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**City Council Minutes**  
**July 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 July 6, 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
Lou Heinbockel, John Sloan

Council members excused: Mark Weller, Will Pecchia, Susie (Kemp) Sandy

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

Additionally eight members from the community were present as well as two out-of-state missionaries and one guest speaker from Minnesota.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

White reported changes to the agenda:

- ✓ Award of Roofing Material Purchase to *New Business*
- ✓ Rasmuson Foundation Challenge Grant for Community Library to *New Business*
- ✓ Recent Fire Briefing under *Request to Speak*
- ✓ PO#08972, 08973, 08974 to *New Business*
- ✓ Request from Chamber of Commerce to Support State Scenic Byways Program under *Correspondence*

Leith-Dowling moved to approve agenda with additions as presented on the updated format; Sloan seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2004 meeting; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Ron Sanow introduced himself as the Fire Information Officer of the Minnesota Type II Incident Support Team. He said their purpose is to support the community and its local firefighting operation. Sanow distributed copies of a report, specifically the Camp Creek Fire for 7-6-04, and explained the procedures of reporting. Management plans are prepared daily and they are designed so that everyone is well informed. The Support Team focuses on putting out fires, not on fire fighting policies. Concerns regarding how the fire was managed are not their area of expertise. Sanow explained recent fire status.

Gilbertson said he appreciated Sanow's time in providing the information.

Sanow reported fire information would be based out of the Delta High School. Presently residents could contact them (895-4460) for updated news releases and day-to-day questions. Information will also be provided over the local radio station, 95.5.

Dooley asked about “close-out” fire critique because of the recent lawsuit with the Army over the Eddy Drop Zone. One of the City’s main objectives is potential fire and copies of both the Delta and Tok fire reports would be a very useful resource for the City.

Sanow stated those reports could be obtained from the local forestry office. He added that he wished to thank local community merchants who had extended them credit to meet the need for meals and gas.

Janet Boyer, local news reporter, asked how many fire fighters were employed and how the predicted rain would affect their continued work.

Sanow reported 80-84 firefighters were currently on the job with two more crews, another 48, to arrive today. Because they are not considered “out of the woods” continued effort is needed to manage the known 12 hotspots that are estimated to be between 600 to 1000 acres. 115,503 acres are estimated to have burned to date. That number will likely increase once more sophisticated reports are in.

Gilbertson said he received many complaints regarding action taken at the onset of the fire. He was told fires had to be a certain size before authorization was given to combat them.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

*Mayor Gilbertson stated a skateboard park had been discussed for the past four years. He said he felt we needed to be more attentive toward our youth, the next leaders in our community.

Trevor Gilbertson introduced himself and his friends, Michael Brown and Caleb Brown, and stated they would appreciate a skateboard park to use during the summer months.

Leith-Dowling asked if there was anything else.

Trevor Gilbertson said a better ice rink would be appreciated.

Dooley asked the three boys what they specifically wanted in a skate park. He said other communities across the USA are putting in skate parks that cost between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

Trevor Gilbertson stated they would like two or three ramps and three rails, basics for a small town skate park.

Dooley asked for the boys to sketch out plans in order to give him guidance in what to research.

Janet Boyer asked the boys where they presently skate.

Discussion followed regarding other areas around town that serve skateboarders.

Martha Kimball offered to gather information and design from an area she’s familiar with.

Dooley stated the biggest problem in starting a skate park is the initial design. It’s either too large or too small to begin with. He is currently researching grants to build skate parks around the United States.

Rod Schug, Delta-Greely High School Principal, stated the skateboard park near Growden Field in Fairbanks is of basic design.

Gilbertson suggested joining the basketball court with the skateboard area. He said Council had failed miserably in providing sports recreation for Delta.

*Martha Kimball invited Council to the Alaska Highway Legacy Tour meeting at 5:30PM on July 9 at the Community Center. A public cookout will follow behind the Visitor’s Center at 6:30PM. Thirty tour representatives will meet with Council members, after which there will be a cookout including the whole community. Kimball thanked Council for recent assistance with grant fund support. Much has been done for Delta because of that funding.

*White introduced Elder (Kirt) McKay and Elder (James) Spackman from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She stated that McKay and Elder Bahr volunteered their labor to pour cement during the installation of the park playground equipment. They worked both crews during both shifts. Bahr and Menlove, both missionaries that have already moved on from Delta, were the ones credited for volunteering to help at the landfill on Community Clean Up Day, May 15th. Most recently McKay and Spackman have volunteered their services to help the Chamber of Commerce with the Legacy Tour and also to help wherever needed for the Deltana Fair.

McKay, who resides in Arizona, answered questions presented by Council members. He said there are presently 150 missionaries in Alaska. They serve for two-year periods but each six-week destination is not known previously. They accept what tour is offered. Overseas? Alaska is as foreign as you can get.

*Trevor Gilbertson presented a hand drawing for a proposed skate park to Dennis Dooley at 5:57PM.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Request from Chamber of Commerce to Support State Scenic Byways Program

Leith-Dowling stated the request is to support the Chamber in designating the Richardson Highway between Fairbanks and Glennallen as a State Scenic Byway.

Heinbockel asked that support be in the form of a resolution instead of a letter and be discussed at the July 20 meeting.

Dooley said he participated in one of the first scenic projects, Highway 101 between Washington and Eureka, California. There is a land owning agreement by landowners that agree on what vistas they want to preserve. Seattle has two or three scenic vistas that are reserved for the overview of the town. It is not a stop-development type project but rather one that provides free advertisement for rural communities. DREDC supports Carl Ekstrom, who is heading the project locally. Programs exist throughout every state in the union. It is a known fact that tourists travel on roads that are scenic byways. The road passing through Delta is not presently included.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Sue Miller reported the next ambulance run will mark #100 for the year. She said the old ambulance was not sold because permission from the State has not been granted yet. It is pending and therefore the ambulance presently sits in the Fairbanks garage. Miller stated she recently tallied a database and reported EMTs have logged over 240 hours of volunteer service from the time they are toned out and back to the station. It does not include continued training, maintenance of the ambulance and cleaning around the EMS building.

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported the new pumper fire truck is due to arrive late this month. Engine 502 underwent recent transmission work caused by an oil leak. Welding is scheduled for both Tender 5 and Engine 502. Volunteer hours to date for this year is estimated at 1000. Bear also reported the Fire Department is currently working on a draft which they will bring to Council for review.

Sloan reported Dave Boadwine asked to update the entry lock for the Fire Department entrance.

Bear agreed, saying the back door had been left unlocked numerous times. Evidence showed that the locked file cabinets had been tampered with.

Bear stated their software supplier is now out of business, which creates a problem in filing reports.

Heinbockel asked how the fire truck would arrive.

Bear stated the truck would be driven or shipped by the company. The escort will also give air foam instruction to the local firefighters.

Dooley reported the Canadian National Railroad estimated \$15,000 to deliver the new fire engine.

Planner – Dennis Dooley stated he is occupied by reporting the quarterly summary for the Missile Defense Social Service grants. He said he is also halfway through editing the City's map, which was acquired through the GIS system. ESRI, the company who sells the GIS product, is scheduled to hook up at 9:00AM on July 7 to attempt expedition of the process. Dooley said skateboard grant information was presented by the Delta-Greely School District, which he will research once he understands the lingo. Dooley reported status of construction projects: The steel building for the Fire Hall was to arrive June 21 but was 2 or 3 weeks late. The retainer wall for the landfill underground utility and septic system was poured today. The library appears to be on schedule. Dooley stated a Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) is being developed for dispatchers and it is 1/3 complete.

City Clerk – Pat White reported she appreciated the training at the Northwest Clerks Institute in Tacoma. The subjects were even more beneficial than last year.

White asked who from the Council would be able to attend the meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and the Alaska Highway Legacy Tour on July 9. Two and possibly five were able to commit.

Landfill – Lou Heinbockel reported construction at the new landfill would be discussed during the *Executive Session*.

Gilbertson stated big rocks are being removed from the new landfill for use as barricades and landscape on private properties. He said he felt they should be utilized as City property, possibly placing some as part of the landscape at the new library. He asked Dooley to contact MACTEC for advice on the matter.

Lands – Mayor Gilbertson stated he wanted a full preliminary title report on any piece of property that is to be sold. The title company will do it without charge. Afterwards the title insurance and recording can complete the sale.

Michael Crouch stated he questioned the process he experienced over the past two months, to get property to be brought to auction. He said he first purchased land from the City in April 2000, buying what was available. Then the property that he had initially inquired about was sold to another buyer in 2002. He understood that it needed to go through a land auction process before it could be sold over the counter. He would like the Council to address the problem so it is not repeated in the future.

Gilbertson apologized for the circumstances.

Dooley stated the City has virtually no land records and the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) website does not apply to this town. It is too difficult to research because survey distinctions are lacking. It will require someone to sit for several days at the recorder's office in Fairbanks. Even then there is no assurance of credibility because of the need for expertise in the title research field. He said there is no requirement in this State to record land ownership, though once the City map is complete it will identify what the City currently owns.

Discussion followed on how to remedy the current situation of not knowing what the City has title to.

Dooley said obtaining a preliminary title needs to be specific to lots. Prior appraisal assessment and preliminary title research are needed before property can be offered for sale.

Gilbertson reported he directed Hallgren to establish a lands department within City Hall because of turnover in administration.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the summer reading program is successful. A 4th of July event on the City Hall sidewalk was well attended. She said the library is a recipient of the (\$31,000) grant for an Internet catalog between the school and the City.

Park – Pat White reported there was good community turnout for the installation of the playground equipment. The three-day event ended four hours early on June 19. She said Bob Morley placed a temporary piece of plywood over the opening where the spiral slide is to be located. The central post was missing from the bulk shipment of equipment. A Playscapes representative will return to Delta to install it and four kick plate panels upon arrival of the missing pieces. White reported pea gravel would be laid once all the equipment is in place, completing the project. She said Bob Morley overnighted at the park during the event to oversee the crates of equipment and pallets of bagged cement.

Heinbockel said a portion of the old park equipment was reinstalled behind the school and was not all used at the Gerstle School. They take on the same liability that the City had.

Heinbockel asked why concrete for the park playground equipment was not donated by a local business.

White explained that the company responsible for the installation specifically requested 60# bags. Three bags were used per hole and they were prepared at the time they were needed over the three-day event. Individuals from the public knowingly volunteered to provide the physical labor that was required for the cement work.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported Fourth Street, between the Steakhouse and Delta Industrial, is presently undergoing repairs. Hopefully it will fix the flooding problem that is caused by spring run-off.

Sloan asked for something to be done in the area between the Richardson and the side road that runs between Delta Medical Supply and Granite View. He said ruts in the grass have deepened and huge amounts of dust are carried into the air when the ground is dry. He suggested gravel or some other sort of fill to remedy the problem. After discussion Sloan agreed to contact DOT.

Charter Commission – Lou Heinbockel reported Mike Schultz was elected chairperson at the last charter meeting on June 16. He felt Schultz did an outstanding job in conducting the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Street Name for Raymond Stewart's Subdivision

Dooley explained the Raymond Stewart subdivision off Jack Warren Road received three different deeds but no name was given to the street connecting them. It would be a private road. The name of the road was unique and different compared to other existing street names. Naming the street concerns the Council.

Heinbockel moved to approve Raymond Stewart's subdivision street name as long as it is not a duplicate and is not obscene; Sloan seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Award of Roofing Material Purchase

Heinbockel moved to approve the award of the Community Center roofing material to the apparent low bidder, Interior Building Supply in the amount of \$8,292.15; Sloan seconded.

Heinbockel explained the four quotes received.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Rasmuson Foundation Challenge Grant for Community Library

Leith-Dowling explained Rasmuson would match any amount in which the community can raise up to \$200,000. She said ways to promote and raise those funds are under discussion.

Discussion followed regarding reaching the goal for the whole community.

Land Sales – Title Search

See discussion under *Lands Report*.

Noise Control (Jake Brakes)

Gilbertson reported he has received many complaints about jake brakes. Most of the main hauling for construction is completed. Gilbertson stated because the culprits involved are known, it would be appropriate to contact them and ask them to be cautious and considerate of others.

Sloan asked to address the problem in a letter to the businesses.

Fee Waiver Requested by Catholic Social Services

Heinbockel moved to excuse the Catholic Social Services from paying fees to use the Community Center on July 20 and 21; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

MACTEC Application for First Payment of Fire Station and EMS Bay

No discussion. See *Purchase Orders*.

Request to Purchase City Property at Less Than 200%

White reported a local resident requested to purchase a large amount of property in the industrial area.

Discussion followed regarding researching the property in order to abide by ordinance.

Sloan moved to deny acceptance of the personal check as a deposit because of the unknowns regarding the status of the property; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Purchase Orders

PO#08959 to Delta Presbyterian, PCUSA & Faith Lutheran, ELCA in the amount of \$9,800.00 for a new well

PO#08960 to Clearwater Construction in the amount of \$1,517.82 for Rest Haven Cemetery gate work
PO#08961 to Michael L. Crouch in the amount of \$698.00 for refund of land sale deposit (Lot 10 of Block 5)
PO#08962 to Delta Lions Club in the amount of \$10,100.00 for Social Service Grant Award
PO#08963 to Delta Sand & Gravel LLC in the amount of \$975.00 for cement used for playground installation
PO#08964 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$1,817.36 for June '04 gas and fuel oil
PO#08965 to Richard Stanton Construction in the amount of \$622,745.17 for construction of fire hall, #1
progress payment
PO#08966 to Pat White in the amount of \$3,135.35 for ambulance billing
PO#08969 to Medicare Part B in the amount of \$2,566.75 for request to refund payments made on ambulance
claims
PO#08970 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$4,938.56 for June '04 consultant/planner services
PO#08971 to UNIT SKW LLC in the amount of \$192,105.00 for construction of library, #2 progress payment
PO#08972 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$4,553.75 for July '04 group health insurance
PO#08973 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for July '04 equipment storage rent
PO#08974 to Delta-Greely School District in the amount of \$75,000.00 for job training building, Phase 1
retention

Leith-Dowling moved to approve purchase orders 08959 through 08974 as presented; Heinbockel seconded.
Sloan asked about #08970.

Heinbockel stated the most visible work performed at this time by the City Consultant is for the Charter Commission. He said progress would be "dead in the water" without Cotten.

Leith-Dowling said Cotten provided the legwork needed for the Rasmuson grant.

Zimmerman provided a brief hourly breakdown and stated he would provide a brief description for Council's review.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Gilbertson reported the Missile Field is now activated. He said he also spoke with Diane Hutchinson, Special Assistant to Senator Stevens, regarding use of the Ft. Greely School. There will be no school functions on Ft. Greely because Missile Defense lock downs will be 30 days at a time. Gilbertson said a joint letter between the City and the Delta-Greely School District was sent to Senator Stevens requesting support for resolving the school problem (constructing the new one and vacating Ft. Greely). The school issue is of utmost importance to the whole community.

Heinbockel said the government should simply pay for the new school based on square footage of the one that exists on Ft. Greely.

Gilbertson said the difference is in the increase of construction prices over the past couple of years.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dooley reported Carl Rubinstein from Washington DC will meet with Delta Catholic Social Services and the Slavic population on July 20.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Report from Attorney Jim DeWitt Regarding Update on Landfill Construction Project Negotiation Over Purchase of City Park

Heinbockel moved to enter into Executive Session with the City Attorney at 6:47PM to discuss matters with financial implications, the immediate public knowledge of which could be detrimental to the City; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Present during the Executive Session were four Council members (Gilbertson, Leith-Dowling, Sloan, Heinbockel) and three City employees (DeWitt, Dooley, White). DeWitt was present telephonically.

DeWitt excused himself at 6:59PM.

Heinbockel moved to end the Executive session at 7:09PM and to reconvene the regular City Council meeting; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 7:09PM; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White
City Clerk
City of Delta Junction

Date of approval: July 20, 2004