



June 18, 2002
City of Delta Junction
Regular Meeting 5:00pm
City Hall Conference Room

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:05pm by Mayor Gilbertson. Present were council members Mary Leith-Dowling, Susie Kemp, Henry Summers and Lou Heinbockel. Mark Weller arrived at 5:25pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Added to the agenda under New Business was a land option with the Waldos, a letter from Lamar Cotten to Council and an executive session to discuss finances.

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

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Summers moved to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2002 regular meeting with changes to Council Comments on Agenda Items where Council voted to approve James Eden-Kilgour to be the fire chief. There was one no vote by Mayor Gilbertson which was not noted in the minutes correctly. Heinbockel stated the milepost for the concrete batch plant is at mile 1417, not 1422; Kemp seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Lynn Harris reported the new ambulance is here and they have had a run every night since it has arrived. The new radio for it will arrive in approximately 6 days. They had no problems driving the ambulance to Alaska.

Mayor Gilbertson talked to Senator Ted Sevens about an air ambulance service being able to service Delta. He will get back to the Mayor with more information.

Harris said we use one section of the strip now, but only in the summer months.

Mayor Gilbertson said we need to be able to have the service provided year round. The airport needs winter maintenance. He expressed appreciation to the Harris' for driving the ambulance up to Alaska safely.

Airport – Weller reported on the work session held last week on the new lots. The City needs to rewrite the ordinance and/or resolution and revise the plats for the lots making them larger and placing them along the edge of the taxiway. Saarloos will draw a revision to the plat and get back to Council soon.

Hallgren said we should put at least 4 lots closer to the runway. We need to postpone the auction to mid-July.

Weller moved to allow Hallgren to postpone the auction sale of the City Airport Lots and set up another date to be held in July; Summers seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

** The airport report was postponed until Councilman Weller arrived later in the meeting, but is recorded here in the normal order of reports.**

Cemetery - Leith-Dowling said they are still working on the improvement project and they are also looking into the price of spray for dandelions.

Clerk - Ellis reported June 24th will be 60 day deadline for the election ordinance being reviewed by the Department of Justice. They will issue a letter before that date giving the Clerk time to enact the new ordinance for the next election.

The fence work will start Monday as Denali Fenceworks has had problems with their equipment.

Fliers have been put up advertising the need for a council member, but no one has applied yet.

Ellis received skate park information from Ruby Hollembaek to share with council.

Ellis introduced her mother, Ruth Graham, who is visiting from California, to council and the audience.

Department of Economic Development – Hallgren reported we have 5 new employees. Letha Burcham is the Administrative Assistant, Pat White is the City Clerk, Dave Zimmerman is the Finance Officer, Dave Boadwine is the heavy equipment operator and Ann Baker is the new aide in the library.

Hallgren also reported the septage pits are being finished today.

The letter from Cotten that addressed asking various groups such as the Troopers, Alaska Home Finance Corporation, etc., to attend council meeting was discussed. The groups can provide information and help guide the council in matters that relate to community needs.

Hallgren, Leith-Dowling and Mayor Gilbertson attended the groundbreaking ceremony at Fort Greely. Hallgren was disappointed there were more Fairbanks people than Deltans. There was less news coverage by Fairbanks station KTVF for the Delta area. The Fairbanks Mayor was interviewed, but not the Delta Mayor or residents.

Mayor Gilbertson said he is planning a meeting in August with General Holly, which will be an open community forum. Mayor Gilbertson said the ground breaking ceremony was special in the fact that General Kadish and General Holly

both said a prayer and asked for guidance and peace keeping throughout the project.

Kemp was disappointed that the community of Delta wasn't invited to the ground breaking. This is the biggest thing in 50 years that has happened in the area.

Heinbockel was disappointed that no other council members were invited to the ceremony.

Weller arrived at 5:25

Hallgren said he has received one page of the site stabilization agreement with the unions. Alaskaworks will be in the office for one day this Thursday. He said non-union shops can work out on the project, but they will have to organize for this job in order to do the work. There will be training for Delta residents.

Library – Leith-Dowling reported the Library operating grant for this year will be \$6,250.00. McCombs has applied for a Libri Foundation grant for libraries and we have been approved through the first round. We received a check from Wrigleys, which is from the proceeds from the Living Legends show. The library will use the funds to buy books for summer readers. The Gates Foundation is donating three new Internet computers to the Library. Ann Baker was hired to work evening and weekend shifts at the Library.

Park - Heinbockel reported Ellis picked up a brush cutter in Fairbanks and Norm Hilliker was cutting the lines for the new fence at the park. Three people have been hired to hand brush and cut trees. There is a lot of brushing to do in the park, so we should keep them working for a while longer.

Heinbockel addressed the two or three properties that have been discussed with the trash problem. He talked to Dave Marquard who said he would get the property cleaned up this summer. The people renting the property left the area in a mess. Marquard will also notify the owner of the property.

Hallgren has talked to the attorney who is drafting a letter to be sent to the property owners of the property discussed at the last meeting, which is a hazard.

Summers asked if anyone has talked to the owners directly.

Public Health and Safety – Summers reported the new ambulance is in town and has been keeping very busy since its arrival. He presented an ambulance bill to be adjusted and requested Council adjusts it to zero.

Kemp moved to adjust the ambulance run number 02-54 bill to zero; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

A letter from the National Fallen Fighters was received and they have requested someone from the City Fire Department and Leslie Kobierowski come down to attend the ceremony to honor fallen firefighters in Washington DC. Summers will review the information and report back to Council at the next meeting.

Council discussed the condition of the roadways and asked why they haven't been mowed. Ellis will call George Sandlin about getting the mowing done downtown.

Mayor Gilbertson suggested we do as in previous years and approach businesses along the highway and ask them to donate to help pay for the mowing.

Council discussed the need for the corners to be cleared at intersections so trees and brush don't obstruct sight. Kimball Street needs to be resurfaced with more gravel.

Ellis stated we have all the street signs in the garage and Morley has been working on getting them put up.

Mayor Gilbertson reported that 4-wheelers are tearing up the streets by the ball fields after they are graded. He knows who is doing it but hasn't been able to talk to them.

Kemp is concerned someone is going to get hurt. The riders won't stop and continue to tear things up. These are mainly older riders and not kids.

Council discussed the need for Troopers to be on more hours and what security will be at the man camp. The security personnel will be made up of ex-Troopers and qualified personnel.

OLD BUSINESS

Leith-Dowling moved to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2002-11, An ordinance providing for the FY03 budget; Weller seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Leith-Dowling moved to close he Public Hearing for Ordinance 2002-11, An ordinance providing for the FY03 budget; Weller seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Kemp move to adopt Ordinance 2002-11, An ordinance providing for the FY03 budget; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Hallgren explained the changes to the budget.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Heinbockel moved to waive the fee to Salcha-Big Delta Soil and Water Conservation District for renting the Community Center; Summers seconded.

Kemp commented we are getting requests for waivers at every meeting. It seems to run in cycles where everyone is paying then eventually everyone is getting the building use at no charge. There are concerns that we are getting many requests for waivers of payments and then not being able to support the facility.

Leith-Dowling said we need to get the information about the groups that are asking for a waiver in their letter to see if they are non-profit or for youth activities.

Ellis suggested making a form that they can fill out when they are requesting to use the facility with those questions on it.

Heinbockel said we should allow the people to use the Community Center and ambulance at no cost if we can afford it. The place was built for the community.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Council discussed and agreed for Mayor Gilbertson and Dave Boadwine to attend the Alyeska equipment auction on July 13th to look at dump trucks and other equipment for the City. Council discussed making formal approval for them to purchase equipment.

Ellis will put it on the next meeting's agenda.

Weller moved to approve payment of:

PO#07068 to Airport Equipment Rentals in the amount of \$4610.00 for equipment rental at cemetery

PO#07080 to Aetna US Health Care in the amount of \$1745.25 for June 2002 insurance coverage

PO#07089 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$894.18 for May legal services

PO#07094 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$650.70 for heating oil for LF/CC/FD

PO#07095 to American Tire in the amount of \$1113.74 for maintenance on fire trucks

PO#07096 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$576.65 for 911 phone/power for June 2002

PO#07101 to Interior Region EMS Council in the amount of \$1270.99 for Shiloh Lightfoot's EMS class presented to the Rescue Squad

PO#07104 to Airport Equipment Rentals, Inc. in the amount of \$2800.00 for loader at landfill/cemetery

PO#07105 to Airport Equipment Rentals, Inc. in the amount of \$2500.00 for dozer at the landfill

PO#07106 to Airport Equipment Rentals, Inc. in the amount of \$600.00 for dozer at landfill cleanup

PO#07107 to Airport Equipment Rentals, Inc. in the amount of \$875.00 for JD loader at landfill

PO#07108 to Airport Equipment Rentals, Inc. in the amount of \$1200.00 for backhoe at the landfill; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Hallgren discussed a pay increase for Bob Morley. He examined the budget and an increase to \$14.00 an hour will fit the existing budget.

Heinbockel moved to accept Hallgren's recommendation for Bob Morley's pay to be increased to \$14.00 an hour; Weller seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Mayor Gilbertson would like to give Ellis a month's bonus for her 16 years working for the City. This would not be precedence for other employees, but is given to her because of the length of time she has been with the City.

Kemp moved to recognize Ellis' length of service to the City of Delta Junction with a bonus equivalent to one month's salary; Heinbockel seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Hallgren reported the City has executed the land option of \$5,000.00 with the Waldos.

Heinbockel moved to approve the land option agreement with the Waldos; Weller seconded.

Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Weller asked about test wells being drilled at the potential landfill site and Bonwell moving forward with plans.

Hallgren will be contacting Bonwell this week.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tana Wood asked if the City has the right to make laws on their streets and sidewalks and would the Troopers enforce it?

Mayor Gilbertson said the State law addresses driving on the streets and side walks.

Wood said she saw three men on 4-wheelers and is concerned for people's safety.

Wood asked Council to think about the Community Center usage and ask what is the objective, who will benefit and how it benefits the community. Most non-profit groups can't afford to rent a building for \$50 or \$60 each time. It is good to be able to help the non-profits and kids.

Rosalio Velasco said he moved south and finished art school. He recently moved back to Delta Junction. He was touched by the concerns Council has with local hire and unions and is also concerned about companies taking over the area. He would like to help council address these issues. He has gone through the job center with his concerns and realizes they don't have all the answers for everyone.

Heinbockel said the people riding 4-wheelers are doing more damage by riding on the side of the pavement than on the paths. There are laws in some areas that allow motorized vehicles on the paths.

Mayor Gilbertson said there is also a jeep tearing up roads in town. He gets license numbers of vehicles and turns them over to the State Troopers when he can.

Weller asked if we could charge the people for repairs we make to the roadways because of the damage. We could ask for court costs and possibly attach their permanent fund dividend.

Ruth Graham thanked the Council for letting her sit in on the meeting "to see where her daughter, Pam, has spent her evenings all these years".

Heinbockel moved to go into executive session at 6:30pm to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the City of Delta; Weller seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Kemp moved to come out of executive session at 6:55pm; Summers seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Mayor Gilbertson announced Doris Fales invited Council members to attend the meeting on Thursday when the school will address future plans for a new school building.

Adjournment at 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Ellis
City Clerk/Treasurer

Pat White
City Clerk