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**City Council Minutes**  
**January 30, 2004 ~ 5:00PM**

**Special Meeting**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**  
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A special meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on January 30, 2004 in the conference room at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 6:35PM.

Council members present: Mayor Gilbertson, Mary Leith-Dowling, Will Pecchia, Mark Weller  
Susie (Kemp) Sandy (telephonically) and Lou Heinbockel

Council member excused: Robert Miller

City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dennis Dooley and Pat White

Additionally there were two members from the community present as well as MACTEC engineers, Richard Bonwell, Dave Halverson and Mike Schmetzer.

### **Library and Fire Hall Bid Projects**

Hallgren stated the purpose for the meeting was to determine if Council would approve of the final bid package for the new landfill as well as discuss the estimator's cost during an Executive Session.

Richard Bonwell stated the library project was first advertised Sunday, January 25. He presented the bid document register showing 26 packets for the fire station have been purchased. Contractors are from Fairbanks, Anchorage, Delta and Kenai. Because of the increased interest Bonwell asked to issue an addendum to delay the bid opening for the fire station to February 17 (previously planned for February 10). He said opening of the library bids is scheduled for February 24 and he may ask to extend that date also. But at this time he had no recommendation to make. He said delaying bid openings by one week would not harm either project.

Heinbockel moved to authorize delay of opening fire station bids from February 10 to February 17; Pecchia seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Bonwell said the addendum would be issued on February 2.

Discussion followed regarding extending the bid opening for the library.

Heinbockel moved to authorize the City Administration to extend the bid opening for the library to no later than March 1 upon receiving recommendation from MACTEC; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Bonwell said he could make a decision by February 16.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **Landfill**

Hallgren reported he received a call on January 27 from a representative from Ft. Greely who said they would handle their own garbage. They plan to install an incinerator with construction to begin in March and operation to begin in August. The landfill would get minimal amounts of incinerated ash and possibly some

construction debris. He said Ft. Greely had never promised to use the new area landfill. However, the City has felt an obligation to size it so that military garbage could be accepted. Hallgren said this decision, learned four days prior to final approval of the landfill bid package, has left the engineers with a "staggering task." He said there was no prior knowledge of Ft. Greely's plans even though there have been formal meetings regarding potential base usage, the last of which was last fall. Since learning of Ft. Greely's plans Hallgren and MACTEC engineers have downsized the project. Those plans will be proposed tonight but will now carry higher operative costs per ton. In order to be financially viable the new landfill will have to be operated on a lesser scale than what was originally planned. If the resize project is approved for construction he will recommend the project not be advertised for bid until Sunday, February 8. It will allow an additional week, time for staff to consider additional developments. Hallgren said it is better to learn of Ft. Greely's decisions now instead of one year from now or even before putting the project out to bid.

Discussion followed regarding changing plans.

Gilbertson said this is our direction and it is the only way to proceed.

Hallgren stated the cost to operate the landfill without military garbage would be higher than what was previously estimated. The cost of construction does not change but the cost of operation does. He foresees problems with the operation costs.

Al Edgren suggested a joint venture, locating their incinerator at the new landfill site so that garbage is delivered to only one location.

Hallgren said test studies showed it was not cost effective to put an incinerator at Ft. Greely.

Bonwell presented updated plans and diagrams. He explained the layout of the landfill and process of operation. He said based on the information provided from Ft. Greely, construction of the north cell would become an additive alternate.

Discussion followed regarding operation.

Heinbockel asked about the life expectancy without participation from Ft. Greely and in developing only the south cell.

Bonwell said life expectancy would be 15 years for the south cell, with an additional 10 years capacity in the second cell, for a total facility solid waste disposal life of 25 years. Population is used as the basis for estimating solid waste production for the community. The Solid Waste Plan was updated last summer and the population base was approximately 3000 with an escalation factor of 1.8%. In 2004 the population was estimated to be 3131.

Bonwell explained that the base bid would consist of entrance facilities, the south cell, the septage disposal facility, fencing and roads applicable to those portions of the facilities. The entrance facilities would have the scales and scale house, small-hauler drop off area, recycle/reuse area, household hazardous waste accumulation building and the equipment storage building. Alternate A would be to excavate trenches in the south cell. B would be to construct the north cell and the north road. And Alternate C would be to excavate trenches in the north cell.

Discussion followed regarding initial construction, depth of cells and life expectancy.

Janet Boyer asked about life expectancy of the current landfill.

Hallgren said the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) permit expires in March 2006. Because of the high water table, neighbors and growth in garbage, there would be 4 or 5 more years of expectancy if the landfill stayed within the fenced area. The adjoining 20 acres would require a different type of landfill, possibly a Class II.

Bonwell said the water table at the current landfill is about 30 feet to hit water.

Heinbockel said there should be little public concern about the new landfill location, other than the length of drive to get to it.

Weller said the drive, water table and smoke would be concerns.

Heinbockel said when the existing landfill was planned 20 years ago those were not concerns. The road systems did not exist at the time. The state gave the City the land, which is not even within City limits, specific for the landfill. Like an airstrip, people surrounded it once it was built. Geographically the new landfill is in a good location. He said he does not like the idea of hauling trash through downtown Delta and across the Jarvis Creek Bridge.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pecchia moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:47PM to discuss cost estimates of the new landfill in which might be harmful to the municipality; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Present during the Executive Session were six Council members (Gilbertson, Leith-Dowling, Heinbockel, Weller, Pecchia, Kemp-Sandy), three City staff (Hallgren, Dooley, White) and three MACTEC engineers (Bonwell, Halverson, Schmetzer).

Heinbockel moved to end the Executive Session and reconvene the special meeting at 8:42PM; Pecchia seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Heinbockel moved to approve the proposed landfill package, including additive alternates A, B and C, and to advertise on February 8; Weller seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Al Edgren said Forestry would like to offer service for land clearing on the library, fire station and possibly the landfill projects. It would help dispose of timber through personal use firewood cutting. Forestry would also provide advertisement to the community.

Discussion followed.

Hallgren said he would contact the Pilot's Association to include work at the airport.

Janet Boyer asked if Council could release numbers on the landfill bids.

Hallgren said the total cost of the project is between \$2.5 and 5 million.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Weller moved to adjourn at 8:46PM; Pecchia seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat White  
City Clerk