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**City Council Minutes**  
**February 17, 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 February 17, 2004 in the City Hall Conference Room in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 5:10PM, after a brief telephone conversation with Representative John Harris. (See *REQUEST TO SPEAK*)

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

Council members excused: Robert Miller

City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Lamar Cotten, Dennis Dooley and Pat White

Additionally five community members were present along with Representative Harris and Pete Fellman (telephonically) at the beginning of the meeting, two State agency guests and Dave Halverson, MACTEC engineer.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gilbertson reported four purchase orders to add to *New Business*:

- ✓ PO#08599 to State of Alaska – Fire Prevention, Dept. of Public Safety in the amount of \$2,392.16 for plan review of new library
- ✓ PO#08616 to Clearwater Signs in the amount of \$675.00 for landfill signs
- ✓ PO#08617 to Delta Youth Court in the amount of \$9,800.00 for Social Service Grant Award
- ✓ PO#08618 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$2,111.61 for service on emergency radio tower

Leith-Dowling stated the school principal's request to transfer Social Service Grant funds needed omitted from *Unfinished Business*.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the City Council minutes from the January 30, 2004 special meeting and the February 3, 2004 regular meeting as presented; Heinbockel seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Representative John Harris (telephone conversation took place prior to meeting being called to order)

Representative Harris stated they are currently focused on balancing the budget. He said Senator Gary Wilkens is pushing the Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 (SCR 12) which is the Local Boundary Commission (LBC) report for incorporating different areas around the state.

Hallgren stated the \$1.2 million prison issue is Delta's #1 concern. Delta is against SCR 12, which forms a borough from Delta all the way to the Canadian border. The City has set up a commission to protect the public by drafting a home-rule charter that will cover only the Delta school district area. Hallgren stated he and Cotten met with Tok residents on February 16. Tok feels what Delta is doing is in their best interest also. They have no desire to be in a borough with Delta. Hallgren stated, according to the demographics of the 2000 Census, 60% of the population (of the proposed area - Delta to the Canadian border) lives within 30 miles of downtown Delta Junction. It would be difficult to provide services to Tok. Delta is proceeding with the charter draft with the hope that nothing will be done with SCR 12 while proactively seeking a charter for a Delta borough. The gas line, the railroad and a statewide electric grid would give Tok more potential but at this time they feel they are a number of years away from becoming a viable borough.

Mayor Gilbertson asked Representative Harris if there is any support for funding the prison issue.

Harris said it has not been addressed at this time because they are dealing with budget issues and getting enough revenue to cover items that are in the budget. There is no discretionary money available. He has not forgotten the concern.

Hallgren said the prison issue is very important. He said, "Talking voters, who live in this area, into voting for a borough with a million dollar liability is a daunting task."

Harris stated he is aware that the majority of the people in Delta do not want some sort of government, especially with the debt. He said he would do all he can. It will be difficult to come up with \$1.2 million in cash when the governor will not veto the debt. Paying the debt back to the State as a no-interest loan is doable except for the fact that the governor reduced last year's budget with cuts even though the price of oil was higher. Harris stated he is available by phone or e-mail and would be in Delta for the Farm Forum on February 28.

Hallgren thanked Harris for allowing comments.

CORRESPONDENCE - none

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Sue Miller, a 10-year volunteer EMT and presently the new Squad Chief, stated she had concerns with the transfer of the North Pole dispatch, who currently contracts with Delta.

Hallgren reported he met with mayors from North Pole and Fairbanks on February 11. They assured there would be a seamless transfer with the City of Fairbanks taking over the dispatch contract.

Heinbockel asked about cost increases.

Hallgren said there would be no increases with this one-year contract.

Planner – Dennis Dooley reported Delta Regional Economic Development Council (DREDC) had met twice in the past two weeks. Their sole topic had been Social Service Grants. They have received two requests for additional funding. DREDC did not vote on either request. However, they expressed displeasure with Recreational Coordinator funds being used for a motivational speaker. Dooley also reported that counseling services need to take on additional responsibilities involving alcoholism.

City Clerk – Pat White thanked Council for sending her to this year's Alaska Association of Municipal Clerk's Conference in Anchorage.

Department of Economic Development – Pete Hallgren reported on today's Missile Defense Roundtable. He said the Alaska State Troopers reported a 400% increase in drunk driver arrests in 2003 compared to the

prior year. There were 50 arrests in 2002. They are researching funding to deal with the increase in violations.

Weller suggested a driver's school and charge the violators to attend.

Discussion followed regarding the seriousness of DUI charges.

Hallgren reported past news, that the State has received two gas line proposals. Hallgren, appointed representative of Delta Junction for the Municipal Gas Line Advisory Committee, has been meeting on a weekly basis with the State Department of Revenue in Fairbanks. Only incorporated municipalities and boroughs under the stranded gas act will receive funding from the gas line. Funds will be payment in lieu of taxes (PILT), not property tax, similar to the pipeline and TAPS. Hallgren said he is pushing strongly for the Delta area to tap into the gas line. Cutting costs of energy in the area will be good for businesses as well as local residents.

Discussion followed regarding tapping into the gas line for less expensive energy and the location of the conditioning plant, whether it is located on the North Slope or in Alberta or Chicago.

Hallgren said actual construction of the gas line would not begin until 2006 and gas flow would be by 2010.

Hallgren reported he would meet with PDC Engineering next week regarding progress on the recreation center (hockey rink) so that some useful construction is completed this coming summer.

Hallgren reported the bid opening for the library will be on March 2 and the landfill on March 9, if it is not put off an additional week. He said 9 bids were received for the Fire Hall and were opened at 4:00PM today. The bids have not yet been evaluated but it appears Richard Stanton Construction was the lowest bidder for the full project. Their total bid was \$1,756,100. Richard Stanton Construction has done a number of jobs for the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Hallgren said bids were close in comparison and he was happy with the turn out. Five bids were below \$1,800,000 and two of them were only \$940 apart.

School Liaison – Will Pecchia reported pre-bid conference for the new elementary school was today and bids will be opened on March 3. (March 3 was later changed to March 10 per DGSD Superintendent Dan Beck.)

Hockey Rink – Lou Heinbockel reported he received a request to initiate work at the hockey rink but he would discuss it at the next meeting.

Lands – Susie Kemp-Sandy reported two lots were sold to Delta Industrial Services on January 30. They are located at the backside of their development where the trees are located. Three lots are left in the airport subdivision. Kemp-Sandy stated interest is picking up again in the purchasing of City property.

Hallgren stated local realtor Cleeta Barger reported the housing market is very tight and builders are looking to construct spec houses this summer.

Park – Will Pecchia reminded Council of the work session, scheduled for 5:00PM on March 8, to discuss park needs. He invited the public to share any input and concerns regarding the park at the March 3 Council meeting.

Public Health & Safety – Pat White reported on behalf of Robert Miller. She stated that LEPC requested a letter from the city asking for a memorandum of agreement for mutual aid between the United States Army Alaska (Ft. Greely) and Delta emergency services, Delta Rescue Squad and Volunteer Fire Department. The purpose of the letter would initiate action for such an agreement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attorney Fees for Prison Lawsuit

Hallgren explained the bill received from attorney Ken Jacobus was for services rendered and out-of-pocket expenses incurred on the Allvest lawsuit. He said details of the bill are not public knowledge because of possible litigation. (Copies of the confidential statement were provided to all Council members prior to the meeting.) Hallgren reported the total bill, as of February 8, was \$23,698.93.

Heinbockel moved to pay Ken Jacobus' bill of \$23,698.93; Pecchia seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Selection of Firm for Water and Sewer Feasibility Study

George Wilson, Village Safe Water Program Engineer, thanked Lou Heinbockel, Mary Leith-Dowling and Will Pecchia for their time in reviewing proposals for the water and sewer feasibility study to be completed on the core area of downtown Delta Junction. MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc., Kuskokwim Architects & Engineers, Inc. and Michael L. Foster & Associates, Inc. made the short list. Their proposals were reviewed on February 16 and the firms were interviewed earlier today. Kuskokwim was given the highest score. Wilson stated a contract would be drawn up and signed at the next meeting. A consultant will later meet with Council and present preliminary documents. Following standard outline procedures there will be review periods, public comment meetings, surveys, etc. throughout the summer. Council will make decisions based on recommendations presented by the end of August. Options could include piped water or a sewer system or leaving everything as it is.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2004-05, A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Denali Commission Multi-Use Facilities Request for Proposal and Committing to Facility Operation

Hallgren explained that the City is the entity that must make application to the Denali Commission. This application is requesting funds for the multi-use facility. A letter from the school district addresses the application, stating they will cover obligations that the City undertakes by acting as the grant applicant.

Karen Cedzo is on contract with the DGSD to oversee the coordination of the Education and Job Training (impact funds) grant from the City through the Partners for Progress Consortium and to also help identify funds for the Delta Career Advancement Center. Cedzo stated the City was asked to serve as the governing entity because the school district was not an acceptable applicant. A representative of the Consortium met with members of the Denali Commission after receiving a letter encouraging application for funding, specific for life safety and health multiple-use facilities. The City was later notified that they were one of thirteen (out of 31 applicants) to submit a full application. At this point a resolution from the applicant is required. \$425,000 of impact funds met the required (\$125,000) secured cost share. Cedzo stated Commissioner Blatchford, Department of Community and Economic Development, wrote a letter of support for the project to the Denali Commission. She said she is hopeful that others will see the value of investing in Delta also and that Murkowski's administration has identified Delta as one of three rural communities poised for future economic development.

Leith-Dowling moved to adopt Resolution 2004-05 authorizing participation in requesting for funding from the Denali Commission and commitment in the operation of the multi-use facility; Pecchia seconded.

Weller asked about the facility.

Cedzo stated the building is half complete. The Council and Chamber of Commerce were invited to walk through it on January 20. It is located near the Delta Career Advancement Center on North Clearwater Avenue. Phase One of the building was funded by the school district (\$457,000) and MD impact funds (\$425,000). It is a \$1.5 million dollar project. An additional \$600,000 will finish the interior computer labs and classrooms and allow for landscaping and parking. The request from the Denali Commission is for \$500,000.

Hallgren said the match was met with federal impact funds.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Authorization to Purchase Used Fire Tanker

Hallgren, referring to his February 13 memo to City Council, requested authorization to purchase a 1987 Mack 3,500-gallon pumper tanker truck for the City Fire Department for no more than \$88,500. There has been no commitment to purchase the unit, nor an opportunity to inspect it or negotiate the price. Engineers estimated that substituting the buried 20,000-gallon tank with a \$100,000 tanker vehicle would provide better coverage of a larger area. And the State of Alaska approved the plan. Hallgren said the Fire Chief,

who has been looking for a used tanker, said it is the only one with a sufficient sized tank that has been advertised in the last several months. He explained other attributes of the specific piece of equipment.

Discussion followed regarding the purchase.

Hallgren said the Fire Chief is interested in putting as much water on a fire as possible.

Kemp-Sandy stated she was recently involved in searching for trucks and found that good tanker trucks are not easy to find. The particular truck in question, even with 13,500 miles, is a good vehicle, no matter how old it is. The vehicles are good for thousands of miles. Good conditioned trucks to haul fuel oil are difficult to find.

Gary Hall, Construction Trades Program Instructor/Coordinator, said a 28,000-gallon tank was buried near the Career Advancement Center to support a sprinkler system. That total bid of \$60,630.00 included the sprinkler system, plumbing and a high capacity fire pump. The tank itself cost approximately \$30,000. Therefore, he had a hard time with the \$100,000 figure. Possibly that tank could be made available during an emergency. Once the building is complete everything is there except a loading mechanism.

Hallgren said a tender is more versatile than a tank. The reason for the buried tank was in case the "Snoopy Dog" well failed. There will be better failsafe capacity for the "Snoopy Dog" well under the new construction. Currently it works on a generator. The new fire station will have line current hooked up as well as a back-up generator. A tanker can serve a much larger area.

Discussion followed regarding the capacity of the current tanker. It was thought to be between 2,600 and 3,500 gallons.

Kemp-Sandy asked to send someone to inspect the tanker.

Hallgren said two Fire Department engineers agreed to check out the vehicle. A \$5,000 deposit is required. The deposit will be returned if the vehicle turns out not to be what is needed.

Sue Miller said the tanker may not be needed because of mutual aid from Deltana. Deltana has two engines that carry 2,000 gallons apiece. There is another one that carries 2,600.

Hallgren said the tanker would not be picked up until spring. It would then be stored inside the Fire Station once it's built.

Dooley said originally this topic was reviewed under the fire hall plans. A 20,000-gallon tank was to be buried for supplemental water storage. The alternative, keeping the costs down, was to replace the underground tank with a tanker. The buried tank was estimated to cost \$150,000 and the replacement tanker was to cost approximately \$80,000. Dooley stated he has been searching for a used tanker and this is better than anything he's been able to locate.

Weller stated the tanker was appraised at \$118,000, marked down to \$95,000 and now \$88,500.

Hallgren said the tanker is still on the market because it's a 5-speed manual transmission. Most volunteer departments want automatics.

Kemp-Sandy said it would be nice to build a municipal swimming pool instead of burying all the tanks.

Pecchia moved to table the subject; Weller seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Purchase Orders

PO#08606 to Airport Equipment Rentals, Inc. in the amount of \$7,630.00 for equipment rentals used at existing landfill

PO#08607 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$571.36 for Feb '04 911 telephone service

PO#08608 to Buffalo Center Auto Parts in the amount of \$1,253.81 for equipment repair parts

PO#08609 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$2,260.17 for Jan '04 heating fuel oil

PO#08610 to GVEA in the amount of \$1,935.70 for Jan '04 electricity

PO#08611 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$192,173.88 for Dec '03 and Jan '04 engineering service on new landfill

PO#08612 to Moonbeam Publications Inc. in the amount of \$646.47 for library books

PO#08613 to OCLC Lacey Product Center in the amount of \$595.00 for library material for bibliographic

database

PO#08614 to Paramount Computer Corporation in the amount of \$2,180.00 for GIS equipment (printer plotter)

PO#08615 to Renaissance Seattle Hotel in the amount of \$803.45 for Joyce McCombs' library conference expenses

PO#08599 to State of Alaska – Fire Prevention, Dept. of Public Safety in the amount of \$2,392.16 for plan review of new library

PO#08616 to Clearwater Signs in the amount of \$675.00 for landfill signs

PO#08617 to Delta Youth Court in the amount of \$9,800.00 for Social Service Grant Award

PO#08618 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$2,111.61 for service on emergency radio tower

Pecchia asked about purchase orders 08606 and 08614.

Hallgren said PO#08614 covers equipment needed to print maps of the area. E911 funds cover the cost.

Zimmerman stated PO#08606 was to cover charges for equipment rental used to stockpile gravel and clean the surrounding area at the old landfill. The excavator was used for four plus days.

Hallgren said the rental was billed to the EDA grant as landfill maintenance. The gravel stockpile will be needed for final covering and closure.

Heinbockel asked how much of the EDA money, goes toward closing the landfill, had been spent.

Zimmerman said \$80,000 was allocated for closure. To date about \$18,000 has been used for renting equipment. \$4,000 has been paid in wages since taking over the landfill operation in January.

Hallgren said standard operation is paid from the general fund and maintenance comes from EDA funds.

Heinbockel stated an excellent job is being done at the landfill. However he has a problem approving large amounts for purchase orders on short notice. He would like to have prior knowledge.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve purchase orders #08606 through 08615, 08599, and 08616 through 08618 as presented; Weller seconded.

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

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Gilbertson called for additional public and Council comments with none being offered.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:12PM by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat White
City Clerk