

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

MINUTES

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Gilbertson called the regular City Council meeting to order at 5:08pm with council members Mary Leith-Dowling, Henry Summers, Lou Heinbockel, Mark Weller, and Susie Kemp present.

Approval of Agenda

No changes were added on to the agenda.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve agenda; Heinbockel seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Appointment of New Council Member for Seat F

Leith-Dowling moved to accept Ron Beck's willingness to serve on Council Seat F; Weller seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent. Mayor Gilbertson offered to inform Mr. Beck.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Heinbockel moved to approve minutes of the June 18, 2002 regular meeting as presented; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

No Public Comments on Agenda Items

No Council Comments on Agenda Items

Request to Speak

Lamar Cotten, City Planning Consultant, continued conversation from previous meetings about impacts in this community. There will be changes and impacts in the responsibility of the state troopers who provide safety services in this region. Cotten explained that Captain Tanner was asked to have a conversation with the Council. Cotten shared that currently there may be as many as 200 newcomers to this community but next summer it is expected that there could be 800-1000 workers here, thinking perhaps as many as 90% plus would be new to the community. With that increase there would be a lot of side activities that we know we want to be pro-active on. Cotten introduced Captain Greg Tanner of the Alaska State Troopers.

Captain Tanner explained where his department stands and what they are prepared to do now and in the future. Currently there are about 240 trooper positions statewide. The Alaska State Troopers (AST) agency did lobby the legislature this year for additional trooper positions for Delta but did not get approval. Fifty-four of the 240 positions are in the interior detachment, which covers Galena and Northway to Cantwell and several smaller villages. Troopers have been called away to fill vacancies whenever and wherever they're needed statewide. Troopers are moved around the state according to need, usually when an event is foreseen and usually on a temporary basis. Trooper positions are approved by the legislature.

Tanner stated he's comfortable with how they manage crises when they can shift their priorities around. The day-to-day business is sometimes difficult to stay ahead of. Tanner identifies with community members who are frustrated with services. AST wants to work well with the Delta community. The highest volume of calls is between 8:00PM and midnight. Troopers will adjust their schedules according to how activity dictates. Tanner explained that they plan

to provide the best service as possible but without resources they cannot fully meet community wishes.

Mayor Gilbertson said that there are expected to be at least 500 newcomers by August 15, and mentioned that four-wheelers on City streets are one example of an increasing problem. Tanner suggested possible solutions, including community involvement and warnings being posted, followed by enforcement. Tanner said that both he and Sgt. Johnson are available to hear community wishes.

Weller expressed concern about coverage for the night schedule, especially on Friday nights and weekends. It is understood troopers are off duty at 4:30 or 5:00. Tanner denied that rumor as inaccurate. The schedule has coverage from 8:00 to midnight, but a trooper (one sergeant and three troopers in Delta) may get pulled into another community. Delta troopers then adjust their schedules to deal with the absence.

Cotten inquired if there was some way, to internally prioritize, to possibly provide fill-ins to meet the demands brought on by the additional population when a trooper is called away to another post.

Sgt. Johnson addressed the question by saying they monitor the level of activity overall.

Gilbertson asked AST dispatcher, Lynn Harris, if she's noticed any difference in activity in the last three months. Harris stated that there is an increase but part of that is standard because of the summer months. It is not just missile based.

Tanner informed that there was a proposal for the military to fund two State trooper positions that would be stationed here in addition to what we have. He said finding and hiring retired troopers and asking them to work Delta for six-month periods was being considered as an option. It would not be feasible to have three troopers on duty and two on security. If the State provides moneys for additional troopers, Delta will be equipped to assure security for incidents that may occur by having all five troopers on duty.

Gilbertson reminded the Council of the meeting on the 19th to further discuss this issue.

Tanner reassured Council that increased trooper coverage is being pursued. He said it would help to have some serious lobbying in the legislature to get these extra positions.

Weller asked Tanner whom he discusses the financial aspects with. Tanner will provide information to Weller.

Cotten asked if there could be consideration for a TDY-type position in Delta, if it could last for months at a time. Tanner gave affirmation but stressed that priority must be established in order to get coverage, if a priority is recognized as high enough.

Heinbockel shared that he had an occasion to meet a fellow who is employed and will provide security at the man camp. The numbers alarmed Heinbockel. He informed there would be only four security officers for 250 people. Two weeks on and two weeks off and 12-hour workdays for one officer are not a lot of security. Capt. Tanner stressed that it is "security". They will call for trooper backup when necessary. Tanner promised AST would do all they can.

Cotton said Delta expects a long-term construction period that will not end in 24 months. It has a strong likelihood to be awhile. Cotten would like proactive involvement. Tanner replied that they, AST, would like to be involved in

schools also, especially the DARE program, but it depends on trooper availability.

Tanner stated that activity in Delta is expected to increase. This won't allow any extra curricular activity. There will be a definite increase in motor vehicle fatalities. The best way to combat that is by putting troopers on the highway. It's a deterrent when a driver sees a trooper. If there is a high likelihood that one will get stopped and ticketed, they are more likely to drive safer. Tanner commented on props or old trooper cars, also known as "cardboard troopers". They both disappoint and anger the public because when someone does need assistance, help really is not available.

Mayor Gilbertson expressed appreciation for Captain Tanner's presentation. Tanner stated his goal to attend future meetings. If he cannot be present, a State trooper will attend in his absence. He assured Council that someone from their department would be available to hear our concerns, provide educational information as well as clarify questions the public has.

Cotten offered to prepare a document similar to the school's impact study in preparation for the AST budget, explaining what we expect will happen in the next 18 months. This would provide more attention, documenting the need for more troopers in the Delta area. Tanner accepted the offer stating, "Any angle that we can attack from is absolutely essential. When the tragedies start to happen, it's just too late."

Gail Keaster, Deltana Fair Board representative, explained her desires for a theme park. Keaster requested information to help fund this proposed project. The Deltana Fair would like consideration for help to get funding for a theme park so that the fairgrounds can be utilized all summer long (May through September). This would include water bumper cars, a mini golf course, BMX bike and skateboard set up. The fairgrounds would be open all summer long, it would give our youth an opportunity for jobs, and it would provide a family atmosphere. Keaster requested help with funding to get it off the ground. Once it's established the goal is to have the theme park be self-supporting. She expressed concern about carrying insurance for three days out of the year, this being for the fair time only.

Mayor Gilbertson asked Cotten about possible funding. Cotten responded that he did get a \$30,000 grant form for eligible non-profit organizations. He offered to share that with Keaster once he clarifies some details about eligibility.

Mayor Gilbertson suggested getting community businesses involved. Keaster acknowledged that she was presently working on this.

Ann Geise presented a video on the Modular Skate Park System, which the Council watched. Geise would like to promote a skate park idea, recognizing that kids need a safe environment for skateboarding. Geise stated the concrete behind the school is used at this time. She would like a piece of concrete put on the fairgrounds and be part of the theme park.

Gilbertson asked how big of an area is needed. Geise and son, Brian, stated the area would be about the size of a tennis court. Skateboarding is done on cement, not asphalt.

Weller suggested using a sealer paint to make the asphalt smooth like concrete.

Gilbertson estimated the cost to be around \$10,000, not including labor and equipment costs. Geise stated many of the skateboarders and bikers own their

own equipment as well as manufacture their own ramps. They just need a place to put them, a chunk of concrete.

Richard McDonald asked about liability insurance. Weller responded by saying only if it is on City grounds. Summers added this is so if the City plans to claim the skateboarding area. Private individuals can manage differently. Geise explained that if it were on fairgrounds certainly the Deltana Fair would have coverage with the entire theme park.

Geise used Juneau as an example of a skateboard park that is run by kids. Geise is attempting to contact them for more information. Cotten stated the City of Juneau pays the insurance.

Dave Zimmerman asked if it is more oriented toward boys than girls. Geise explained that roller bladers, skateboarders and BMX bikers all use this set up, girls included. She added that basketball hoops could be placed at either end of the concrete.

Mayor Gilbertson said, "They need it." It would work if the parents would be willing to work and help out and if the Fair Association could carry insurance. Gilbertson asked Keaster if the Fair Association has insurance. Keaster stated it is carried only during fair time. She said it costs about \$1800 for a million dollar liability. Keaster wishes to not work off grants other than for start up. She feels that in order for the theme park to pay for itself, including insurance coverage, there must be a variety of activities. She discussed the idea of putting in log cabins to rent for the summer, putting in a garden, and promoting tourists to spend a couple days stay here in Delta. Delta needs something to hold their interest.

Gilbertson offered to consult back with Geise on some ideas.

Council discussed costs, insurance, basic prices, etc for both, the Skateboard Park and theme park, ideas.

Richard McDonald commented on the Deltana Fair theme park. He warned about operating expenses after the initial purchase and set up is done. Delta may have to pay. Water bumper cars wouldn't bring in squat on a rainy day. The expense would still be there even when it's not in use. Adults would need to run the bumper cars and a circulating pump would be needed to circulate and clean the water. Overall the setup would be high maintenance. Delta already has a big bill in the kiddy right now. McDonald stated he felt it is a great idea for our kids but wished for Council to consider the operating costs.

Pat White spoke in the absence of Godfrey Knight. A packet of information was placed with the agenda explaining contact with Elaine Test, Event Manager for Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and the 2002 Armed Forces Eco-Challenge (AFEC). TAPS consists of one hundred and twenty (120) men and women who provide community service, specifically making an environmental impact. The City is asked to provide TAPS with a two-hour project, anything that requires physical labor, on August 11th. In return for the labor the City would provide a barbeque, hospitality, and recognition toward TAPS efforts and what they represent. Continued discussion followed, later in the meeting when Knight arrived. (See Lands under REPORTS.)

CORRESPONDENCE

Council members read letters from Thomas Devanney, expressing his appreciation for hospitality while in Delta and one from Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer explaining wage increase for election workers.

REPORTS

Clerk – Pat White reported that Pam Ellis and Mayor Gilbertson spoke with George regarding mowing the City streets. The contract states this is done only two times per summer. Ellis had contact with Ron Lester to submit a bid instead. She also suggested allowing the job to be given to the youth that are already employed part-time by the City.

Heinbockel acknowledged Steve Dewar's efforts to clean up the end of the road.

Summers said this is just beyond where the City is responsible.

Heinbockel said three young men were helping out at parks, cutting brush. Heinbockel requested they make contact with the City on the days they are able to work, clearing the brush at the park.

Department of Economic Development – Lamar Cotten discussed the need for a Ft. Greely directory, a packet of information to provide to local vendors wanting to have access to potential contractors and subcontractors on the missile site. The local Job Center's mission deals with individuals looking for work, not local businesses. The database may be relevant to the small businessman and it may not. Cotten would like to have this information available when the City is asked for it.

Kemp stated she was offered this information but was not given it.

Cotten shared one of his two-year DREDC plan ideas that are being updated. One topic was how you go about making improvements in a community, specifically in downtown Delta. Cotten would like ideas and direction.

Cotten also shared his concerns regarding the school system and population growth. The school board's poll and information on impact should be completed by July 18th. This information is then shared with the State in August or September.

Cotten discussed the status of grant moneys that have not yet been received. He cautioned on hiring and spending before this money is received. Fire, recreation, and school projects will require long-term operational costs.

Weller asked if the landfill agreements have been initiated. Kemp stated they were discussed and requested but a reply has not been received. Cotten stated this is a good example. The city needs to rightfully know use of the landfill so that operational costs are understood. Long-term need must be established.

Kemp expressed her disappointment in some issues that have affected tourism in Delta. Tourism is very small in Delta but decreased even more when a local tour business, Do It In Delta, was forced out. This was an example of a developing business that was affected by the missile project. The ability to tour Pump Station 9 was also stopped.

Kemp encouraged council to generate ideas for direction regarding tourism.

Mayor Gilbertson visited the man camp and learned, through conversations, that one company had no local hire because they were allowed a waiver from the unions. Preference for local hire is not happening. Mayor Gilbertson reported he and Cotten would meet with Rich Kendrick, SAC Site Manager, on July 19th. They will discuss the local hire issue as well as funding for the additional state troopers. Kendrick has assured there is funding available to

provide troopers for the additional public safety. Council further discussed local hiring at the missile site. Delta residents were encouraged to join the unions and told that they, as local hire, would be given preference. Leith-Dowling stated that retired members are being asked to come out of retirement and live in Delta. Heinbockel understands that the union's idea of local hire is statewide, not necessarily those that live in Delta. Kemp added that this doesn't necessarily mean residents of Alaska. One needs only to maintain their union status in Alaska even if they do not reside in this state.

Richard McDonald explained the Laborer's union has A,B,C,D lists. Local residents get first priority for A,B,C calls. Then Fairbanks' residents are offered calls from the A,B,C lists. Delta residents are offered calls from the D list and then Fairbanks is given the opportunity. He feels the waivers are hitting hard. McDonald questioned Council about sales taxes and property taxes and being able to be self-sustaining.

Mayor Gilbertson advised that the people, not the Council, vote any taxes in. The same was argued during the pipeline days. It was believed that the City was overbuilding and were apt to break the community. If things were not done as they were we would not have the City Hall, the hockey rink, the Fire Department, or the Community Center. Many miles of roads were built, some rebuilt. Gilbertson stated what the City did was done well.

Heinbockel added that we still do not have taxes.

Gilbertson said Delta would survive. It has been through hard times before and we will again. Kemp stated her appreciation "when people remind us (Council) to be prudent in what we do take on so we don't get in a position where the facility falls down because we're not taxing ourselves and we can no longer afford to run."

Heinbockel said he remembered 20 years ago when we had 12 million plus dumped on this community for improvements. Opinion was that we would never be able to afford them down the road, but we have.

McDonald questioned the state forcing borough status. He feels newcomers coming from urban areas will push taxes for the services in which they're used to. Heinbockel added they could expect to pay taxes then. Weller lost his urban mentality as soon as he arrived.

Weller questioned the sales tax vote. Weller questioned what the last vote on sales tax was. Heinbockel reported it has been voted down 2-1 each time.

Public Health and Safety – Henry Summers reported that the volunteer Fire Department has doubled their membership in the past month. City Manager, Pete Hallgren, is scheduled to meet with Insurance Services Organization (ISO) who rates communities 1-10. The larger the rating number, the higher the insurance rates. Effort is being made to decrease this rating.

Summers reported that the Fallen Firefighters Federation meets in October in Washington DC and Leslie, Chris Kobierowski's widow, will be present. He reported there could be \$200 needed for expenses that the federation won't pay. Summers offered to pay it himself, if the Council cannot.

Kemp inquired if someone from our fire department could go. Summers responded no one is available at this time.

Gilbertson suggested up to \$500 be offered to cover incidental costs. Summers may ask later for this help. Rural Deltana already offered help.

Summers was excused at approximately 6:45pm, so he would not be late for his work shift.

Finance – Finance Officer, Dave Zimmerman, presented a spreadsheet for the Council to review. This spreadsheet showed bank balance(s) for the month of July.

Hockey Rink – Lou Heinbockel reported the hockey rink doors are painted and look very good. Work is being done to extend benches and make other improvements.

Heinbockel said Geise helps out quite a bit and that, Mike Tvenge, the hockey coach, is heading the improvements.

Landfill – Roy Gilbertson had nothing to report.

Heinbockel inquired about the fencing around the existing landfill around the septage pits. White reported it was complete. Zimmerman stated he did not receive the bill for the services yet.

Heinbockel requested access key for septage landfill. Gilbertson requested Heinbockel be provided with a key.

Personnel – Mayor Gilbertson stated Pam Ellis' last day was July 1st.

Lands – Susie Kemp referred to Godfrey Knight to present his interests on the dike area, expanding on the suggested environmental improvement project. (See third topic under Request to Speak, presented at the beginning of tonight's meeting.)

Godfrey Knight shared his ideas for a two-hour project. Knight asked the Council to recognize the place across from the BLM airstrip as a "defacto park". Knight, a rock wall builder, wants no public money but will volunteer his time to build three hearths in place of the areas that are already in use. Even if this area is not cleaned up there will be a steady stream of people going there anyway. We need to be responsible.

Kemp said that this area has been a topic of conversation for many years. She suggested storyboards explaining the scenic mountain view. It would be a wonderful sight if it were kept up.

Heinbockel stated his concern for youth parties that have carried on for years. Council agreed that this would be a real asset to the community, acknowledging that it is one of the most beautiful scenic spots in Delta. Kemp stated it would give a reason for tourists to stop. They discussed other spots. Kemp suggested Council work with Knight to pursue this idea. Labor from TAPS would be cutting and removing overgrown brush and trees.

Gilbertson suggested maintaining a dumpster there also.

Knight requested more warning signs be posted around the rifle range also.

Kemp requested White contact State departments regarding the property and its ownership.

Richard McDonald asked where local people would dump their brush if this area is cleaned up and used as a scenic view and camping area. Kemp suggested continuing community bonfires.

Heinbockel said removing the brush out of the City Park would be another good use of the volunteer labor offered by TAPS.

Parks – Lou Heinbockel invited anyone who has not seen the completed fence to go see it. He stated serious effort is still needed to remove brush.

Heinbockel requested White and Morley secure the gates to deter vehicles. He reported there were some vehicles sighted two nights ago. Weller stated he witnessed a motorcyclist being asked to leave by a local resident.

Heinbockel addressed the Deltana Fair theme park idea, stating that future improvements at the City Park would include concrete, basketball, and possibly

a tennis court. Skateboards would have access also. Insurance coverage is still in question. He stated there is no definite date and it is doubtful that it will happen this year.

Public Works – Heinbockel asked about equipment rental, what rate per hour to rent equipment. Zimmerman reported \$40/hour for a truck without driver, \$40/hour for Bobcat with an auger, \$60/hour for a dump truck with an operator. Discussion confirmed these prices are not out of range.

Heinbockel informed he followed up on an inquiry received by Letha Burcham. Did we know the translators are not working? Heinbockel visited the Donnelly site today. Everything appeared fine. We appear, for whatever reason, to be unable to receive the two signals coming out of Fairbanks. He's sure the signals are being sent. Thus, if we cannot receive anything we cannot transmit it out. Translators are so designed that if they don't have signal strength high enough to make a quality signal they don't transmit anything. We need to get people down here that understand that. There are no broken wires that he could locate. We need to at least tell the public that we are going to get it fixed. Burcham has been trying to get hold of the people that work for us. The work needs done while the funds are available. The purchased building was hauled up there to be set up, the snowdrift is now gone, and the work needs to get done. Heinbockel will address Hallgren, upon his return from his vacation, to direct Council. It was agreed that if Mark Miller can't do it we need to find someone else who could.

OLD BUSINESS

The waiver form for fees to use the community center was discussed. Weller questioned if the fee for the use of the community center is waived, should the cleaning deposit be waived as well? It was decided to enforce the rules as stated in the ordinance and on the checklist that is signed by ones renting the community center. Requesting cleaning deposits will be implemented from here out. Deposits will be returned when the key is returned and the building has been inspected. White was requested to have Bob Morley estimate damages and bill for these.

NEW BUSINESS

Weller moved to introduce, hold the first reading and set the public hearing for July 16, 2002 on Ordinance 2002-12; Kemp seconded. Heinbockel requested Hallgren be present to clarify information. Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Kemp moved to approve Resolution 2002-14, A resolution designating public depository and authorizing withdrawal of City moneys; Dowling seconded. Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously.

Weller moved to approve Mayor Gilbertson to bid on equipment at the next Alyeska auction (July 13, 2002), not to exceed \$100,000; Heinbockel seconded. Discussion followed. The mayor said he has asked Dave Boadwine and Dean Waldo to accompany him if he goes. Roll call vote with motion passing unanimously. Heinbockel added that an official letter of credit from the City would be needed. Gilbertson identified that Hallgren had that in progress.

Rex Beck was not present to provide his proposal for the Community Center. The Council wished to view his artwork before displaying it at the Community

Center. White informed that Beck is out of town today and unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Weller moved to approve payment for following purchase orders; Kemp seconded. Roll call voted with motion passing unanimously.

- PO#07125 to Airport Equipment Rentals, Inc in the amount of \$600.00 for equipment rental
- PO#07126 to Airport Equipment Rentals, Inc in the amount of \$720.00 for equipment rental
- PO#07127 to AK Communications Systems in the amount of \$767.33 for June phone
- PO#07128 to B&A Heating & Service in the amount of \$5005.00 for furnaces at Community Center
- PO#07130 to Clearwater Construction in the amount of \$2133.34 for June lawn maintenance for park and cemetery
- PO#07133 to Delta Skating Association in the amount of \$719.94 for maintenance on hockey rink
- PO#07136 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$744.81 for May legal services
- PO#07141 to George Sandlin in the amount of \$1316.67 for June lawn maintenance
- PO#07142 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$8454.61 for June consulting
- PO#07143 to Sunshine Services in the amount of \$1490.00 for equipment rental

Additional Public Comments

Tana Wood made a suggestion for the community center waiver, requesting that it include the intended audience and possibly the anticipated or expected attendance. This would help make a decision on whether or not to waive the fee. She cautioned on how to proceed with enforcing people to pay for damages, being careful what message is given.

Wood would like to share ways to make people stop in Delta, ways of making our community become a *destination*. Wood suggested using resources here before paying outside firms for products that can be made and/or purchased locally. Wood volunteered to offer her ideas and make herself available. Kemp voiced her appreciation and expressed there are reams and charts of wonderful ideas. One idea being the \$18,000 worth of engineering donated for an arch to go across the highway. Plans are complete and everything is there to do this arch. Weller asked if we have permission from the Dept of Transportation. Kemp affirmed. Missing for the project is funding. Gilbertson asked Cotten to spend time looking into this project.

Rosalio Velasco expressed his feelings about foreigners making their home in Delta. He was an outsider once. Velasco suggested considering some outside companies that offer funding for non-profit projects that benefit a community as a whole. As far as individuals coming in, Velasco stated that we do have a wealth of information in our public facilities, like the library and the Job Center. He stated, "We're all people, some with the American dream, a variety of faces. Everyone has something positive to contribute." Velasco offered best wishes to the Council in their decision-making, especially on the difficult tasks.

Additional Council Comments

Heinbockel commented that because Governor Tony Knowles vetoed our loan then, as of yesterday, July 1st, the city is in default on the negotiated agreement with Allvest.

Mayor Gilbertson stated he made calls and has been in touch with the parties. There is not enough information gathered to have an executive session. Basically the moneys are due and its money we don't have right now.

Adjournment

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 7:45pm. Weller seconded.