

# City of Delta Junction



Regular City Council Meeting  
April 16, 2002  
City Hall Conference Room

## MINUTES

### Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Roy Gilbertson called the regular City Council meeting to order at 5:10pm with Mark Weller, Lou Heinbockel and Mary Leith-Dowling present. Henry Summers was absent. Susie Kemp and Nat Good were excused.

### Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Gilbertson added to New Business:

- PO#06993 to Pete Hallgren for travel and per diem in the amount of \$1,242.83
- PO#06994 to Karla Geise for travel and per diem in the amount of \$604.70
- PO#07000 to Alaska Communication Systems for phone charges in the amount of \$921.72
- Approval of the bid for the purchase of new furnaces for the Community Center

**Leith-Dowling moved** to accept the agenda with add ons; Weller seconded.

**Motion passed** by unanimous consent.

### Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**Leith-Dowling moved** to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2002 regular meeting and the April 11, 2002 workshop; Heinbockel seconded.

Heinbockel changed small claims to "small claims court" in his statement about unpaid ambulance bills in the public health and safety report at the April 2, 2002 meeting.

Leith-Dowling added to the April 14, 2002 workshop discussion on the park fence that Jim Wiedner and Larry Fett offered options for the bid specs to make them more detailed and specific. She also added, "After research on specs for the chain link fencing and other details, the Council will decide whether to open current bids or to readvertise."

**Motion passed** by unanimous consent.

### Request to Speak

**Judith Farrow** spoke to Council about Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc., a social services agency, which has been operating in Delta for two years. It provides services for elderly and disabled adults who live from Tok to Fairbanks and everywhere in between.

The priority issue of the agency is to form a partnership with the community. They are here to provide care coordination; chore services, local transportation, and long distance

transport for Medicare patients, fee agent service, respite service for informal caregivers, and personal care assistance. They provide the financial support for these services.

**The entire group** of local hockey players who went to the Arctic Winter Games in Canada attended the meeting to thank Council for their support. The team introduced themselves and showed a video to Council highlighting the events of the games. Steve DuBois said at the last winter games no Alaskan teams won and this year every player won a medal. They had a wonderful experience and were grateful to the City for their support.

**Rescue Squad members** Lynn Harris, Roger Harris, Connie Ott, Debra Darland, David Wyckoff and Elsie Eckman attended the Council meeting. Debra Darland spoke to Council on behalf of the Rescue Squad about issues and concerns they have with the City Council and staff. They feel a lack of communication has been a major issue and may still cause the resignation by the Squad Chief, Lynn Harris. The breakdown in communication and lack of respect that has been shown to the Squad has caused them problems.

Darland said Henry Summers came to one meeting with the Squad and has not had any communication with the Squad since then. They invited Hallgren and Summers to the Rescue Squad meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> and neither one showed up. Lynn Harris said she called Linda Sorensen and asked her to tell Hallgren about the meeting.

Harris said she is still waiting for a call from Mayor Gilbertson from when she talked to him while he was in Wasilla a while ago.

Mayor Gilbertson apologized and said he thought they had resolved that matter on the phone at that time.

Several months ago the Squad submitted a letter to Hallgren asking for the City to allow drug testing of their members. They felt that this would be good for the community and the Squad. It has been six months and they have not received a response. They know Hallgren was concerned with the legal issues on this matter.

Darland said she believes their next concern has been resolved, but they were told that a City Council member was going to go down to pick up the ambulance and not a Squad member.

Roger Harris asked how would that person know what has been ordered, what is needed on the ambulance and are they qualified mechanics to inspect the new equipment?

Mayor Gilbertson said it was never mentioned that a Council member would be picking up the ambulance, only that there was a possibility of it being trucked up from Seattle to avoid the Alaska Highway miles.

Darland said the impression the Squad had, was that a Council member would be going.

Heinbockel asked if these problems are a lack of communication or a misunderstanding?

Darland said the City sent a letter on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to McPherson Supply Co. asking for the paperwork for the new ambulance. She wondered why the City didn't ask the Squad for copies directly. The person at McPherson told her the City asked for all email and electronic messages that the Squad had sent them. Ms. McDonell told Lynn Harris that the caller from City Hall was rude and made it clear to her that the ambulance belongs to the City and not the Rescue Squad, so it should be titled in the City's name. Darland stated if someone checked, Council would find all the ambulances are in the City's name.

Lynn Harris returned a \$59,000.00 grant to EMS without notifying the Council or City staff. The City received this funding through the Code Blue grant program for the purchase of a new ambulance. The Squad's needs were met with the legislative grant, so they didn't need these funds for their new ambulance. Because they returned the grant funds, another

community was able to purchase an ambulance. Darland said Hallgren was upset that it was returned and wanted to try to get the grant returned to the City.

Darland stated if we paid for the new ambulance in full (\$96,055.80) when the order was placed, the company building it would take \$1,000.00 off the price. Instead, the City invested the money in a CD until the ambulance was finished, so that discount was lost. The Squad feels the combination to the Rescue Squad door shouldn't be kept at City Hall, but only known by the Squad members.

Darland explained the Squad provides revenues for the City, had 162 runs last year and stays very busy. They do their own laundry to save money, as well as take care of all their own mechanical maintenance on the vehicles, including getting their parts at a discount price. They recently painted the building. The Squad members have each received 56 hours of training lately, and this doesn't include their ambulance time. All they want is to help the people of the community.

Mayor Gilbertson suggested that a member of the Squad attend each City Council meeting, if that is possible, to keep the Council up to date with the concerns and needs of the Squad.

Darland asked, isn't that what Summers should be doing as the Public Health and Safety liaison?

Hallgren responded to the concerns of the Squad. He said he was out of town on April 9<sup>th</sup> and didn't hear about the meeting, so was unable to attend.

He said the drug policy concern is an excellent complaint. He has been trying to get a written drug policy from the City Attorney's firm for months and will follow up on that. Hallgren said that no City Council member has ever been asked to drive the ambulance to Alaska and it was never said that a Council member would be going down to get it. That is a total misunderstanding.

Lynn Harris said she went into to Hallgren's office and was told by him that a Council member would go down to get the ambulance and Kamarath would truck it up.

Mayor Gilbertson stated it was discussed by Council members that it was a good idea that a Rescue Squad member was going to go get it. They need to get all the 'bugs' out on the drive back. The idea of trucking it from Seattle was simply, there would be less mileage on it when it got here.

Mayor Gilbertson said that Hallgren's job is to watch out for the City's needs and look out for all the departments in the City.

Ellis said she remembers calling Harris and telling her that the Mayor had mentioned trucking it from Seattle and thought she might want to call him to work out the details.

Harris said she doesn't remember Ellis telling her about the ambulance being trucked up.

Weller said an alternate Council member could go to the Rescue Squad meetings if Summers was busy or working and couldn't attend.

Mayor Gilbertson said we support the Squad in every way we can, and the Squad and the Fire Department are the most valuable departments in the City. Everyone has always felt that way and has said so many times.

Darland said they were always supported when Rick Johnson was on Council and the Squad never had these problems before.

Roger Harris said he has an excellent rapport with Medtec. He said he received a copy of the last letter the company received from City Hall asking for the schematics of the ambulance and requesting everything that was ever sent to them from the Rescue Squad.

He said the person he talked to at Medtec said the City Hall staff was rude and demanding. Medtec called the Rescue Squad within an hour of the call from the City office to let them know about it.

Mayor Gilbertson said he and Hallgren should meet with Squad members to discuss things further. He wants no misunderstandings or miscommunications.

Heinbockel pointed out that he sees a great lack of trust in the City from the Squad, just from what they have said tonight; like wanting to deny access to the City building. The City is responsible for the buildings and has every right to access when needed.

Roger Harris explained that the drugs have to be secured within the building and not just in a locked building. This is in accordance with State law.

Heinbockel said the City is still responsible for the building regardless of anything else. He said trust has to work both ways.

Roger Harris asked how to meet the State requirements for a secured environment, if City Hall has the combination to the lock?

Weller asked if someone is on duty to open the building in case of an emergency.

Harris said there is a roster that is made available to the City with names of Squad members who can respond at any time.

Hallgren said the Squad is made up of volunteers and we don't want them to go away. We want to try to make life better for the Squad and not offend them.

Hallgren stated he has been in the ambulance building one time. He doesn't want to get into the drug room, and doesn't suspect anyone else from the City does either. We need to be able to repair the furnace or fix what ever needs maintenance, occasionally.

Harris said if there is an emergency, someone could get City staff into the building.

Mayor Gilbertson asked if the Squad has a problem with Bob Morley having the combination, since he does the repairs and maintenance for the City.

**A joint work session** was scheduled for Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in the City Hall conference room.

Ruby Hollembaek introduced Sharon Ellison, a guest speaker from Oregon, who will be speaking at 7:00pm tonight, April 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Community Center and also at the teen summit. She will be talking to the School's prevention team and meeting with the elementary classes throughout the week.

Ellison said she has discovered that the rules of war are often used as the foundation for communication. When we feel threatened or vulnerable, we tend to shut down and get defensive, thus we don't get to the core of the issue, and nothing gets resolved.

She will be speaking to various groups while she is in Delta, to help them learn how to talk about issues in a different way than they might normally. She said many times we seem to interrogate, instead of seeking the answers. We have to change the way we use language. This sometimes causes us to get into power struggles that we don't need to be in. She invited everyone to the Community Center, where she will be talking about these and other issues in more detail.

Hollembaek showed Council the two flags that the school recently received which were flown at Ground Zero in New York City. They will be having a dedication ceremony on April 17<sup>th</sup>, and the flags will fly over the school.

### Correspondence

A letter from Joan Bushly was received expressing concerns about the renaming of Alaskaland.

The students from the Adult Learning Center sent a card to Council thanking them for the donation of the computers.

The State of Alaska, Division of Retirement and Benefits, sent notification of the health and life premium rate change for the upcoming fiscal year. The premium will increase 5% starting July 1, 2002.

Senator Stevens wrote to thank Mayor Gilbertson for keeping him informed of the City's requests to the State Legislature.

A letter was received from Linda Sorensen thanking Council for their support and stating her plans for the future with LEPC and other activities. She also requested to use the City office during closed hours for LEPC business. Council had no objection.

### **Reports**

***Airport*** - Weller talked to Jack Morris about problems with the plat for the new lots at the airport. We need to send a letter of request to Golden Valley for a quote to provide power to Lot 1. We should compare the cost of buried to overhead installations.

We also need to solicit a bid proposal for the taxiway construction. We can obtain specs for a gravel taxiway from the Department of Transportation in Fairbanks. We need specific numbers so our minimum bid prices for the sale can be accurate. The road to the lots will be a separate contract and cost.

***Clerk*** - Ellis reported that she talked to the State Office of Immigration in Juneau and at this time they can only afford to help people over the phone. If there is an important need, they may be able to travel, but presently don't have plans to make routine trips throughout the State. There are interpreters on their staff to help with communication, if needed. They have contact with many entities, including INS, the State Department and the Congressional Delegates. If Council has any more questions, or knows of anyone that needs help, they are more than willing to be of assistance.

Ellis went online to fill out the survey form from Department of Environmental Conservation regarding water sources in the area. She found that the survey is for communities that want to report contamination in local waterways. After discussing it with Hallgren, she did not submit a survey.

The Delta wrestlers requested the use the Community Center on April 18<sup>th</sup> for their awards banquet and would like the fee waived for this event.

**Heinbockel move** to waive the fee for the wrestlers to use the Community Center on April 18<sup>th</sup>; Leith-Dowling seconded.

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

***Department of Economic Development*** - Hallgren reported Fluor Alaska, Inc. was awarded the bid for the Missile Defense construction phase.

Lamar Cotten and Hallgren are working on the grant agreement between the State and the Federal Government for the community impact funds.

***Hockey*** - Heinbockel would like to see the exterior doors painted on the hockey building. He asked if we have received any insulation prices for the interior of the rink yet.

Mayor Gilbertson said he has gathered some prices for the insulation.

***Library*** - Leith-Dowling passed out invitations to the Library Open House to Council members. It is on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> this year. Delta Building Supply has donated an exercise machine and a recliner for the drawings, and there will be many baskets to bid on.

***Park*** - Heinbockel discussed a letter from Becky Wilburn requesting improvements at the ball fields. New equipment and maintenance work are listed in her request. The Softball

Association needs equipment of their own, as Council believes they used to borrow some from Fort Greely.

Weller stated the home team has always been responsible for dragging and chalking the fields. He said he would like to see them reseed and fertilize the lawn instead of using weed killer. Council agreed weed killer should not be used on the fields. The City may be able to provide some of the materials if the Association will provide the labor. Weller will talk to Wilburn about her request.

Heinbockel asked if we ever got the bleachers we requested from Fort Greely.

Leith-Dowling said they were taken to Fort Richardson and ended up being destroyed.

**Personnel** - Mayor Gilbertson reported that Linda Sorensen resigned and will be working at Fort Greely. We will be advertising for a new person to fill that position. We will miss her.

### **Old Business**

Hallgren reported on the redistricting suit. The matter has been settled, but there are no new maps drawn yet. We wanted to keep the Delta area together as much as possible, but we have lost some of the Deltana area. Without the maps, we don't know how much was lost or exactly where the lines are. Ken Jacobus went to Juneau to testify and provided free legal services for the Delta area. The City agreed to cover his travel and lodging expenses. We are located in the Highway District, which includes the Pogo Mine, Salcha, Bolio Lake, Black Rapids and Eielson. Two Senators and two Representatives will represent this area.

### **New Business**

Council postponed discussion of Ordinance 2002-10, Sale of City Airport Lots and Resolution 2002-11, Pursuant to Delta Code of Ordinance Section 5.20, Terms of Sale of Delta Airport Lots until the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Leith-Dowling moved to approve:**

PO#06972 to Aetna US Health Care for health insurance in the amount of \$4,290.25

PO#06974 to Dean Witter Reynolds for transfer of land sale money into the Permanent Fund in the amount of \$9,400.00

PO#06975 to Guess & Rudd for attorney fees for March 2002 in the amount of \$51.966

PO#06976 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$576.65

PO#06993 to Pete Hallgren for travel and per diem in the amount of \$1,242.83

PO#06994 to Karla Geise for travel and per diem in the amount of \$604.70

PO#07000 to Alaska Communication Systems for phone charges in the amount of \$921.72;  
Heinbockel seconded.

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

Ellis reported the surplus sale on April 6, 2002 made \$929.51. There are items left that we may want to offer at a later date. Some of the items could be donated to the Kiwanis fundraising sale they hold in May.

**Weller moved** to accept the bid from P & S in the amount of \$3,950.00, as the low bidder, for the Lawn Care at City Hall, the Community Center and along the Richardson Highway;  
Heinbockel seconded.

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

**Weller moved** to accept the bid from Clearwater Construction in the amount of \$3,200.00, as the low bidder, for the Lawn Care at the City Park; Leith-Dowling seconded.

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

**Leith-Dowling moved** to accept the bid from Clearwater Construction in the amount of \$3,200.00, as the low bidder, for the Lawn Care at the Cemetery; Heinbockel seconded.

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

**Weller moved** to accept the bid from Bob Anderson to pay the City \$205.00 for salvage rights and removal of the wooden fencing around the Park; Heinbockel seconded.

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

Council withdrew the chain link fence construction bids until a later date as we have learned several details that should be included on the specs in the bid packets. For example, we need to include the diameter and gauge of fence posts and top rails.

Mayor Gilbertson said Bob Morley has the equipment to repair a chain link fence and has done it many times. He said if a tree falls on the fence, the destroyed section could easily be repaired. Council decided to go ahead with a chain link fence along Deborah Street, but to be more specific in the bid packet about the required materials.

Jim Weidner offered helpful comments for additions to the bid specs regarding post size, pipe size, braces and tightener rods. Council appreciated the help.

Weidner said the bid packet mentioned that contractors were required to do the job, but it didn't ask for proof of a contractor's license, or a performance bond.

Hallgren recommended sending thank you letters to the current applicants for the Planner/Project Manager Position and to advertise again. Council agreed.

Hallgren presented three quotes for the replacement furnaces at the Community Center.

He explained there are two furnaces in the bid specs, with one set at a lower BTU rate.

The plan is to remove the furnaces, have City staff clean up, paint and replace the lighting in the room, and then have the new furnaces installed.

Council would like to see the bid request advertised in the Delta Wind in order for more proposals to be submitted to the City. There are local businesses that might like to bid on this project.

#### **Additional Public Comments**

Tana Wood told Council that the National Day of Prayer is on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a local prayer meeting will be held at noon at the Community Center. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

Lamar Cotten reported that he met with the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce before traveling to Delta.

Mayor Gilbertson said the material that was found in the barrels on Fort Greely has not been reported to be anything bad according to the preliminary testing that has been done to date.

**Adjournment** at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis  
City Clerk/Treasurer