

December 4, 2002 - City Hall

(Postponed from regularly scheduled December 3, 2002 date)

Delta Junction City Council

5:00pm Regular Meeting

MINUTES

Mayor Gilbertson brought the Council meeting to order at 5:04pm. Susie Kemp, Mary Leith-Dowling, Ron Beck and Lou Heinbockel were present. Henry Summers and Mark Weller were excused.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gilbertson announced the amendments to the agenda.

- 5 purchase orders (7519/7522 + 7527)
- Letter of support from DREDC to add to Delta Youth Court presentation
- Fee waiver request to borrow chairs from the Community Center

Kemp moved to approve the agenda as amended; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel moved to approve minutes from both the November 8, 2002 work session and the November 19, 2002 regular meeting; Kemp seconded. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Mary St. Peter, Director for Delta Youth Court (DYC), stated she submitted a budget proposal and is asking the City Council to fund the youth program. Members consist of 7 adults and 7 youth. St. Peter introduced a portion of her Board of Directors (Meghan Steele, Nancy Morris, Linda Sloan and Mary Corcoran) and youth members (Ashley Martinez and Kelly Steele). She thanked Dave Zimmerman for his assistance in preparing the DYC budget proposal.

Hallgren stated there is \$250,000 of impact funds allocated for Social Services in the FY02/FY03 packet. DYC's budget would fit within those funds. Their request is also the first request for anything out of the Social Service funds. He stated money is good for five years upon reaching the state's coffers last month. Hallgren requested Council give consideration for all applicants, asking applicants to prepare three year plans, to prove what type of sustainability the program is on, if at all and to show that it will make an impact over a number of years within the community. Hallgren said there is potential for more money coming in at the end of next year and it would help to know what the community needs beyond one year. He said he would prefer the Council fund a portion of the budgets for several years, requesting that they do not make a decision tonight but wait to review future plans of organizations. Hallgren will run it by MD but believes it is in line with what they are thinking as far as social services.

St. Peter said the funding they work off now is what is left over from the Safe Schools/Healthy Student grant and funding will run out the end of March 2003.

Nancy Morris reported the history of Delta Youth Court. She said the first year or two was mostly volunteer effort putting the court together. When the Safe Schools grant came through, Juvenile Justice funded them for three years but it has run out. It has been determined that a coordinator's position is critical to keeping the court system functional. That position must be fully funded. One month ago they were told there was an \$18,250 shortfall and St. Peter has been kept on hoping to find additional money to pay her wages. Impact funding, particularly the educational or social service category, was a strong consideration. They would like to prepare a 3-4 year plan to prove sustainability into the future. There is no guarantee of funding otherwise. The State allowed money for start-up and DYC was led to believe that if the court were successful at start-up, they would continue funding. Juvenile Justice has since stopped and now they only fund three-year start-up programs.

St. Peter said the State is looking at individual youth courts, those that are established for 3 or 4 years, plus their caseload. Delta is established but their caseload has been low. She said, "It appears that if we are successful, we get cut from financial support."

Morris said that when they complete their grant evaluations, they look at the statistics and because caseloads are low, they determine there must not be a need. They are not considering the fact that maybe the program is working. She explained how students had no accountability when on probation through Fairbanks. They simply had to call in to report they were in school and doing well. No one checked to validate their statements. With the NYC in existence, there is a need to not disappoint one's peers and therefore students are forced to be accountable for their actions.

Gilbertson asked about Chamber and community support.

St. Peter said the support has been "fantastic". NYC has received \$1,700 this year from membership application.

Beck asked when impact money is available for the Council to make decisions on who gets the assistance.

Hallgren said the money would be available within two weeks.

Beck asked when to notify the public and other organizations to ask for funds.

Hallgren said he would advertise within the community. He also said that MD is looking for local social services, not services the State normally provides at their own expense.

Beck said NYC is one of the most positive programs in our community for our youth. He would like to give them the support if we are able to do that.

Hallgren said he would have an answer by the next meeting.

Tracy Blais said, because of her position, she is not on the Board and cannot be involved in fundraising activities but is present to show support as the legal advisor. The school basically dropped NYC when they were unable to provide funding. NYC is not a sustainable organization because they do not collect fines like the court system so they do not have the ability to raise revenue other than from community service work that they do. The United Youth Courts of Alaska (UYCA), in smaller communities, have been working with the legislature to get action. The larger communities have corporate sponsorship backing them. NYC appreciates support from local businesses but without other funding it will not sustain into the future.

Kemp said the legislature should be looking at funding a major portion of the youth court program.

Blais said the statewide court system strongly supports the youth courts. There is no way to monitor the statistics because on paper there is no record of going through the youth court system. She stated, "We, who work in the court system, know that our juvenile system has not been working." She sees that the NYC is effective.

Hallgren asked about the \$8,000, documented for travel. Who travels?

St. Peter said the youth members went to the state conference in Ketchikan in October. The national conference is in Washington DC next year.

Meghan Steele stated she started NYC as a youth bar association member and has traveled to several State conferences. At the national conference Steele learned that Alaska youth courts are unlike any others. Youth courts in other places are limited. She said, "You pretty much have to walk into court and say I'm guilty." In Delta one has an arraignment and a trial. You go through the whole process if you claim you are not guilty. She said she enjoys debating the issues. It is a true educational experience and proves the need to travel. They pick up new ideas, like sentencing, to bring home.

Tana Wood asked if it was true that the Delta youth system is unique, unlike any other, because they do more than other youth courts. Members are involved with more hands-on experience than what the public realizes.

Steele said that Delta youth members are the actual judges, lawyers and, if it comes to having an actual trial, a jury (of peers). They perform all the roles except for receiving payment.

Blais stated the youth process the charging document, which is identical to a formal complaint that is filed by the State Troopers or the District Attorney's office. Two or three attorneys, assigned as prosecutors, prepare the charging document. They meet with the victims, the police officer and the defense council, the client and witnesses. It is identical to the adult system.

Steele said youth court training is a unique opportunity. It gives experience, demands professionalism and there are several youth that have gone on to seek careers in the judicial system. Tim Huebscher was one.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad - Lynn Harris stated she submitted her drug testing policy yesterday. She requested some feedback. Harris stated their policy guidelines were based on Sitka's.

Hallgren stated he had yet to review the policy entirely before he passed it onto Council members.

Harris said obtaining a new ambulance was discussed. The big concern is where it will be housed. The existing ambulance bay has no extra room. They do not want to put the 1994 ambulance outside due to weather and possible vandalism. It takes 120 days from the time the bid is submitted to actually receive the new ambulance.

Hallgren asked about keeping the older ambulance.

Harris said yes, by keeping this third ambulance, it will keep the mileage down on any one vehicle.

Harris stated her other concern is having a small crew (10 at present) and keeping all three ambulances staffed.

Hallgren said the fire department would like not one, but two new fire trucks. There is funding for a new fire hall/rescue building, renovations and/or an equipment building also.

Harris asked about purchasing the new ambulance. The crew is very happy with the new ambulance and wishes to use the same schematics as when they purchased the last one.

Hallgren stated he would identify whether or not we must put it out for bid. He will check with the City attorney.

Gilbertson said the housing issue would be addressed under work sessions soon.

Heinbockel asked to consider separate buildings for the Rescue Squad and the Fire Department.

Dept of Economic Development - Pete Hallgren stated British Broadcasting Company (BBC) would be in town Saturday through Wednesday. They are doing a documentary on missile defense and will be interviewing community members and those out at Ft. Greely. The plan is to air in Britain in February.

Hallgren reported he would be gone next week to the Association of United States Army Annual Missile Defense Conference in El Paso.

Hallgren discussed a letter from attorney, Ken Jacobus, setting out the City's position with the Allvest bankruptcy case. Allvest is in involuntary bankruptcy but they say they don't object to being bankrupt, are not fighting involuntary bankruptcy and have put in a motion to have it turned into liquidation rather than a reformation. The courts have put that motion on hold and appointed a trustee in bankruptcy to look into all of Allvest's financial matters.

Hallgren said there would be more structure to how reporting is presented to Council. Flow charts will help keep status of projects updated. Budget reporting will need to be presented more frequently. They will be in a systematic manner. The general fund budget must be amended because of numerous changes. Hallgren will be prepared to do the first cut at the next meeting. One reason is the City is not getting 100% of the funds paid to employees using grants. A line item will need to be added to the budget to cover the 10% gap that is not funded

in grants. The amount not funded by grants, totals \$116,000 to \$125,000 over the next three years. Hallgren said he would probably suggest an income item. He will propose a one-time \$125,000 deposit from the unrestricted general fund account into a separate account and call it local impact match. In three years it would be zeroed out. It must be paid anyway or there will not be the required staff.

Lamar Cotten reported we should be able to get reimbursed from the State for the past 10 months and for November and December 2002. In the latter part of January he will request advancement for the next three months. The state and federal government do not have a broad plan. They are looking for ideas from Delta. The one guideline is to not allow the State to dump it into bureaucracy that takes a 30% overhead. Non-profit organizations will do the same.

Cotten discussed the \$270,000 allocated for Social Services. How should it be spent? Do we need to revisit it for FY04 money? Asking for proposals with some kind of guidelines from the community is a good process and would be encouraged by the State, sensing there is local commitment and involvement. The federal government is dependent upon direction.

Cotten reported he met with Dan Beck and discussed school strategies and the partnership that exists herein Delta because we do not have educational responsibilities as a second-class city. If there is expectation to do something in FY03 and FY04 we must have a realistic plan before we ask for additional money. The plan must produce something. The City needs input from Gene Therriault and John Harris as the plan develops.

Cotten reported that Dan Beck would ask the School Board for permission to have the architectural design work completed for a primary school that will cost between \$9,000,000 and \$14,000,000.

Cotten reported there is a meeting scheduled for 10:30, December 11, at the Community Center. The City, school district and key agencies that work with Russian communities will have opportunity to address issues they are facing. It is expected to last 3 or 4 hours. He also expects follow-up meetings.

Cotten discussed the issue with small businesses and what is thought to happen with military and Pogo projects, working with bankers about the changes that are happening to the community and possibly involving the Chamber of Commerce.

Heinbockel asked about discussions regarding the school. He feels a key to this community getting a new school; we must be divorced entirely from the school facility at Ft. Greely.

Discussion followed.

Finance/School Report - Ron Beck reported the modular-type building, donated by Fluor, is being moved to the site across from the old outdoor hockey rink on Saturday. Hopefully they can start classes for both high school and adults in the second semester.

Hallgren reported Dan Beck submitted a proposal for all of the allocated \$750,000 in Education/Job Training. That proposal is in conjunction with Tanana Valley UAF Campus and Delta Mine Training Center (DMTC). The major component, \$450,000, is for construction. MD may not be aware that the majority of job training funds would go to construction. Hallgren told Beck to expand his application for more than one year to include using FY04 funds.

Hallgren stated he has different concepts about how to handle the funding for Social Services. Social Service is more designed for organizations that are not in full audit mode.

Kemp stated the school and DMTC are looking at a program that has a lot of year's life to it.

Discussion followed.

Hockey Rink - Lou Heinbockel reported \$600 worth of speakers was stolen from the hockey rink. Those speakers were originally purchased by Ron Liewer and are property of the Skating Association. Also a four-wheeler entered the building and destroyed the ice.

Library - Mary Leith-Dowling reported Sally Young passed away. She was the best volunteer at the public library. Sally's family requested any memorial donation be made to the City Library. Leith-Dowling reported that there was a class action suit regarding music companies that were price fixing. The suit settled in September. As a result of that, public libraries in forty-one states will receive 5.5 million free CDs. Of that, Alaska will get 13,700. Delta Junction will receive 50.

Leith-Dowling reported training and the new computers would be in any day.

Leith-Dowling stated that librarian, Joyce McCombs, reported there are 177 new patrons since July 2002.

Public Works - Hallgren reported the status of the water at the community center. Morley heavily chloroxed the system and is waiting for the latest results. This sample is just from the well. Hallgren said the good news is that it is not a health risk and the bad news is that it is still there.

Gilbertson suggested changing the piping.
Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

- CC Waiver for Project Christmas on December 17, 19, 20, 21

Kemp moved to waive the fees for Project Christmas as requested; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

- CC Waiver to Borrow 35 chairs for the Community Choir Christmas Performance at the Mormon Church on December 19, 2002

Kemp moved to approve request for use of the community chairs for the choir; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hallgren reported the City has only 90 chairs and had to borrow 10 from the Pioneers for last night's public meeting. The chairs are not in good condition. He requested to look into purchasing 100 decent chairs, using EDA money to replace them.

Gilbertson asked to look into getting new chair racks also.

Kemp asked to inquire about round tables for the Community Center also.

- MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. Proposal for TV Repeater Review and Emergency Communications Study

Hallgren reported money is designated for two areas: 1) get the TV system working, rebuild it next summer and look into a better system (satellite and digital) for the future. 2) emergency communication. There is a problem with the 911 radios and the EMS/FD repeater. Deltana also has problems with their repeater. The City authorized new antennae cables to the main tower for both the City and the Deltana repeaters. There is possibility of moving one or both of the transmitters to a different spot for the best area coverage. The project is expensive (\$20,000 but not to exceed that cost).

Discussion followed about recent visits to the site, determining the problem and whether or not to accept the MACTEC (Harding ESE) proposal.

Hallgren will research and request MACTEC (Harding ESE) review their proposal to investigate what it will take to rebuild the existing TV system, eliminating the study of further TV needs. He will also ask PDC to give a bid offer.

- **Purchase Orders**
 - PO#07501 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$861.24 for October legal services
 - PO#07502 to Peter Hallgren in the amount of \$604.56 for reimbursement for office equipment

- PO#07503 to Harding ESE in the amount of \$31,615.50 for landfill subsurface evaluation
- PO#07519 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$4,365.50 for December group health insurance
- PO#07520 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,646.87 for Hallgren & Cotten travel, office supplies, materials for computer networking and fire department training manual
- PO#07521 to Buffalo Center Auto Parts in the amount of \$781.50 for ambulance and fire truck maintenance and supplies
- PO#07522 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$5,069.59 for November fees and per diem
- PO#07527 to Sam's Club in the amount of \$689.97 for LEPC office desk

Heinbockel moved to approve purchase orders as presented; Kemp seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel asked when the City is to exercise option for the landfill.

Hallgren said money would be available within 2 weeks. He and Gilbertson will meet with Waldo's tomorrow.

Heinbockel stated it doesn't mean we're putting in a landfill, we're just purchasing property.

Kemp reported DREDC met with DOT. They shared information regarding road construction projects for the next 6 years. DOT was not previously aware of convoy problems. Kemp identified how we desperately need passing lanes every 10 miles on the way to Fairbanks. DOT is working on passing lanes for the Parks Highway but was not aware of problems on the Richardson. Also Mile 261 to 265, including the Jarvis Creek Bridge, is not scheduled for reconstruction until 2006.

Kemp requested the City write a letter to DOT to 1) extend construction beyond Mile 265 at least to the gate to MD, the mancamp and the new landfill and 2) request passing lanes between Delta and Fairbanks. Kemp said to also write a letter to the army regarding the convoys, protesting how they maneuver. She talked with people responsible for releasing convoys. The only way it will change is if people complain. It was suggested that there be no more than 20 vehicles at one time and there should be one hour between convoys. As it is, there is only 15 minutes between them. Kemp will provide information to Hallgren.

Kemp said she proposes the Council, include the Chamber of Commerce and develop a planning session or retreat to outline what we want to do in the next year, define some goals, sketch projects into a timeline to get a better grip. She asked to pick a day and go into a closed room.

Gilbertson asked to start with the Council first and spend one full day defining goals.

Hallgren stated he would plan a work session in January and discuss it at the next meeting.

Heinbockel stated the light at the mancamp has been removed. And they did install an overhead streetlight but it has not yet been lit.

Heinbockel said the public work session was very successful and the City does not have near the money we need to complete what the public would like to have.

Discussion followed. All were in favor that the meeting produced what was intended.

ADJOURNMENT 6:59PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat White, City Clerk