



February 5, 2002  
5:00pm  
Regular Meeting – City Hall

## **MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was called to order at 5:04pm by Mayor Gilbertson with council members Mark Weller, Mary Leith-Dowling, Nat Good, Lou Heinbockel and Susie Kemp present. Henry Summers was excused.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Kemp moved** to approve the agenda as presented; Good seconded.

**Motion passed** by unanimous consent.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Under the Library report, Leith-Dowling changed Mary Jennings as representing the Alaska State Library, not the Alaska Library Association.

**Leith-Dowling moved** to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2002 regular meeting with the change; Kemp seconded.

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank you card was received from Eli Grossmann thanking Council for sponsoring him at the Arctic Winter Games. He has received enough money to make the trip to play in the games.

### **REPORTS**

**Airport** - Weller reported he talked to Morris who said the City needs to raise the level of the airport runway six inches. It also needs extending in order to make it accessible to "B class" planes. Also, improvements need to be made so Medivac planes are able to take off and land for emergencies.

**Hallgren** stated Matt Freeman, FAA, told him he is against the City selling the lots at the airport as the City then loses control of the operations there. He felt the City should lease them on long term agreements.

**Weller** said we need to do maintenance on the runway this summer and we should start advertising right away. Contracts could be out by the end of March so the work can be done as soon as possible.

**Mayor Gilbertson** said we need to have a work session on the airport, and instructed Ellis to set up a meeting date and time.

Council discussed having a covenant in place in the area where the hangars would be built. They also discussed the need to get the new area opened up and operational as soon as possible.

Good said if we had some good sound development there we could offer the lots at a good price. Security could be a problem in the future and we need to look at it seriously.

Council discussed what will become of Allen Army Airfield and who is allowed to use it.

Dick Anderson said the airport is, and has been, open to anyone that meets the military requirements.

Heinbockel stated he would not support the runway being extended towards the Richardson Highway without removing the power lines. They are a hazard to planes now and would be more so if the runway extended that way further.

**Clerk** – Ellis reported she would be at the clerk's conference in Juneau from the 15 to the 22. The streetlights on School Road and in the parking lot at City Hall are in need of repair and relamping. Grasse Electric will be here on a job for the State DOT and we can use them while they are here and save some money by combining the jobs.

Council needs to set up a meeting for the grounds maintenance contract this summer. We can combine it with the airport workshop.

The auditors will be here April 15 for preliminary work. Ellis asked council to consider a 3-5 year contract with the same auditors for consistency and continuity.

Ellis asked council to approve the automatic payment of payroll related checks without bringing them to council for approval each meeting. The checks need to be issued immediately and sometimes cannot wait for a meeting. The delay would cost the City penalties for late payment. The purchase orders will still be brought to council for their information.

**Kemp moved to** approve PERS, Federal Tax, ESC and all payroll-related checks issued without having approval of the council each time; Good seconded.

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

With the influx of activity in the City, Council may want to consider some type of permits for future construction in City, or some means of knowing what is proposed to be built. Additional zoning within the City may be a consideration as well.

Heinbockel said it is hard to enforce our ordinances now. We need to know how we are going to handle having more to enforce in the future?

Hallgren gave an example of the lots the Mental Health Land Trust is going to sell in town. Should we tell them that it is residential area in the City before the sale? Are we going to enforce the fact that they lay in the residential area?

**Department of Economic Development** – Hallgren reported that he, Mayor Gilbertson and Susie Kemp attended the pre-bid conference in Fairbanks, as well as the walk through at Fort Greely. There were 150 in Delta Junction for the on-site.

General Nance spoke to the Joint Military Committee today in Juneau. Besides those on the committee, the President of the Senate along with an additional 15 legislators were in attendance.

General Nance reported to the Committee that hundreds of millions of dollars are allocated for the work at Fort Greely and it is a top priority for National Defense. He also stated the City of Delta Junction will receive 10 million this year and an additional 10 million next year for impact funds.

Hallgren presented a letter he and Kemp will be taking to Juneau requesting funds from the State for Federal match and to alleviate the Allvest liability.

Council discussed the letter and how much the liability should be a part of the request.

Good suggested the City ask for a set amount as general funds with no strings attached.

Hallgren said Representative Harris set up the meetings they will be attending and felt we shouldn't go in and ignore the 1 million-dollar liability. It is something we need to pay.

Leith-Dowling said it is mentioned several times throughout the letter, which may not be necessary.

Hallgren and Kemp will be going to Juneau Thursday and Friday to meet with the Finance Committees on both sides. The letter will be sent to Representative Harris' office for distribution to legislators before they arrive.

Hallgren reported the Delta area has won the redistricting suit... so far. He has sent a letter to the local plaintiffs. The judge issued an 86 page decision, which has been appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Judge wrote that since Delta is not in a borough, it doesn't have the constitutional right to be in the same district. The judge did recognize the fact that Delta doesn't have anything to do with the folks in the Palmer area.

When the boundaries change, other district lines will change as well, so there may be more lawsuits and appeals from communities not happy with those changes.

If this decision holds up through the appeal, we will probably get back the Deltana area as before.

**Hockey Rink** – Heinbockel commented on the last minutes where Summers discussed the plan to look at insulating the rink. He reminded council of the study that was performed and includes insulation. The rink boards need to be worked on and Heinbockel inquired if we can we use Bob Morley to do some of the work.

Mayor Gilbertson thought we could.

**Public Health and Safety** - Hallgren reported he would be meeting with fire fighters from Fort Greely on Monday. There are firefighters from Greely that are interested in serving on the City Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

Ellis reported Lynn and Roger Harris have gone to inspect the new ambulance.

Heinbockel asked about the Betty Crocker fire truck being loaned to Deltana Fire Department and asked if it will be housed at the landfill.

Mayor Gilbertson said it will be stored there to be worked on, but it will be in service down at Sawmill Creek Road when it is operational. Deltana will also put baffles in the water tank on the truck.

**Public Works** – Heinbockel complimented the road grader operator for the good work he is doing. Council talked about how Mil-Tan blows shut quickly and what could be done to alleviate this problem.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A January 2002 ambulance billing report was presented to council for review.

**Good moved to** approve:

PO# 6812 to Pat White for ambulance billing in the amount of \$1,422.51

PO# 6820 to Peter Hallgren for phone charges reimbursement in the amount of \$122.78

PO# 6830 to Alaska Municipal League for the 2002 dues in the amount of \$1,220.00;

Weller seconded.

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

PO# 6833 to Wells Fargo Bank for payroll taxes for pay ending 1-31-02 in the amount of \$2,744.84

and PO# 6834 to Public Employees Retirement for pay ending 1-31-02 in the amount of \$1,110.35 were not voted on as they are payroll-related checks which were covered in a previous motion.

**Kemp moved** to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2002-08, Amending the budget for FY02 and adding revenue and expenditure account numbers; Leith-Dowling seconded.

**Motion passed** by unanimous consent.

**Weller moved** to close the Public Hearing of Ordinance 2002-08, Amending the budget for FY02 and adding revenue and expenditure account numbers; Good seconded.

**Motion passed** by unanimous consent.

**Leith-Dowling moved** to hold the second reading and adopt Ordinance 2002-08, Amending the budget for FY02 and adding revenue and expenditure account numbers; Kemp seconded.

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

Weller moved to open the Public Hearing of Ordinance 2002-09, Amending City Code of Ordinances, Title II, Elections; Good seconded.

**Motion passed** by unanimous consent

**Kemp moved to** close the Public Hearing of Ordinance 2002-09, Amending City Code of Ordinances, Title II, Elections; Good seconded.

**Motion passed** by unanimous consent

**Kemp moved** to hold the Second Reading of Ordinance 2002-09, Amending City Code of Ordinances, Title II, Elections; Leith-Dowling seconded.

**Motion passed** by unanimous consent.

**Adjournment** at 6:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis  
Clerk/Treasurer