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**City Council Minutes**  
**January 6, 2004 ~ 5:00PM**

**Regular Meeting**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**  
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The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on January 6, 2004 in the conference room at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Pro tem Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:06PM.

Council members present: Mary Leith-Dowling, Lou Heinbockel, Mark Weller  
Susan Kemp-Sandy (telephonically)  
Council member excused: Mayor Roy Gilbertson, Will Pecchia, Robert Miller  
City employees present: Dave Zimmerman, Pete Hallgren, Pat White  
Additionally there were four members from the community present as well as two MACTEC engineers.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Leith-Dowling reported one change under New Business:  
✓ E911 Funding for GIS will be postponed to January 20  
Hallgren reported one add-on to Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:  
✓ Richard Bonwell, MACTEC Principal Engineer, would discuss upcoming bids  
Weller moved to approve the agenda as amended; Heinbockel seconded. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Weller asked for one change to the December 16, 2003 minutes.  
Leith-Dowling reported she had cleared other minor corrections with the City Clerk earlier.  
Weller moved to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2003 meeting as amended; Kemp seconded.  
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Richard Bonwell, MACTEC Principal Engineer, presented a brief summary of contracted projects. He said bids for the fire station and Rescue Squad bay addition would be advertised on January 11. The bid opening is scheduled for 4:00PM on February 10 at City Hall in Delta Junction. A pre-bid conference, which is not mandatory, is scheduled for 10:00AM on January 27 at the office of MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. (1255 Airport Way, Suite 201, Fairbanks, phone-451-7774). Bonwell stated he would present final plans for the library construction project on January 20. Because he will not know the final cost estimates until January 23 he asked for a special meeting in order to stay on schedule of the first day of advertisement (January 25). Bid opening for the library is estimated to be February 20. Merle Jantz, Jantz Associates, Inc. Architect, and Dave Halverson, MACTEC Senior Engineer, will meet with library and City staff to review issues on January 8. Bonwell stated MACTEC is beyond the conceptual design for the landfill and currently

working on final plans that require minor changes. A special meeting around January 29 or 30 will be necessary. Final plans and cost estimates for the landfill bid will need to be reviewed a few days prior to February 2, the first day of advertisement.

Hallgren stated two other bid projects (the maintenance plan for the current landfill and construction of the TV towers) are pending. Permits are holding up the TV project.

Discussion followed regarding a date for a special meeting.

Bonwell stated he could confirm special work session date(s) with City Hall by January 16.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Pro tem Leith-Dowling called for public and Council comments on non-agenda items with none being offered.

### **REPORTS**

**Rescue Squad** – Roger Harris reported the stair-chairs, which were ordered in September, arrived two days ago. They have already been put to use and are an excellent addition for the squad. He stated the Rescue Squad currently has three ambulances, the 2001, 1993 and 1983 models. The newest ambulance is always the first responder. Motor vehicle accidents sometimes require more than one ambulance at a scene. Adding a new ambulance will complete a decent fleet of vehicles. The '93 ambulance will be used for backup when the new one arrives and the '83, presently used for backup even though it is not ALS equipped, will be used to transport mass casualty gear.

Harris discussed utilizing space to park ALS equipped ambulances in vacated stalls at the Fire Department. He is awaiting a response regarding compliance from the Juneau EMS. All but the 1983 ambulance must be secured by being locked up.

Heinbockel stated he disagrees with mixing public works with emergency medical services.

Discussion followed regarding removal of the mezzanine and adding a partition to avoid adding another bay onto the existing Fire Hall/Rescue Squad building.

Hallgren stated the current plan, which is out to bid, is to build a third bay onto the Rescue Squad side of the facility. This will allow space for the new ambulance as well as additional storage room. The fourth ambulance, which does not need to be secured, could be stored in any of the existing fire hall stalls. Hallgren said the money given by Missile Defense was designed to be more than adequate for the projects so that leftover funds could be moved to other projects. He said he would be surprised if there were not enough funds to cover costs. If the current plan is altered it leaves no place to store public works equipment.

Heinbockel said, "We would be hard pressed to build and maintain a building for what we pay to rent space." He said he would be fine to continue renting warm storage at that price (\$1,500/month). If the Rescue Squad has four vehicles, three of which require security, and they can utilize what already exists he'd recommend not spending to build an additional bay.

Hallgren, referring to a Fairbanks News-Miner article dated January 6, 2004, reported \$80,000+ million worth of capital improvements for the Alaska Railroad throughout the state and the rail belt. Bids were put out for construction of a new depot terminal in Fairbanks last summer but they were withdrawn because the bids were too high. The article blamed it on an exceptionally busy construction year for the interior. Even so they project more construction this summer than last year. Hallgren said if bidders and builders are not hurting for work other options might have to be investigated.

**City Clerk** – Pat White stated advertisement for the charter commission has been posted in the newspaper, on the Internet and faxed to local interest groups. The deadline for participation on the committee is January 15. She asked for a representative from the City and/or Council.

Heinbockel offered to volunteer and represent the City.

**Department of Economic Development** – Pete Hallgren stated that after negotiation and with both parties in agreement the City had taken over operation of the dump as of January 1. (Copies of the December 31, 2003 Landfill Disposal Agreement was made available to Council and the public.) Part of the agreement was that costs to customers would not increase prior to September 2004. Winter hours will remain the same. The dump is open on Saturdays between noon and 4:00PM unless it is -35° or colder. A weeknight will be added come spring. The price to haul garbage (\$14-16 per pickup load) will remain the same for the time being.

Hallgren stated Chad Morris, who worked as a part-time equipment operator last summer, has been hired to work as a part-time temporary employee. It is not yet known how much work there is on a daily basis. Hallgren stated the operation would run at a slight deficit until September. Cost for residential service will most likely increase to \$40-43/month when the new landfill opens. Hauling one's own garbage will probably cost \$22-23 per month for residential customers, the same as it is now for curbside pickup. It is more expensive to operate a landfill because the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) now requires landfill operators to collect enough while operating the landfill to also close it when the time comes. The volume of garbage has increased to the point that the landfill must meet higher, more expensive DEC requirements. There is \$24,600 in the landfill equipment repair fund that will be used toward the closure of the existing landfill.

Hallgren stated the fire alarm system is in operation at the Senior Citizen's/Community Center. Plans are to connect the new system to 911 Dispatch. The alarm was tested and setting it off will require intention. It must be held down for more than a full second and is not located where it can be easily bumped. There have not been previous problems. The \$100 fee instituted for deliberately setting off the alarm is because it will require city staff to open the box and reset it.

Hallgren said in-house repairs at the Community Center would begin soon to repair bathrooms, re-carpet the carpeted area, retile holes and install a replacement room divider. The City will hire expertise to work with Bob Morley. Hallgren stated plans are in the works to replace the roof with metal. It will be put out for bid.

Hallgren stated there is concern about losing radio service on the Alascom tower during bad weather. For several months the goal has been to replace parts for both the City and Deltana on the tower located here in town. 95% of the parts list will be delivered and Alascom employees will complete the repairs. When is not yet known.

**Hockey Rink** – Mark Weller stated he spoke with Hockey Association president, Mike Tvenge, who informed him that the school district has not paid their share for use of the hockey rink for the past 4 or 5 years.

Hallgren said it was discussed approximately two to three years ago. He will research the subject.

Discussion followed regarding a written agreement, trade for use of the zamboni and for the school employee to operate it, high school precedence for ice time and focus on building the high school team.

Heinbockel said the zamboni is approaching 20 years of age and requires a lot of maintenance. He suggested some agreement be made.

Hallgren said some work on the hockey rink could be completed this coming summer if decisions are made as to what projects to undertake. PDC can design the work using the 1999 plan.

Weller said direction should come from the Hockey Association.

**Public Works** – Lou Heinbockel reported Boadwine is doing excellent work keeping snow off the streets. Tree overgrowth on the streets will have to be addressed in the near future. Heinbockel said this community would benefit from having a heavy-duty truck with a plow and sander. It could be a one ton or 1 ½ ton with a flat bed to mount the sander, preferably a crew cab and 4-wheel drive, costing possibly \$40-50,000.

Discussion followed regarding purchase possibilities.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Notice of Intent to Award Ambulance Bids**

Hallgren, referring to memo provided by Planner Dennis Dooley, asked for a motion to announce intent to award the Delta Rescue Squad ambulance bid.

Weller moved to announce an Intent To Award the bid to McPherson Supply for \$107,775 and to give the City Administration authority to enter into a contract with McPherson Supply provided there are no protests filed within 5 days of transmittal of the Intent To Award by a qualified bidder; Heinbockel seconded.

Hallgren reported letters were sent to all the bidders indicating potential award to McPherson and to hold the lowest bid as non-responsive. He said all bidders have their rights to protest under the bid specs.

Weller amended his motion to include "to hold the lowest bid to be non-responsive."

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with (quorum of) four voting.

### **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Petition to Vacate Section Line and Easement**

Hallgren explained DNR's December 11, 2003 public hearing notice to vacate the section line and 100-foot section-line easement common to Sections 13 and 14, Township 10 South, Range 10 East, Fairbanks Meridian. He said Kimball Street Extension is not yet constructed but is what the school district plans to build once trees are removed. Tract A holds the newly erected construction trades building. Tract B and C are open ground. C is where the airplane tie-downs are located. Rapids Street curves along but does not follow the section line. The 100' right-of-way (ROW) is located on the section line. The State of Alaska, DNR, owns Tracts B and C. The school district is asking for the easement. Completion of the plat is holding up the State from transferring Tract B to the school district and Tract C to the City. This was to happen many years ago.

Discussion followed regarding ownership of tracts and suggested uses for the areas.

Leslie Feilner, homeowner, stated the school intends to construct a running track. They plan to build a new school on the current track in approximately 20 years. She said she questions why action is being taken at this time if construction is 20 years away.

Discussion followed regarding plans to complete Kimball Street Extension, abandoning easements and the ROW, the public comment period, concerns with property values and opposition of the vacation by area residents and homeowners.

Feilner said the State has confirmed receipt of written opposition.

Discussion followed regarding response to the letter and location of the public hearing.

Feilner asked Council to not ignore the letter, but to address it.

Weller asked for Planner Dennis Dooley to investigate on behalf of the property owners involved.

Hallgren said he would write of letter of objection, if desired by the Council, at this time because it is not understood for sure what the school district plans for Tract B. The tract is currently the nature trail and tree buffer. He will add a request to locate the public hearing in Delta also.

Discussion followed regarding property owners and how this would affect them.

Hallgren stated his personal opinion is that granting the vacation would not harm anyone's interests.

Discussion followed regarding history of the properties in question.

Heinbockel said the purpose of easements is to assist people in accessing other properties. He said access to Rapid Street and the airstrip is already available. It does not affect anything but public (school and city) property.

Weller said he could not support the request because it is not understood how property rights across the street would be affected.

Heinbockel moved to show no opposition as recommended by City Planner Dennis Dooley; (Kemp) Sandy seconded.

Motion failed with two (Heinbockel and Weller) voting against and two (Kemp-Sandy and Leith-Dowling) voting in favor.

**E911 Funding for GIS - Postponed until January 20**

**Purchase Orders**

PO#08486 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$4,883.00 for Jan '04 group health insurance  
PO#08487 to Busy Bee Office Supply in the amount of \$1,049.00 for City Hall file cabinets  
PO#08488 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Jan '04 warm storage rent  
PO#08489 to Emergency Medical Products, Inc. in the amount of \$874.87 for EMS supplies  
PO#08490 to Peter Hallgren in the amount of \$523.50 for reimbursement (El Paso symposium)  
PO#08491 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$6,491.04 for Dec '03 consulting services  
PO#08492 to the City of North Pole in the amount of \$4,538.95 for dispatch service (Jan '04 thru June '04)  
PO#08493 to Simplex Grinnell in the amount of \$4,890.00 for final payment on

Community Center/Senior Lounge fire alarm system

**Heinbockel moved** to approve purchase orders #08486 through 08493 as presented; Weller seconded.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call vote with (quorum of) four voting.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pat Schlichting asked if any action was made toward a borough charter.

Hallgren offered a copy of the advertisement sent to Delta Wind for their January 8 publication.

**ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Weller asked that the charter commission include research about statewide income tax. It is an option that could eliminate building another government bureaucracy.

Discussion followed regarding Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) benefits.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 6:39PM; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat White  
City Clerk