


City of Delta Junction



Box 229
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737
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The North End of the Alaska Highway

June 4, 2002
City of Delta Junction
Regular Meeting 5:00pm
City Hall Conference Room

MINUTES

Mayor Gilbertson called the regular meeting to order at 5:10pm with council members Mary Leith-Dowling, Susie Kemp, Henry Summers and Lou Heinbockel present. Nat Good was excused. Mark Weller arrived at 5:18pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gilbertson added to the agenda:

- New Business:

A recommendation to fill the City Clerk position

A recommendation to hire a full time heavy equipment operator

A quote for radios from Tom Ferri Company

- Correspondence:

The resignation of Nat Good as Council member seat F

A letter from Rex Beck

A letter from Senator Georgianna Lincoln

A letter from Weidner Construction

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

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2002 regular meeting as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Summers asked to move the Public Health and Safety report to the top of the agenda since he has to leave the meeting early for work.

Summers reported that the Delta Volunteer Fire Department held a meeting and voted Jim Eden-Kilgore as the new fire chief.

Heinbockel moved to approve Jim Eden-Kilgore as chief of the Delta Fire Dept; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Mark Weller arrived at 5:18

Roll call vote with motion passing. Mayor Gilbertson voted no.

Summers presented a quote for radios for the new ambulance.

Heinbockel moved to approve the purchase of the ambulance radio; Kemp seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Sandy Davis from Fluor Alaska, Inc. introduced John Ervin, Jerry King, and Mrs. Davis to Council and the audience. John Ervin will be the senior officer on site for Fluor and in charge of the Alaska project.

Ervin explained to council the time frame and methods Fluor will take to complete the two-year project. He handed out a copy of the Power Point presentation that was given at the Community Center earlier in the day (attached).

\$30 million dollars will be spent on the Shemya portion of the project and \$140 million at Fort Greely.

Watterson is the general contractor on the job for Fluor. Some of the vendors and specialty trades were pre selected before the bid award.

The man camp installation is underway now. The concrete batch plant is located at mile 1417 on the Alaska Highway.

They will be working this summer to get the buildings enclosed so work can be done through the winter months to meet deadlines for completion.

They are working to meet the 61.4% requirement for hiring of small businesses on the project. Businesses can contact Fluor through their website. They are working through the state job service in Delta Junction for hiring personnel.

Mayor Gilbertson asked how soon construction workers will be on the site and how many positions are expected.

Ervin said there will be approximately 350 craft hands and an additional 100 support personnel. These figures do not include other companies, but do include Fluor sub-contractors. The man camp size may have to be increased. There will be single, unaccompanied staff and workers on this project.

Lamar Cotten asked if personnel wanted to live in the community, could they bring their families with them.

Heinbockel asked what the normal schedule will be.

Ervin said the policy is a schedule of 8 weeks working and 2 weeks off.

Everyone is encouraged not to bring their families to the job site and he doesn't predict there will be many families that move to the area. He doesn't see much of an impact on the schools from their contractors.

Heinbockel stressed the importance of a preference being given to local businesses.

Ervin would like to obtain a list of the available housing rentals in town. The places he has asked about have been very high rent costs. Fluor will look at the differences in prices between Delta and other areas.

Mayor Gilbertson encouraged local hire for the man camp workers. There is a large Ukraine and Russian population that can take advantage of some of the man camp jobs. They live locally so wouldn't need to be housed and fed at the camps.

Ervin said that some in management positions will choose to bring up their families and will probably live in Anchorage or Fairbanks for now.

Mayor Gilbertson said the best relationship we could have with the contractors would be to have them live in and be a part of the community.

Ervin said he needs to poll their subcontractors to see if they are interested in bringing families with them and what those numbers look like.

Heinbockel said he read that Dihthaad formed the corporation so there would be no unemployment in Tanacross. He asked how many employees will be from Alaska that work in upper management for the big companies.

Ervin explained that every company is going to bring their senior positions from within the company.

They will be hiring clerical, administrative and other support services locally. He said they received no response from the university when they approached them. The job will fall under the site stabilization agreement, which is union affiliated for that job only.

Ray Andreassen asked if every employee will go through security checks?

Ervin said there are no security classifications. There will be background checks and drug tests. The Fluor personnel is subject to a standard background check.

Kel Weidner said the labor union told him that there was no chance to get a job there without being a member of the union.

Ervin explained that the contractors and sub-contractors will organize with the union for the duration of the job.

Fluor will have a list of the jobs they will be subcontracting on their website and will also provide a list of who gets the contracts as they are awarded.

Kemp said there are computers available at the library for those that don't have access to them and would like to visit their website.

Cotten encouraged meetings between the key players on the job site and the City to update the project information.

The man camp is for Fluor and their sub-contractors personnel only.

Freida Gibbs spoke to Council and said she has observed, over the last year, that a lot of household and human waste products have been dumped in a pit next to her house. Dogs drag out the waste from the site and leave a mess in the street and surrounding area. She knows the home near her doesn't have a bathroom and they deposit waste in the pit and trees. There are plastic bags full of waste just 6 feet from the road.

Weller asked if there is a state law prohibiting this.

Hallgren said the City has an ordinance against it. He said it is a civil situation. The City can give a penalty for the violation. He will have the City attorney send

a letter to the person and make a determination. We can file a civil suit and have them clean it up.

Tana Wood said we have a legal recourse to cover it up or haul it away ourselves and have them pay that cost.

Heinbockel said if it is within 6 feet of the street, it is probably in the City right of way.

CORRESPONDENCE

Linda Somers wrote a letter to Council thanking them for their support for the efforts to keep the swimming pool open at Fort Greely. She also included a letter sent to Senator Murkowski.

Council received a letter from Rex Beck requesting space at the Community Center for a piece of visual art that is being created in a summer school program.

Heinbockel moved to allow the request with council approving the artwork before installation; Kemp seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Senator Lincoln sent a letter to Council listing the appropriations that the Delta area received in the State budget.

Heinbockel moved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Nat Good; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Hallgren reminded council we need to fill the council seat within 30 days, according to City ordinance.

Andreassen said Council should consider a Russian representative to serve on Council.

Ray Andreassen addressed Council about the airport lot sale ordinance and resolution. He has concerns about Lot 14. He feels it is of no use to the City, but would be a good addition to the plans he has for the KOA fly-in campground.

He would like to see the small triangle that is not included in the lot added into lot 14 as well as the unmarked portion under lot 14. Ideally, he would like the City to remove that portion from the sale.

Mayor Gilbertson would like to set up a work session for the airport sale.

Weller has done some research and found we need 25 feet for a taxiway and the additional 60 can just be brushed. He calculated the cost of the work as less than anticipated. A workshop date was set for Wed June 12th at 1:00pm at City Hall

Kel Weidner spoke to Council about needing approval from the City for an encroachment waiver on Richardson Street for a septic system he is installing.

Heinbockel moved to approve the encroachment request as written as long as any damage to the City street is repaired. Kemp seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

REPORTS

Airport – Weller said that after seeing what smaller taxiways are available in North Pole and Fairbanks, what we will construct will be better.

Cemetery – Leith-Dowling hired a cat to put in a road around the perimeter of the cleared area at the cemetery. Most of the fence is installed and they have

cleared and squared the corner at the back of the property. Many volunteers have been donating their time to the project and are greatly appreciated. Ron Lester has done a wonderful job organizing the crew.

Clerk - Ellis reported the 911-dispatch contract with North Pole has been received and sent back. They will send us an invoice in July for FY03 services. The Mental Health Land Trust called Ellis to discuss the tree cutting and development at the park. They own the land now and want to see drawings of any improvements that the City plans to make in the park.

Department of Economic Development – Hallgren reported the park fence installation will start the 17th of June and we need to get the slash out of the area before they start working. McDonald fell two trees on the ball field fence denting the top rail. When the installers are here, we will ask them to repair or replace the rails. McDonald did a good fast job, but it needs to be cleaned up. People needing firewood cleared out the area quickly, but they left the slash behind. We also need to clear out the stumps and brush the line before the fence goes in.

We received an estimate for fencing around the new septage pits and it has been added to the contract. Dave Boadwine will complete the new pits.

Joe Peters needs to help with the work being done at the landfill. DEC will be here Thursday for an inspection of the site.

Hallgren hired Richard Bonwell, Harding ESE, to come down for the inspection and he will accompany the inspectors through the landfill. Bonwell will be looking at potential landfill properties and will invite DEC to look at the property with him.

Cotten met with the school board and they are pushing ahead with their plans.

They should have a package done in August to present to the state.

Cotten also said the City needs to be proactive and contact social services to talk about community ideas with the staff and anticipate changes in the community.

He recommends the City invite AHFC to come to a meeting with the City and Council members. He has census data and plats of the community subdivisions that will help give him an idea of what is available for the needs of the community. He would encourage we talk to the contractors about housing and encourage building and buying in the community.

Also, Cotten encouraged the City have someone from the union trades come out and talk to council about the unions and their needs and functions.

Mayor Gilbertson reported that he met with the State Troopers and asked why they can't be out in the evenings. He was told there are five troopers in the area now. The City will write and encourage them to have a trooper on night duty especially during the summer months.

Heinbockel said that during the pipeline there were three troopers as well as a City police force.

Park – Heinbockel reported the City needs to get a brush cutter for the park to clear the lines where the fence will be installed. The Public Works department has been appointed to Heinbockel.

A Council member will need to be appointed to the finance department.

NEW BUSINESS

Heinbockel moved to approve payment of purchase orders:

PO#07049 to Mikunda, Cottrell & Co. in the amount of \$5,849.63 for Auditors Professional Services

PO#07052 to Delta Skating Assoc. in the amount of \$2,243.00 for reimbursement of balance on account

PO#07059 to Lynn Harris in the amount of \$931.02 for travel & per diem for ambulance pick up

PO#07060 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$8,875.44 for consulting/per diem for May

PO#07065 to Penworthy Company in the amount of \$541.90 for children's books for library; Weller seconded

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Weller moved to introduce the first reading for Ordinance 2002-11 and hold the public hearing on June 18, 2002; Kemp seconded

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Hallgren presented the budget and explained changes for the FY03 to Council.

Heinbockel moved to sign up for Aetna Health Insurance plan three; Weller seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Hallgren reported that Joyce McCombs came up with a modified 6-day schedule for the summer hours at the library and less days in the winter.

The finance director is charged 50% to the missile defense grant.

Hallgren discussed hiring a heavy equipment operator full time. He used a wage of \$23.25 an hour in the FY03 budget.

Leith-Dowling moved to hire Dave Boadwine full time as the City heavy equipment operator retroactive to June 1, 2002; Kemp seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously

Hallgren reported there are three active applicants for the City Clerk position. He recommends hiring Patricia White for the position.

Heinbockel moved to hire Pat White as City Clerk; Weller seconded

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Gilbertson said he has seen lots cleaned up in town and is encouraged that more residents will clean up their property.

Weller said the front-page article in the Fairbanks News Miner about the million dollars from the State wasn't accurate.

Adjournment at 8:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis

Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator