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**City Council Minutes**  
**June 1, 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 June 1, 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 Roy Gilbertson, Mayor Pro tem Mary Leith-Dowling, Mark Weller, Lou Heinbockel, John Sloan, Susan Kemp-Sandy (telephonically), Will Pecchia
City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Dennis Dooley, Pat White
Additionally eight members from the community were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

White reported five add-ons to New Business:

- Three Purchase Orders (#08898, 08899, 08900)
- GVEA Request for Easement and Through Easement for Landfill Scale House and Equipment Building
- Executive Session to Discuss Library Change Order (agenda item already listed as *New Business* – to be moved and included in Executive Session right after the *Fire Department Report*)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2004 meeting; Weller seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ellen Pecchia, representing the Park Committee, stated members have begun accepting donations for a (2-5 year old) playground system that is planned for next year. (The equipment that will be installed on June 17, 18, 19 is for 5-12-year olds.) Fund raising efforts started at the Farmer's Market over Memorial Day weekend where Pecchia and Rachel Robertson collected \$92.00 in donations. Pecchia distributed sample packets to Council members. She explained the "rotating idea" for individuals to contribute \$5 for each name/address of family and friends. Packets of goodies (Almond Joy, Starburst candies, stationary sprinkles, etc.) are then mailed anywhere in the US with notice that the recipient has "been luau-ed." Pecchia asked for Council approval and support. She also asked to place "Pennies for the Park" buckets at both City Hall and the library for collecting other contributions.

Will Pecchia stated the City previously agreed, as part of the fundraiser, to match dollar for dollar what is collected from public contributions. The goal is \$25,000. He said private businesses have not yet been approached.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Sue Miller reported Jessica Smith joined the Delta Rescue Squad and applications have been received from two ETTs who will be interviewed on June 5. Miller stated Medic II (now known as Medic IV) had been stripped and prepared for auction in Fairbanks on June 5.

Fire Department – John Sloan reported a meeting is scheduled at 6:00PM on June 8 in the conference room. It would not be a business meeting but rather a time for Council members to meet fire department volunteers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Heinbockel moved to enter into Executive Session at 5:12PM to discuss financial matters that may tend to prejudice the City; Sloan seconded. Motion carried.

Present during the Executive Session were City Council members (Mayor Gilbertson, Heinbockel, Leith-Dowling, Sloan, Pecchia, Weller, Kemp-Sandy) and City staff (Dooley, Hallgren, White).

Heinbockel moved to end the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 6:07PM; Weller seconded. Motion carried with Pecchia objecting.

Potential Library Siding Changes (moved from *New Business*)

Hallgren asked to execute the library changes as discussed during the *Executive Session*.

Weller moved to approve Change Order 002 for the new library as described for a total price of \$27,500.00; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

REPORTS continued

Planner – Dennis Dooley reported construction project status: 1) Fire Station – Dooley stated there was a problem with a subcontractor placing “fill” in front of the ambulance bay. Squad Chief Sue Miller took care of the situation. 2) Library - The architect is awaiting color samples for siding before being reviewed by the Library Board. Another change order, regarding the front door of the library, is currently under discussion. 3) Landfill - Dooley reported ACS estimates building a landline to the landfill will cost \$228,000, 10 times what the MACTEC engineers understood during the design phase. He spoke with the design engineer at ACS who said the Waldo line would be reserved upon being abandoned. Portions of that line enter into the military area and all the lines put in for the man camp are being reserved for security. Military will not be allowed to switch lines. Satellite and cell phones may be considerations. Follow-up will continue during the next couple of construction meetings.

Heinbockel said a tower could be constructed for \$200,000 that would provide very good reception.

Dooley reported the Zamboni has been ordered. The total price, with a wash-water system, is \$62,900. It also includes freight. He stated the fire truck delivery cost is still under review. The company estimated a \$3,000 credit should City personnel pick up the vehicle.

Discussion followed regarding freight charges and methods of shipping.

Dooley reported he increased the typing speed on the portable laptop for Debbie Heral, who took over duties of transcribing the Charter Commission meetings. Heral's speed swamped the laptop, causing the screen to black out. Dooley reported he loaded software for the new plotter with assistance and expertise from Gunnar Hallgren. He said he visited GVEA to familiarize himself with their GIS system. They provided a CAD drawing of City lots and it is being used as a protocol for the City's system. He stated he is also working with Helen Stewart at ACS in Fairbanks regarding 895 boundaries necessary for the E911 mapping.

Airport – Lou Heinbockel asked about the increased number of vehicles parked around the business near the airstrip. He said he was concerned about safety.

Discussion followed regarding previous arrangements, construction on the recently purchased lots and trespassing State grounds.

Weller stated he would make contact with the business owner.

Lands – Susie Kemp-Sandy reminded Council of the land auction scheduled for noon on June 14 at City Hall.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported an increased number of patrons (up 327 in May 2004 compared May to 2003).

Park – Will Pecchia reported volunteers are being lined up for the playground installation on June 17, 18, and 19. He said Katie Benner (895-2212), proprietor of The Learning Tree Montessori School, would provide childcare in the pavilion at the park during the construction of the playground equipment. He is waiting for the Kiwanis to commit their help.

Pecchia reported Stephen Hammond agreed to provide engineering and supervision for the basketball court.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of completing the project.

Weller said volunteers could clear and prepare the area for the basketball court so the only expense would be the fill (bull rock, sand, gravel).

Gilbertson asked Pecchia to work with him and those he knows who could provide service.

Hallgren said the gates for the Little League field have arrived and will be installed.

Discussion followed regarding abusive use at the bathrooms located in the park pavilion.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported Boadwine and Morris were working on the clinic road today.

Charter Commission – Lou Heinbockel reported Stephen Hammond resigned as both chairman and member at the April 21 meeting. He said he respected Hammond for admitting that he could not serve without being dedicated. Heinbockel, as Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting but reported that he, as City Council member, requested to not chair any future meetings. He said Hammond felt there was too much push and emphasis at the commission meetings from the City and that is the reason Heinbockel refused to accept the Chair position when the commission was initially formed. He said a new chairperson would be nominated at the next meeting on June 16 when all the members could be present.

Hallgren said the Charter Commission is blessed with financial and secretarial support, not to mention the expertise to deal with details that are required by the Local Boundary Commission.

Leith-Dowling stated past groups have formed and worked without any financial support.

Department of Economic Development – Pete Hallgren reported he would ask the State to reissue the survey instructions so that surveyor Art Saarloos could complete the 1993 survey, in which the State would grant title to the City for property along the Richardson Highway. The proposed lots are equivalent to 19 acres. The City would cover the costs of the survey.

Hallgren reported the Denali Commission plans to donate money toward the multi-use (construction trades) building. The City of Delta Junction is the recipient on behalf of the school. A final decision will be announced by the end of the month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Warm Storage for City Equipment

Heinbockel moved to continue with the original agreement of storing equipment until the new facility becomes available; Weller seconded.

Dooley reported the building structure for the new Fire Station is presently behind schedule because of the manufacturer.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with six in favor and one (Gilbertson) abstaining.

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 2004-03, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1.10, City Council, Section 1.10.020, Eligibility

Heinbockel moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-03 as presented; Pecchia seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 2004-04, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1.70, Cemetery

Hallgren explained two versions, the second being revised by City Attorney Jim DeWitt.

Discussion followed regarding redundant wording, “casket” wording to replace “vault”, forms required by the City and possibly the State, “persons” wording versus “people”, possible controversy over inappropriate inscription or abstract representation and purchase of plots.

Leith-Dowling moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-04 upon changing “vault” to “casket” under section 1.70.030(b); Sloan seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2005-01, An Ordinance for the City of Delta Junction, Alaska Providing for the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2005

Heinbockel moved to introduce Ordinance 2005-01, hold the first reading and set the public hearing date for June 15, 2004; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Hallgren said he welcomed questions.

Weller asked for a work session.

Discussion followed and 9:00AM, Monday, June 7 was planned to discuss the budget in detail.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Revised MACTEC Engineering Cost Estimates

Hallgren explained a lengthy meeting was held a week prior, resulting in MACTEC issuing a letter stating their cost estimates were \$102,000 over the original guesstimate. It does not include current library change orders, which could run as high as \$20,000.

Heinbockel moved to approve MACTEC’s request for an additional amount not to exceed \$102,500; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Sloan stated he would vote against the motion because as a businessman he is unable to increase his price whenever he errs in providing a service to a customer.

Hallgren said engineers are professionals who submit proposals with estimates, not bids. He said MACTEC admitted errors in their estimates. The main error was in estimating that the inspector would work 22 weeks instead of 20. Also the project engineer is required to spend more time in Delta than what was planned.

Weller asked to view original proposals and estimates for a better understanding.

Discussion followed arguing the request.

Weller said he would like to see the original proposal and running account of each of the three building projects.

Hallgren said he could ask for a day-by-day breakdown. He said MACTEC’s pricing is competitive with other similar firms.

Discussion followed regarding funds remaining for the hockey rink versus spending it elsewhere.

Heinbockel withdrew his motion. Leith-Dowling seconded.

Weller asked to table discussion until the next meeting.

Hallgren stated he would provide original estimates and ask MACTEC to assort a day-by-day breakdown of the work completed for each employee. He would bring it to the next meeting.

Potential Library Siding Changes (see Executive Session after Fire Department Report)

GVEA Request for Easement and Through Easement for Landfill Scale House and Equipment Building

Weller moved to grant easement into the new landfill as requested by GVEA; Pecchia seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Purchase Orders

PO#08893 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$4,553.75 for June '04 group health insurance

PO#08894 to ACS in the amount of \$729.49 for repair of phone cable on Ryan and Rapids Road intersection

PO#08895 to Bank of America in the amount of \$3,400.00 for E911 plotter software

PO#08896 to Delta Concrete in the amount of \$1,050.00 for sand and gravel used during the May 8 flood

PO#08897 to Paramount Computer Corporation in the amount of \$9,350.00 for E911 1055HP Plotter

PO#08898 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$998.22 for May '04 gas and oil

PO#08899 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$6,335.44 for May '04 consultant services

PO#08900 to W.S. Darley & Company in the amount of \$142,222.00 for deposit on two fire trucks for the

Deltana Fire Department

Leith-Dowling moved to approve purchase orders 08893 through 08900; Pecchia seconded.
Motion passed on a roll call vote with six voting in favor and one (Heinbockel) voting against.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janet Boyer asked why the library door was moved.

Hallgren stated it would be more aesthetically pleasing and more functional.

Leith-Dowling said it would be more accessible to the parking lot.

Weller asked about actual footage between the front entrance and Deborah Street.

Gilbertson said approximately 40 feet.

Dooley said the sidewalk curves around the parking lot.

Boyer asked if the estimated \$102,000, which was requested from MACTEC engineers, included the previous request for \$50,000.

Hallgren agreed and said the additional funding is needed to see the three construction projects to the end.

Boyer asked what the ramifications would be if the additional funding was not approved.

Heinbockel said there are items that surface that are both unforeseen and not anticipated. Contractors know changes benefit them. The administrator and engineering firm "ride herd". The engineering firm gets 15% of the total project cost to guarantee that the other 85% operates smoothly in the City's best interest. We are committed to pay the bill.

Boyer asked Dooley where the projected \$228,000 landfill phone line would cover.

Dooley said part of the construction line upgrades would start in Fairbanks. Improvements cover the distance from the City to the landfill. Even the ACS engineers agree there is no investment in Delta Junction. He said involvement from the Regulatory Commission is needed.

Boyer asked when a decision regarding the phone line would be made.

Hallgren said other options would be investigated.

Edgren asked about drawings for the hockey rink bathrooms, if MACTEC had completed them.

Hallgren said MACTEC engineers were to meet with the State Fire Marshal on May 26 but had to reschedule. They needed the drawings tentatively approved before they were fully drawn.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Weller asked about USARAK status.

Discussion followed regarding updated information.

Hallgren stated the attorney budget had exceeded by almost \$50,000.

Pecchia apologized for referring to the Council as a monarchy instead of a democracy.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 7:32PM; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White
City Clerk
City of Delta Junction

Date of approval: June 15, 2004