



May 21, 2002
City Council Regular Meeting
City Hall Conference Room

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roy Gilbertson called the regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council to order at 5:07pm with Lou Heinbockel, Mary Leith-Dowling, Mark Weller, Susan Kemp and Henry Summers present. Nat Good was excused.

AGENDA

Mayor Gilbertson added to the agenda:

Kevin Smith from AML to Request to Speak

Jim Eden-Kilgore to Request to Speak

Dave Zimmerman to Request to Speak

Leith-Dowling moved to approve agenda with additions; Kemp seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2002 regular meeting and the May 14, 2002 workshop as presented; Summers second.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

James Eden-Kilgore talked to Council about his desire to serve as Fire Chief for the City of Delta Junction. Summer said he talked to the volunteers and most of them were in line with Jim taking over as Chief.

Eden-Kilgore talked to everyone in the department and they feel comfortable about the appointment. He says we need to unite the departments so they work together.

Mayor Gilbertson asked if he was on our department now and what his plans are with the Deltana Department.

Eden-Kilgore is going to ask to be placed on inactive status with Deltana and dedicate his time to the Delta Department.

Weller asked if he is a resident of the City of Delta Junction.

Eden-Kilgore said yes, he lives close to the post office.

Kevin Smith from the Alaska Municipal League spoke to Council about the estimated rates the City will be paying in FY03. He said liability insurance will go up about twenty-five percent, comprehensive will go up between twenty five and fifty percent and there will most likely be a 100% property rate increase. The numbers are not certain from the re-insurers yet, so Smith didn't have exact figures. They should be letting AML know by the end of the month.

Mayor Gilbertson asked if the history of the community factors in to the rates.

Smith said AML is a pool and that doesn't always contribute to the rates.

Mayor Gilbertson said we need the solid numbers for the insurance rates by the end of the month so we can pass our budget with accurate figures.

Hallgren invited Dave Zimmerman up from Anchorage to talk to Council. He is one of the top applicants for the Finance Officer's position. The City auditors said he meets all the criteria, but they would prefer someone with governmental accounting experience. Zimmerman is a CPA and has degrees that qualify him for the position and he has received glowing recommendations from his past employers.

Zimmerman told Council he worked on the pipeline until 1986 and has since traveled around the states to different jobs. He is working in Anchorage now. He owns property in Delta and is a single person. His position in Anchorage is setting up an accounting program for a construction company. He feels that the terminology of government accounting would be the only hurdle he would have to become familiar with.

Mayor Gilbertson said he and Zimmerman walked through how the larger grants would be handled, since three will be running concurrently, as well as the General Fund accounting.

Hallgren said there were few applicants with accounting degrees and not all of them were highly recommended by their references. He tried to contact another applicant last week to discuss the position, but he hasn't heard back from them.

Zimmerman will be available with two weeks notice.

Mayor Gilbertson said if Hallgren is comfortable working with him, we don't have to look any further.

Hallgren said we might want to go ahead and interview the top candidates and look at the best. He would like to talk to the rest of the candidates.

Hallgren said he explained to Zimmerman the salary with no over time is \$47,000 a year to include PERS, health insurance, paid holidays, leave, and the position will work at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Hallgren stated no one local with a CPA or accounting degrees has applied for the job.

Heinbockel moved to approve the Mayor's recommendation of David Zimmerman for the position of finance officer at \$47,000 a year salary; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received a letter from Joe Clark asking for a skateboard park in Delta Junction.

Heinbockel said the insurance will be expensive, but the youth need things to do in the community.

Maybe we can build something at the same time we put the basketball courts at the park.

A letter from the Deltana fair board was received asking for support for various youth activities at the fairgrounds, which would include a skateboard park.

Mayor Gilbertson would like to see what we can do to get a skate board park built in the community and would like to meet with the fair association to discuss it.

Hallgren will find out what Sitka pays for insurance for their new skateboard park.

A letter was received from the Delta Youth Court asking for funding from the City to support keeping the program active.

Hallgren said the missile defense impact fund might be able to help this out.

Weller said it is a good program and has a daughter involved in it.

Council would like to support the program.

Heinbockel move to approve the Adult Learning Program's use of the Community Center at no charge, as long as it doesn't interfere with any one else renting the facility. Kemp seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Kemp move to allow the Deltana Fair Association use the Conference Room to hold fair meetings at no charge; Heinbockel seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

A letter about a Vista member position was received.

Tana Wood said the participants are mostly college graduates interested in social services. These are prime applicants for this type of program. This program gives them a chance to work in the field for a year and see if they enjoy it.

Hallgren said he knows of retired folks working in Sitka with good qualifications through this program.

Council asked if this position could cover the Monday opening at the library?

Kemp said she would like to see the library open on Mondays. It's going to be apparent that we need the extra day open this summer.

The position could possibly be shared part time with the Chamber of Commerce and part time at the library. The Chamber is looking for an executive director.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Lynn Harris reported that at the Squad's last business meeting she presented a draft of drug testing policy. The members will review it, make comments and she will present their suggestions to council at the next meeting. She purchased the tickets to pick up the ambulance. It was \$931.00 for two one-way tickets. The Squad is getting the large items ordered for the new ambulance.

Airport – Weller will ask Ron Beck to be the auctioneer at the airport lot sale on June 24, 2002.

Cemetery – Leith-Dowling reported Saarloos will do the rest of the surveying at the cemetery next week. Sandlin needs to go back and finish straightening up the ruts he left when digging a grave.

Ron Lester is working on getting volunteers together for the fence installation.

Clerk - Ellis reported Fluor Alaska will be in Delta June 4, 2002 to hold a meeting at the Community Center from 8am to 10am and from 4pm to 8pm.

The bike rodeo is going to be next weekend at the school.

Heinbockel reported he went up to the television towers on Donnelly with channel 11's technician.

The signal was weak and our equipment can't lock onto it, so in turn, we are sending out a bad signal. The item that corrected the problem was a \$20 booster that Heinbockel installed. He also reported that channel's receiving antenna is tipped down and was not able to receive the signal well. Because of this, someone who worked on it in the past disconnected it, split the cable and used another antenna.

With a proper reception antenna we will get a better signal. There is no reason we can't move the antennas closer to the ground and alleviate the danger of being on the towers.

Hallgren said Baker Engineering never sent us anything back after he talked to them about doing engineering on this project this for us. Hallgren talked to Jonathan Widdis, ASCG, and he thinks we need an engineer to go up to Donnelly and give us a reliable cost. All TVs are required to go digital in 2006, so we may need to consider going off a satellite in the near future.

Department of Economic Development – Hallgren reported the City received the funding asked for from the legislature, which includes a loan for a million dollars to pay off the prison obligation. It will have an impact on the City for 20 years with a \$50,000.00 a year payment, with no interest, to the State. There is a forgiveness clause that the debt will be forgiven when a borough is formed.

There are women who have filed a lawsuit against Allvest and the court has directed the City to deposit the payment owed to them in the court registry.

Thank you to John Harris. He did a good job for us.

We also received the authorization for the pass through of ten million dollars from the Federal Government. We received \$110,000 for the local match for the EDA grant, \$120,000 to pave the rest of Mil-Tan. Senator Lincoln was a great help with obtaining this funding. There is also money for the Delta School Dist land purchase.

DEC has been notified that the septic pits are full at the landfill. They have given us permission to dig two temporary pits until the new landfill is constructed. We could rent the equipment and have Boadwine load it.

Heinbockel moved to force account the digging of two septic pits at the landfill; Weller second.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Hallgren said we can put up fencing around the new area with grant money left for landfill fence.

There is a meeting that is invitation only with Tom Devaney tomorrow from 12:50pm to 1:50pm.

Weller asked if they are going to talk about Fort Greely School. He is in favor of a new school and not opening the one on post.

Lamar Cotton summarized the current status of meetings he has had with Senator Steven's staff and missile defense representatives.

Library – Leith-Dowling reported Joyce McCombs just returned from the Library Conference and it was very productive. She brought back many ideas for the library.

Park - Heinbockel said after the work session, he marked 145 trees to be cut in the park. They are all poplar and cottonwood. Richard McDonald has started cutting trees, but was stopped until some paperwork is taken care of. There have been a few complaints from residents about the tree cutting. They also like the wood fence better than the chain link fence.

Mayor Gilbertson said he talked to one resident about the project. She was unable to attend this meeting but she will be at the next meeting. He suggested the City grind the stumps then plant birch, chokecherry, lilac and bushes to replace the trees that were removed. We also need to get a big blade trimmer to cut the saplings.

Council discussed the location of the basketball court and if there would be adequate gates. Mayor Gilbertson said the best location is at the northwest end of the park because it is dryer land, easier to grade and more accessible.

Hallgren said we are going to have to be sure the slash is removed before the fence is built.

Weller moved to hire Richard McDonald to remove the marked trees and the City plant birch, choke cherry trees, and other bushes to replace the ones cut; Kemp seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Personnel – Mayor Gilbertson reported Cotton would be in Delta for 4 days.

Public Health and Safety – Summers said when a chief is appointed Norm Hilliker will become assistant chief.

Mayor Gilbertson wants to be sure whoever becomes the chief, that they have the support of all the other fire fighters. He would like to have the fire fighters together for a work session. Deltana should be invited as well.

Summers said another idea is have the fire fighting become a joint service. Delta could contract its services out to Deltana.

Heinbockel said whatever avenue we take, he wants to be sure the support of the other fire fighters is in place.

Weller move to accept the low bid from Denali Fence Works in the amount of \$38,544.00 to install the fencing around the City Park; Kemp seconded

Roll call vote with motion passing. Heinbockel voted no.

Hallgren talked to Council about hiring an engineer to give us the specifications for building the taxiway at the airport lots. He asked Jonathan Widdis, ASCG, for a bid for completing the work. The City needs to be able to sell several lots to make enough money to pay for the improvements. Mayor Gilbertson thought the price Widdis quoted was very high for the work they are going to do, but we need to do it as it protects the City. He asked if we could couple it together with the park project and the clinic road.

Mayor Gilbertson said we also need to select a site for the City equipment.

Weller moved to have Hallgren get two more quotes for the airport taxiway engineering and accept the lowest responsive bidder upon receipt. The quotes must be received by the end of the month; Summers seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Kemp moved to approve:

Purchase Order #07022 to Helmets R Us in the amount of \$601.30

Purchase Order #07023 to McPherson Supply Company in the amount of \$95,805.80

Purchase Order #07033 to Golden Valley Electric Association in the amount of \$930.63

Purchase Order #07035 to Pete Hallgren in the amount of \$816.40

Purchase Order #07036 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$600.35

Purchase Order #07037 to Alaska Communication Systems in the amount of \$767.89

Purchase Order #070to Delta Fuel in the amount of \$1,224.02;

Weller seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Mayor Gilbertson told Council we have to start thinking about methods for sealing the cracks on Mil-Tan Road. He talked to Gene Eggleston about how DOT is sealing the cracks on the streets in the area. Legislature has appropriated money to pave the rest of the road.

Kemp moved to approve hiring Letha Burcham as a full time permanent employee as Administrative Assistant; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Weller move to accept the letter of resignation from City Clerk/Treasurer Pamela Ellis; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Mayor Gilbertson wants to look into the city purchasing a front-end loader.

Council discussed landfill needs for the future: market, land, operations, closing the old landfill and users.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

A budget meeting was set for May 28 at noon in the Conference Room

Kemp reported the Chamber of Commerce is not going to be able to afford to plant and water the flower planters in the medians. We could write letters for businesses to sponsor a planter to help defray the cost. The City could chip in some funds to help out. There are about 40 planters in all. Kemp has a truck with a water tank that she would let someone use to water them with.

Mayor Gilbertson said the fire department could help and use the City fire truck.

Kemp said the Interior Racing Association needs some grader work at the mud bog pits.

Mayor Gilbertson already told them we can't do it, but he will look at it and if there is no danger to the grader will allow the work done.

Adjournment at 8:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis

Clerk/Treasurer