



City Council Minutes
February 3, 2004 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on February 3, 2004 in the City Hall Conference Room in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

Council members present: Mayor Gilbertson, Mayor Pro tem Mary Leith-Dowling, Robert Miller, Will Pecchia, Susie (Kemp) Sandy (telephonically) and Lou Heinbockel

Council members absent: Mark Weller

City employees present: Dave Zimmerman, Dennis Dooley and Pat White

Additionally present were 16 members from the community and Representative John Harris and Assistant Pete Fellman (both telephonically).

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gilbertson reported three purchase orders need added to New Business.

Heinbockel asked to reconsider Council's position (discussed 1-6-04 and 1-20-04) regarding the school district's request to vacate a section line and section-line easement. He asked to discuss it under Unfinished Business.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the agenda as amended; Miller seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2004 regular Council meeting as presented; Pecchia seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jody Zollman, Delta/Greely Recreational Coordinator and Delta Youth Court Director, stated there is interest in using a portion of Social Service Grant funding to host a motivational speaker. High School Principal Rod Schug was to comment on the subject. (He arrived later in the meeting. See *Additional Public Comments* on page 5.)

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Gilbertson called for Council comments on non-agenda items with none being offered.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Martha Kimball thanked Council for supporting Festival of Lights, scheduled February 13, 14 and 15. She distributed flyers with the scheduled events. Kimball asked for permission to use the City Park for fireworks on Saturday evening, clarifying that both the State permit and the liability insurance certificate are

current. She said a children's marshmallow roast is planned for Friday night and will be held at the park picnic area, pending Council approval and locating half-barrels. She also asked for snow removal, needed to accommodate the technician who will be providing the fireworks display.

White stated Dave Boadwine agreed to clear snow for the event upon Council approval.

Heinbockel asked if there was any opposition to the requests presented.

Pecchia asked that adult supervision be provided for the children activities.

Kimball stated there would be plenty of supervision.

Council showed no opposition to Kimball's requests for use of the park and Dave Boadwine's service to remove snow.

CORRESPONDENCE

Forget-Me-Knot Quilters Guild – 2004 Gaming Permit Renewal

Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to the FMKQ Guild permit application renewal; Miller seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

REPORTS

Planner – Dennis Dooley reported that 1) Delta Regional Economic Development Council (DREDC) discussed Social Service Grants at the February 2 meeting. The DREDC subcommittee is reviewing the application form for potential revisions. The application and requirement process will be similar to last year with plans to distribute funds and start programs in July. 2) The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is hoped to be complete within the next two months. CEDS is an EDA grant requirement. 3) Specs for equipment (to be used at the landfill) would be reviewed with plans to advertise within the week and award within one month. 4) GIS training for Letha Burcham and Pat White is scheduled in March. Mapping software has been received and the hardware is due next week. 5) One firm, who applied for the Delta Junction Water and Sewer Feasibility Study, has been escorted around the Delta area. Another will be escorted on February 5. The committee panel will review each of the three firm proposals on February 16, interview the firms on February 17 and then present their recommendation that evening at the Council meeting. 6) The City now has a large photomap that covers the entire City of Delta Junction and the area up to the "Y" on Mil-Tan Road, near the existing landfill. It will be used for the GIS mapping project. 7) Mental Health Trust explained their implications of their most recent appraisal. The 25-acre park was appraised at \$105,000. Adding another 25%, which is required by law, the purchase price increases to a little over \$131,000. The price is not negotiable. Dooley stated that Hallgren included purchase of the park in the list of legislative priorities.

City Clerk – Pat White asked for Council members who plan to attend the Terrorism/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) seminar at the Community Center on February 19. Response to invitations must be submitted by February 4.

Discussion followed regarding Council members and staff who will be able to attend.

Leith-Dowling and Gilbertson stated they would attend.

Hockey Rink – Lou Heinbockel offered Mike Tvenge, President of the Delta Hockey Association, to present his drawings and list of improvements for the recreational center (hockey rink).

Tvenge stated the association paid \$25,000 for drawings in 1999. Presently the facility is in need of a Zamboni room, a boiler room and access to running water. He stated the Zamboni, which has been in operation for 20 years, broke down 7 times this past winter. They are borrowing one at this time, which enables the program to continue. Issues remain between the school and use of the Zamboni. Tvenge stated he would recommend moving forward with construction of the Zamboni room because the Hockey Association is attempting to obtain a new one. He said together the Hockey Association and the City could operate the facility successfully. Every community struggles with maintaining their facility. The programs that have the best facilities produce better teams. Insulating the building would warm the temperature inside

so it would be enjoyable for smaller children who are the heart of the skating program. It can only improve the sports program.

Landfill – Lou Heinbockel reported he visited the landfill to watch it in operation. He said he was amazed at the tremendous amount of work already completed by the in-house hire. Because of that he guessed closure of the landfill is one-fourth complete.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported plans are underway for the annual Library Fundraiser and Open House in April.

Heinbockel reported, as of yesterday, 33 copies of the library plans had been picked up from the MACTEC office in Fairbanks. Twenty-two sets were picked up for the new fire hall. He said, “it shows a whole lot of interest” in the construction projects.

Park – Will Pecchia stated the work session to discuss replacing park equipment, which was planned for February 9, would be rescheduled for March 8.

Personnel – Roy Gilbertson reported Pat White would attend the Alaska Municipal Clerk’s Conference February 5-8 in Anchorage. Also, she and Letha Burcham will participate in two days of GIS training in March.

Public Health & Safety – Robert J. Miller reported Delta Rescue Squad participated in a mass casualty exercise at Ft. Greely. Many were pleased with the outcome and coordination between the City and the military. Another joint exercise will be planned in the near future.

Public Works – Pat White stated the Community Center would be closed to the public for the month of March while floor improvements are being completed. The Volunteer Fire Department uses the facility on Mondays and the Senior Citizens use it on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Both parties were notified.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Easement Reconsideration

Heinbockel, referring to the minutes of the last meeting when School Superintendent Dan Beck spoke about the vacation of a section line and easement on North Clearwater, stated there is no reason to oppose vacating the easement because there is nowhere for it to go on either end. It has already been vacated on one end and the airstrip is located on the other. The public hearing process is unnecessary.

Heinbockel moved to call for reconsideration and withdraw Council opposition to vacation of the easement under discussion; Pecchia seconded.

Discussion followed regarding the decision at the January 6 Council meeting.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote to reconsider.

Heinbockel moved to vacate the easement as requested by the school district; Pecchia seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Charter Commission

Gilbertson explained the voting process for the charter commission. Interest groups (City Council, DREDC and Deltana) previously appointed their representatives. Tonight Council members would vote privately on the additional eight. Gilbertson asked for public comment.

Steve Fields, who will represent DREDC, stated the Regional Government Options Study Committee was well attended in the beginning but dwindled toward the end. He asked that two alternates be selected who could stand in for members who are unable to attend.

Council members voted and Dave Zimmerman picked up their papers.

Heinbockel stated the outcome of the commission is to create a charter that would be put to the public.

Art Griswold introduced himself and stated he was involved in a previous borough study and would like to participate in this one as a member at large. He stated he has property in and out of the City, which makes him interested in the decisions of the commission.

Discussion followed regarding the number of members and alternates.

Council agreed on nine members with two alternates.

Stephen Hammond introduced himself, stating he is an engineer and would like to participate in the committee. He said his vision is to see Delta Junction grow.

Leith-Dowling asked about representatives of the five interest groups.

White explained the school district opted to have school board member, Tana Wood, report back to them as they did not wish to designate a specific representative. There were no volunteers that stepped forward from the Chamber of Commerce. However, President Fred Sheen, did volunteer himself as a member at large.

Steve Fields stated both the Chamber and the school district have representatives on DREDC also.

Discussion followed regarding public notice. It was determined that the charter meetings would be advertised the same as Council meetings. They would be open to the public and advertisement would be posted as usual (at IGA, the PO, City Hall and the DeltaNewsWeb and City websites) three days prior to each meeting.

Mayor Gilbertson asked to continue with the regularly scheduled meeting once the votes were picked up. Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman left the room to tally the votes. (See continuation of discussion after *Additional Public Comments.*)

NEW BUSINESS

Purchase Orders

PO#08556 to GVEA in the amount of \$1,364.39 for Jan '04 electricity

PO#08578 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$4,553.75 for Feb '04 group health insurance

PO#08579 to Amazon.com Credit in the amount of \$888.63 for library books

PO#08580 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Feb '04 warm storage rent

PO#08581 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$998.50 for Jan '04 fuel and oil

PO#08582 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$2,436.67 for legal services to review ambulance bids

PO#08583 to Leap II in the amount of \$4,144.00 for Social Services Grant Award (#3 payment)

PO#08584 to McPherson Supply Company in the amount of \$29,748.00 for ambulance deposit

PO#08585 to Mikunda, Cottrell and Company in the amount of \$2,830.20 for 2003 audit fees

PO#08586 to Tessco Technologies in the amount of \$11,096.01 for EMS radio parts and equipment to be replaced on Alascom tower

PO#08587 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$4,989.34 for Jan '04 consulting service

PO#08589 to Bank of America in the amount of \$861.07 for payment of credit card charges (911 sign at Fire Station, phone card for Fire Department, office supplies, Cotten travel)

PO#08597 to Clearwater Construction in the amount of \$10,700.00 for landfill gravel stockpile

Miller asked about PO#08586.

Heinbockel stated the cost of the parts and equipment does not include the fee from Alascom who will complete the installation.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve purchase orders #08556, 08578 through 08587, 08589 and 08597 as presented; Pecchia seconded.

Heinbockel stated the City has a contracted service and he is pleased with that progress. However, the amount of the purchase order exceeds any prerogative to contract for that amount of money. He said, "If Council votes to pay the purchase order we violate our own policies, procedures and ordinances. Anything over a certain amount requires bids or quotes." He said the bill needs paid but rules need to be followed. Decisions to spend that kind of money should be made by the Council.

Motion passed on roll call vote with five (Leith-Dowling, Pecchia, Sandy, Miller and Gilbertson) voting in favor and one (Heinbockel) voting against.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephen Hammond asked why the procurement code was violated regarding the gravel bill.

Gilbertson said it had to do with gravel work that was done when the City took over responsibilities of the landfill at the beginning of the year. Time did not allow for the bid process.

Hammond said the work at the landfill looked good.

Heinbockel said he had no problem with the work done. It just exceeded policy and procedure. In an emergency situation it would be acceptable.

Tvenge stated road signs on Mil-Tan are being covered with paint balls.

Rod Schug, High School Principal, introduced himself and stated he wished to discuss impact funds designated for the After-Schools Coordinator position. He and Jody Zollman would like to use funds to bring a motivation speaker to Delta. Schug asked to shift money to the Delta Youth Court for this event. The Speaking from the Heart presentation will be available for grades K-12 as well as the community and is scheduled for February 20 or 21. It is geared to "get through the dark days." The cost to bring speakers to Delta is around \$5,000.

Jody Zollman reported Delta Youth Court has \$3,000 to put toward the event.

Schug thanked Council for allowing funding for the After-Schools Program.

Heinbockel asked to discuss the subject at the next Council meeting on February 17.

Pete Fellman asked that Representative John Harris be allowed to speak during the meeting on February 17. He also thanked Council for allowing their participation at tonight's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Charter Commission (continued)

Zimmerman presented the tally of members selected by Council.

Mayor Gilbertson read those that were selected, reporting the top eleven as Lou Heinbockel, Steve Fields, Fred Sheen, Tana Wood, Mike Schultz, Carol Dufendach, Pat Schlichting, Stephen Hammond, Paul Kulakavich, Robert Packard and Ed & Gayle Larson. He said he appreciated those that stepped forward to volunteer.

Janet Boyer stated there were twelve names identified.

Ed Larson stated he and his wife, Gayle, would attend the meetings but they would be considered as one vote only. They would like to attend together if that would not be a problem.

Council discussed and no objection was stated.

Boyer asked who the alternates would be.

Heinbockel said the last two named, Robert Packard and Ed & Gayle Larson, would be considered alternates.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel stated he wished for billing from Attorney Ken Jacobus for his work on the prison lawsuit.

Leith-Dowling stated the City Administrator has requested a bill.

Gilbertson reported the Library, Fire Station and Landfill projects are all out for bid. He said he and Hallgren discussed getting started on proposals for work on the recreation center so that something can be accomplished this year.

Heinbockel said he wanted to complete the first two phases, if not all three to make the hockey rink a useable facility. Heat, water and drainage are needed for a Zamboni room and bathrooms.

Gilbertson stated the money would be from impact funds. Once bids are in it will be known what is leftover that can be used toward the hockey rink. \$1.6 of this year's funding, which will be available in April, will go directly toward the rec center project. There is no idea what the outcome of the bids will be but it is encouraging how much interest there is. The jobs are suitable for Delta contractors. The school project will be out for bid also.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 6:07PM; Miller seconded. Motion carried.