



City of Delta Junction

Box 229

Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

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The North End of the Alaska Highway

Regular City Council Meeting
April 2, 2002
City Hall Conference Room

MINUTES

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting of the regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Gilbertson at 5:05pm with Nat Good, Mark Weller, Lou Heinbockel, Mary Leith-Dowling and Susan Kemp present. Henry Summers arrived at 6:20pm.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2002 regular meeting: Good seconded. **Motion passed** by unanimous consent.

Request to Speak

Bill Donets said he talked to Linda Sorensen in City Hall about purchasing the lots he was interested in last year. She told him there is now a freeze on all land sales.

Ellis said she wrote Donets a letter in December asking if he was still interested in the land, and to notify the City if he was. Donets said he never received the letter. Council said if he was promised the land, it should be sold to him. He said he would come in and pay for it before the end of the week.

Correspondence

A letter from Mark Ames was received expressing concerns about the renaming of Alaskaland. Hallgren spoke with him on the phone and told him the City felt that it was a concern of the Fairbanks North Star Borough more than Delta's and trusts the Borough would do the right thing. A letter from the Alaska State Legislature, Legislative Affairs Agency regarding a new Office of Immigration was received. Council expressed concerns as to how they were going to service the residents of Delta and the Interior from their location in Juneau. Will they be coming to Delta to serve our community? It is hard to communicate on the phone for a lot of our immigrant residents. Council instructed Ellis to call them and ask what exactly their duties are in this office and how they can assist us in Delta Junction.

The FY03 State Revenue Sharing Program Data Elements, which are used to calculate the City's FY03 payment, was received and presented to Council for their information.

A letter from DEC requesting water quality information for the area was received. Ellis said we will fill out the questionnaire.

A thank you from Phil Kaspari, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, for use of the audio equipment for the farm forum was received.

A letter from Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc. was received about the services they provide to the community. Mayor Gilbertson said he talked to Ken Farrow and he would like to come to the next Council meeting and discuss his services with council.

Reports

Airport - Hallgren discussed the draft ordinance and the draft resolution regarding sale of lots at the airport. He suggested a workshop to discuss the details and finalize the ordinance and resolution. He has received comments that the 60' taxiway is too narrow for larger aircraft. Council asked Hallgren to look into the lot sizes for adequate septic to well measurements. Council set a work session for April 11th at 4:00pm in the conference room.

Cemetery - Leith-Dowling reported she met with Art Saarloos to discuss the grave that was dug outside the proper boundaries in Block 5. They decided to survey additional gravesites to include the improperly placed one. Saarloos will also survey to square the corners up in the recently cleared area. Saarloos said he would complete the survey within the week.

Clerk - Ellis read an email from a group that wants to make a quilt to be donated to the community. Blocks will be sold to merchants for \$159.00 and their business will be named on the quilt in their own block. Council said that this project should be referred to the Chamber of Commerce.

Ellis said the bike rodeo is scheduled for May 26th. Linda Sorensen and Leanna Dube have been working with Randy and Erin Kauai. IGA has offered to donate hotdogs for a picnic after the event. The surplus sale is set for April 6th at 9:00am in the Community Center garage.

We have been working on the City website and adding facts about the Delta area and things to do in the vicinity.

Don Young will be holding a luncheon at Pizza Bella tomorrow afternoon and everyone is invited to attend.

A thank you card was received from the Adult Learning Program for the donation of computers. Ellis introduced Ruby Hollembaek who invited Council to a Safe Schools program on April 16, after the Council meeting. This is a community outreach program for the youth in the community. There are many activities that will be happening all week.

Department of Economic Development - Hallgren introduced Duane Gasaway to Council and the audience. He is an applicant for the planner position and is here for a couple of days for an interview, and to get to know Council and the Delta area.

Gasaway stated he has been a City Planner, City Manager, has worked in community redevelopment, economic development and has recently graduated from law school. He will be here all day tomorrow and will be around this evening to talk to Council and community members.

Hallgren reported he has hired Lamar Cotten as a consultant and Cotten will be available in about two weeks. Cotten will be here to attend the meeting with General Holly next Thursday, who will meet with the School Board and City Council.

Hallgren attended the redistricting teleconference and Delta has won the case. We have now asked them to put Delta Junction back together as we were before the change. We also expressed we are in favor of the Highway District plan.

Hallgren attended the teleconference for the Whittier prison project bill and gave testimony stating the City of Delta Junction has no current advisability on the matter. He said there were changes in the current bill that shows the State has learned from the previous mistakes that were made with Delta (the first private prison project) and others, and this is the third bill of this nature. The City of Delta Junction has a million-dollar debt due in less than three months and there isn't money to pay it. The State knew when they encouraged us to settle the lawsuit, that we would need assistance with this debt. We have asked the State, since it has learned from our mistakes, not to make us pay the entire price for the learning curve.

General Nance has expressed a willingness to discuss the impact funds for the community. There would have to be a change in the Federal Statute as it now reads that none of these funds can be used for prior debts incurred during BRAC or the prison suit. Bottom line is, we need funding from the State of Alaska.

After talking with Councilman Heinbockel, Hallgren wrote a memo addressing the fence installation bids that are due to the City on April 15. The fence now sits about 8 feet into the right-of-way on Deborah Street. If we were to construct the new fence so it's not in the right-of-way, we would have to cut down approximately 100 trees. Also, there is a concern with the wind blowing trees down on the chain link fence and the expense to repair those damages. Regardless of where the fence is built, wind damage will be an issue. Council may want to consider other types of fencing along the north line of the park.

The fence will be discussed at the workshop set for April 11th.

Finance - Good said he just received the latest budget print out and would like to sit down and go over the budget with Hallgren and Sorensen. He said there are a few adjustments that need to be made to this year's budget.

Hockey - Ellis reported the upstairs concession area and viewing room has been painted by a person who needed to perform community service.

Lands - Ellis showed Council a map of the City with all the various zones color-coded. The map is available in City Hall for anyone that would like to review it.

Library - Leith-Dowling said plans are underway for the open house on April 27th. Board members are gathering items for the silent auction baskets.

The new cataloging program has been installed and all the books from the back room are now on the shelves. The new inter-library loan computer program is up and running also. Letha Burcham has been a big help with the new programs.

Public Health and Safety - Ellis presented a bill for ambulance services to be adjusted.

Kemp moved to adjust the bill for run #R01-154 to zero; Leith-Dowling second.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Heinbockel asked why the 'over 90 days' is so high on the monthly ambulance report. Ellis said that when there are two insurance companies dealing with a bill, they take longer to be paid. She will talk to Patty White and ask her if there are any old debts, and if there are any other reasons that should be brought to Council's attention.

Heinbockel suggested if they are not being paid, take them to small claims court.

Old Business

Kemp moved to adopt Ordinance 2002-09 Amending City Code of Ordinances, Title II, Elections; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Leith-Dowling made some minor changes to the ordinance.

No public comments were made on the ordinance.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

New Business

Weller moved to approve:

- PO#06900 to Seattle Times for advertising for the planner position in the amount of \$608.50
- PO#06905 to Interior Region EMS Council for training materials for the Rescue Squad in the amount of \$611.80
- PO#06909 to Grasle & Associates for work on the lights on School Road and at City Hall in the amount of \$847.70
- PO#06911 to Emergency Medical Products for supplies for the Rescue Squad in the amount of \$1,318.81
- PO#06912 to Delta Skating Association as a donation to send skaters to the Arctic Winter Olympics in the amount of \$1,100.00
- PO#06913 to Delta Fuel Company for heating oil in the amount of \$1,586.59
- PO#06920 to ATT & Alascom for 911 phone lines and power at Donnelly Dome in the amount of \$564.80
- PO#06923 to Nancy King for travel to the Alaska Library Conference in the amount of \$542.00
- PO#06924 to Delta Building Supply for material in the amount of \$715.51

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- PO#06925 to Joyce McCombs for travel to the library conference and materials for the library in the amount of \$1,017.12
- PO#06936 to Golden Valley Electric Association for electricity in the amount of \$821.89
- PO#06937 to Alaska Communications Systems for phone charges in the amount of \$719.08
- PO#06940 to Delta Surveys, Associated for the survey of the cemetery in the amount of \$800.00
- PO# 06942 to Fairbanks Title Association for title searches on landfill property in the amount of \$750.00
- PO#06946 to Guess & Rudd for attorney fees for February 2002 in the amount of \$70.00
- PO#06961 to Pat White for ambulance billing in the amount of \$809.61
- PO#06967 to Delta Fuel Company for heating oil in the amount of \$1,442.21

Good seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Leith-Dowling presented a Proclamation for Alaska's Children, Alaska's Future addressing the need for funding for our children's education.

Hallgren presented two items from Mikunda, Cottrell & Co. about the City audit. The first is an agreement for them to come to the City this month and help us organize the finances and reporting, so we don't have repeat mistakes on our next audit. They will help us fix any mistakes now before the audit for the fiscal year end.

The second item is a letter explaining the scope of work for the audit to be performed after the year-ends. The amount of money is a bit high, but it is less than what we paid last year. This is partially because what was in last year's auditor letter as suggested changes, hasn't completely been changed. This is what they will help us do this month. Hallgren said the price should go down more each year. Though not required, it is a good idea the City continues to do yearly audits on the general books. We are required to do Federal single audits because the amount we receive exceeds the minimum threshold. We have received the same comments on the audit for two years and we never want to see them again, so we are going to get these issues resolved. There are bugs in the bookkeeping system that has made working with it very frustrating. The software company admits the glitches are there in the new versions of the program, so in turn, some reports are not accurate.

Hallgren asked Council to give him permission to sign the two agreements from Mikunda, Cottrell & Co.

Good moved to accept the proposals for the April visit of the auditors and the agreement for the end of the year audit; Weller seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Weller moved to offer the obsolete items for the surplus sale as presented; Good seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Weller moved to allow the Delta Seventh-day Adventist Youth Ministries to hold their stop smoking seminar in the Conference Room at no charge; Good seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing. Heinbockel voted no.

Additional Public Comments

Karla Geise reported to Council on the Delta Regional Economic Development Committee meeting that was held April 1st. Mike Jenkins was appointed to a seat for the Chamber of Commerce and Leanna Dube has agreed to do the secretarial duties for the committee.

They discussed with Hallgren the missile defense project and the contracts that will be awarded soon. They would like to have a school board member serve on the committee.

Mayor Gilbertson said Richard Green from Fairbanks is interested in serving on our board.

Elsie Eckman attended the City Council meeting on behalf of the Rescue Squad and reported Lynn Harris has decided not to resign as Squad Chief.

Eckman would like to see the communication channels open between the Squad and the City Administration.

Good stressed how important it is to have open communication.

Mayor Gilbertson left the Council meeting at 6:45pm to attend another meeting.

Mayor pro-tem Leith-Dowling presided over the rest of the meeting.

Kemp suggested we make sure the Squad is aware of, and hopefully able to attend, the Council meetings when there is an agenda item that pertains to their department.

Ellis stated in the past, the Fire Chief and the Squad Chief attended at least one meeting a month to report the various activities that have been taking place in their departments. This was a good time for them to discuss with Council what their needs and concerns were, and Council appreciated being kept up to date.

Summers said he thinks a lot of the recent problems are stemmed from misunderstandings and lack of communication. Especially the concerns about the new ambulance purchase and its transportation back to Alaska.

Additional Council Comments

Heinbockel said he read the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner article in today's paper about the school district opening Fort Greely School. There are many parents that do not want their children at school out there.

Hallgren discussed the meetings that were previously held with the Missile Defense Agency, the City and School District.

Adjournment at 7:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis
City Clerk/Treasurer