna US Health Care for employee insurance for January 2002 in the amount of \$4,290.25

PO# 6802 to Delta Fuel for Dec/Jan heating oil in the amount of \$2,099.58

PO# 6803 to Alaska Communication Systems for phone charges in the amount of \$1,111.97

PO# 6805 to Guess & Rudd for attorney fees for Dec 2001 in the amount of \$2,024.02

PO# 6808 to Roger Harris for travel to Indiana for Roger and Lynn Harris to inspect the new ambulance in the amount of \$996.00;

Leith-Dowling seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Leith-Dowling moved to introduce and hold the first reading and set the public hearing for Ordinance 2002-08, Amending the budget for FY02 and adding

revenue and expenditure account numbers; Good seconded. The public hearing will be held at the first meeting in February.

Ellis said this moves some funds around in the budget and will likely have to be done again at the end of the year. It also adds accounts to several funds in the budget to make reporting to the State and Federal Government easier and to aid in filling out the forms for our funding sources. This also lets us track our spending in several areas more thoroughly.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Kemp moved to introduce and hold the first reading and set the public hearing for Ordinance 2002-09, Amending City Code of Ordinances, Title II, Elections; Summers seconded. The public hearing will be held at the first meeting in February.

Ellis explained Leith-Dowling, the City Attorney and City staff has reviewed this ordinance, and she would like to have the entire council read it thoroughly before it is sent to the Department of Justice for approval. There have been many revisions made to it, to get to this point, but there may be more revisions needed before adoption that council members might find. Once we feel the ordinance is complete and we send it to Washington DC, the Department of Justice (DoJ) will make any changes they see are needed. After we receive approval from the DoJ, we can only adopt those changes they make, if any. If we find something that needs changing after their approval, we would have to send it back a second time for an additional review. It will probably take months to receive a response from them on the ordinance.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Hallgren discussed the letter he wrote to George Pursey about the Department of Transportation clearing the airfield for Medivac flights. George Pursey requested the letter to send to Anchorage and see what the requirements would be if DOT would do the plowing. There was a flight recently for a child and the plane could not land due to drifting and no maintenance at the airport. Pursey told Hallgren they still have the airport runway snow plow equipment at Fort Greely, but there is no one authorized to run it now.

Kemp moved to waive fees for the Community Center on February 22, 2002 for the scouts meeting; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Hallgren reported the final request for reimbursement from OEA grant from last year has been mailed out.

Good is in Juneau now setting up meetings with legislators for Hallgren and Mayor Gilbertson when they travel down there next month.

Adjournment at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis
Clerk/Treasurer