



City Council Minutes
November 16, 2004 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, November 16, 2004 in the City Hall conference room in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 5:04PM.

Council members present: Mayor Roy Gilbertson, Mayor Pro tem Mary Leith-Dowling, Lou Heinbockel
Leslie Feilner, Will Pecchia, Susan Sandy, John Sloan

City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dennis Dooley, Dave Zimmerman, Lamar Cotten, Pat White
City Attorney Jim DeWitt (telephonically during Executive Session)

Nine members from the community were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gilbertson reported two additional items and four purchase orders to add to *New Business*:

- ✓ Purchase of Used Tender
- ✓ Delta Youth Court Request to Waive Rental Fees for Community Center
- ✓ Purchase Orders:
 - 09396 to ACS for \$1,590.10
 - 09397 to Arctic Fire & Safety for \$39,250.00
 - 09398 to Bank of America for \$2,138.92
 - 09399 to Mikunda, Cottrell & Co for \$8,500.00

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

Heinbockel stated he opposed agenda add-ons. He said if items cannot be put on the agenda by the previous Friday, they should be postponed to the next regular meeting.

Hallgren asked to move the *Executive Session* (to discuss the Eddy Drop Zone EIS) from the last of the meeting to the second item under *New Business*. He asked to discuss the landfill contract during the *Executive Session* also.

Leith-Dowling amended the motion to include moving the *Executive Session* in the sequence requested and to include discussion regarding the landfill contract; Sandy seconded. Motion carried with Heinbockel remaining opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Pecchia moved to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2004 regular meeting as presented; Feilner 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

Request for Support for Library Move on November 27 and December 11 (moved from *New Business*)

Librarian Joyce McCombs reported the library would be moved into its new facility during two Saturdays. Furniture and equipment will be moved on November 27 and books will be moved on December 11. Many community members have signed up to help on both dates. However, McCombs requested to hire people with strong backs and possibly some technical support in hooking up computers.

Hallgren said he was concerned with injuries and coverage. He suggested hiring a company, if one exists.

McCombs said walkie-talkies are lined up and she would like possibly six or eight men, at least two being crew bosses located at both the new and old libraries.

Discussion followed regarding voluntary help from the community. McCombs, Sloan and Tvenge agreed to work out a plan to enlist volunteers.

Mike Tvenge – Skating Association Benefit Report

Mike Tvenge, Skating Association President, reported there was great support from the community for the skating fundraiser held at the Moose Lodge on November 6. Approximately \$22,000 was raised, increasing the budget to \$34,500. Additionally \$1,250 is collected twice a year from recycling aluminum cans that are contributed from local residents. Tvenge explained the budget and how the program stands financially. The “Kit-a-Kid” program began this year and to date 16 youth have been outfitted with skating or hockey gear. They intended to outfit 15. “Kit-a-Kid” encourages families to allow their children to participate without having to invest in expensive equipment. The majority of the money raised at the fundraiser was used for skating/hockey gear. The rest will be used to operate the skating program. Tvenge thanked Council members for the new zamboni. He said it is quieter, smells cleaner because of the emission control and leaves a nicer sheet of ice. He asked about an ownership/maintenance agreement. The Skating Association is in possession of the machine but the City owns it.

Gilbertson stated the school offered to house it for the year.

Discussion followed regarding who takes responsibility of maintenance, past experience and storage.

Dooley suggested putting out a maintenance contract. He said there are many locals who could adequately service the machine.

Sloan asked that the Skating Association take responsibility.

Gilbertson said there ought to be enough interest within the association to have the machine maintained.

Tvenge stated a tank light was ordered. It will aid the operator during dark hours.

Discussion followed regarding a ceremonial presentation in which the zamboni keys would be handed over to the Skating Association and a date that would allow timely notice for participation.

Tvenge stated the Skating Association plans to offer 3-year sponsorship to substantial (\$5,000 each) contributors and hopefully they will be local sponsors. Vinyl lettering would be used because it will withstand cold temperatures. Three sides would be used for sponsorships and the other would be reserved for Missile Defense, who is credited for purchasing the zamboni. Tvenge stated there is a big interest in adult recreation, enough to warrant possibly three skating teams. He asked about soliciting and passing sponsors before Council.

Heinbockel said Council concern was only that sponsors advertise in good taste.

Tvenge stated the sponsors would be companies rather than brand names.

Tvenge reported the Skating Association Open House is scheduled for December 11 at the rink. There will be games for both youth and high school hockey players. Everyone is invited. Alyeska will present a check for \$1,000 to the association at the Open House.

Gilbertson stated Ft. Greely has asked to use the old zamboni.

Tvenge said he worried about breakdown and hopes to not relive what they experienced last season without a functioning zamboni. Because of that he asked to keep the older machine but allow Ft. Greely to use it. He said too that actual ownership, operation, maintenance and storage of the new zamboni needed to be very clear so that it is never in question years from now. The new machine will be shared just as the old one was.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dooley Memo Requesting Village Safe Water Assessment Work Session

Dooley reported a firm was selected last spring to prepare an assessment of the water-sewer systems in town. Because they needed mapping they missed the deadline to apply for construction grants that typically take place in August. He said a work session has been scheduled for 3:00PM on Wednesday, December 15 in the City Hall Conference Room. It will require 2 to 3 hours with the contractor.

Cassi Wyckoff Request for Contribution for School Ambassador Travel

Cassi Wyckoff introduced herself as a high school freshman and stated she was selected as a member of the People to People Student Ambassador Program to travel to Australia for 21 days next summer. She asked Council for help with her \$5,995 tuition.

Pecchia stated Wyckoff was selected because of her maturity and honor roll status. He said he would submit a letter to Dan Green as correspondence through the DGSD School Board asking for financial support. He asked that Wyckoff return with photos and a full report of her travels as a representative of her school, community and country. **Pecchia moved** to support Wyckoff in her tuition by contributing \$1,500.

Dave Wyckoff stated his daughter would be given an opportunity to travel and be exposed to cultural differences and parliamentary procedures. She will be traveling with a group originating out of Fairbanks.

Gilbertson asked Cassi to approach local businesses for tuition contributions. He would contribute \$300 from his own business.

Sandy seconded motion to support tuition contribution for the purpose of discussion. She asked to review the City's budget before making a decision.

Mike Stockinger, from the audience, asked Wyckoff to advertise in the Chamber of Commerce's newsletter so that other local businesses have the opportunity to contribute.

Hallgren asked to table topic until the Council meeting on December 21 if necessary.

Alaska Municipal League (AML) Award Letter

Hallgren reported he accepted the AML award at AML Conference Banquet held on November 11. The City of Delta Junction was recognized for replacing and installing new playground equipment. Specifically mentioned was Council member Will Pecchia for spearheading the project.

Pecchia stated he appreciated Bob Morley for overseeing the equipment and organizing the event. He also expressed appreciation for the public's involvement and said the project is a good reflection on our community as a whole.

REPORTS

Fire Department – Pete Hallgren reported in Carin Bear's absence. Copies of her report were distributed. He said Rural Deltana expressed their new tender must be a pumper tender to satisfy the needs of the department. Hallgren said the subject is to be discussed under *New Business* in tonight's meeting.

Planner – Dennis Dooley reported he has been occupied with project inspections. He also met (and will meet again) with design team representatives to discuss recreation facility design and functions. They are looking into construction using a new design and are scheduled to meet at 6:00PM on November 17. Dooley reported a meeting is scheduled for 2:00PM on December 2 in the City Hall Conference Room to discuss implementing E911 strategy possibly by late winter. In attendance will be Alaska Communications Systems (ACS), Fairbanks North Star Emergency Response & Dispatch, US Postmaster Duane Monds and local first responders.

Airport – Leslie Feilner reported the airport is still there and everyone is able to fly.

Cemetery – Mary Leith-Dowling reported a situation arose in which a couple of graves needed dug. Preparing graves before winter freeze created problems in the past. There has been a greater demand for winter burial sites more recently. She said she located a piece of equipment for approximately \$1,000 that is specifically used to thaw ground.

Leith-Dowling explained a situation in which someone was buried in a plot owned by another party. To resolve the situation the family plots will be moved to the neighboring block in which six plots will replace the four plots that were originally purchased. The party involved agreed with the arrangement under the circumstances.

City Clerk – Pat White reminded Council of the public hearing scheduled for the Commissioner’s Analysis and Proposed Decision and Draft Lease for the Alaskan Natural Gas Transportation System Right-of-Way Lease (Gas Line Public Hearing) at 7:00PM at the Delta High School on December 7, 2004. She also reported workers compensation issues were discussed at the Alaska Municipal Clerk’s session at the AML Conference on November 9 and the resources provided by AMLJIA were very helpful.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported on numerous topics:

- He attended the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Conference in Anchorage and the AML Conference in Fairbanks.
- Approval of the CEDS Report is a topic of discussion later in tonight’s meeting and he felt it was a “good product” because of efforts from DREDC and others.
- The new cat arrived on November 15 and was put to work today at the old landfill.
- The EIS Public Hearing regarding USARAK is scheduled in Delta on December 2, noon to 8:00PM. Hallgren encouraged Council and members from the community to attend and voice their opinions.
- Application for funding from the Denali Commission for a Community Health Strategy was denied.

Cotten reported military issues were discussed at today’s roundtable meeting. 20-22 were in attendance. Housing is still a main issue. Because of lack of housing many employees continue to reside in other states and commute as transients. He said two in attendance were representatives of the Eddy Drop Zone EIS.

Cotten discussed recent borough issues. He described recent activities in Whittier and how they could affect Delta. He discussed recent interest in Fairbanks North Star Borough annexing Pogo Mine. Their opinion is that Delta will never organize. And it is very likely that local voters would vote down borough formation. Even so our strategy is for the Local Boundary Commission (LBC) to accept boundaries we prefer so that Delta is in a position to not be locked with Tok or other areas if formation is forced by other means. Cotten discussed State assistance available for communities that organize.

Hallgren said because Delta does not have property tax, revenue is not collected from the Trans Alaska Pipeline (TAPS). The State is negotiating a contract with the gas line that sets up a local taxing regime that is nearly identical to the system under TAPS. Huge taxable value will pass through this community and/or potential borough and nothing can be collected unless a property tax is in place. Hallgren explained that Pogo, the gas line and the oil pipeline would pay \$6.00 out of every \$7.00 collected in taxes, not from property owners. Discussion followed regarding annexing Pogo versus Deltana.

Hallgren asked which would be better, 1) the average property owner pay 16 mils in property tax and have one Delta elected assembly member or 2) have a Delta borough with a property tax cap written into a charter.

Feilner said fear should not be a factor in making a decision in something as serious as forming a borough.

Hallgren said the Council is committed to a public vote of the people.

Gilbertson reported he and Hallgren planned to meet with Karl Hanneman on November 17 to discuss what is beneficial for the community. He said Delta Junction would be forced into some form of government before long and therefore needed to be responsible and align ourselves with acceptable boundaries.

Cotten said he’s attempted to keep an open forum and provide information as it unfolds. Many residents have expressed being uncomfortable with creating a charter. Doing nothing will put us in a “tight spot.” It is critical to have some form of strategy.

Sandy said to imagine how Valdez residents felt when Whittier wanted to include them. Other communities have threatened the same.

Leith-Dowling said details and flaws get worked out with each bill that passes through the legislature. It becomes more and more likely each time and should not be ignored.

School Liaison – Will Pecchia reported construction of the new elementary school is on schedule.

Cotten stated future use of the Fort Greely School would be discussed at the next school board meeting.

Pecchia reported the school is considering implementing the Drugs Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program.

Public Works – Heinbockel reported the Waldo house has been winterized and the road was plowed (when there was snow).

DREDC – Susie Sandy reported DREDC made recommendations for the Social Service Grant applications.

Sandy moved to approve five Social Service Grant applications as recommended and presented by DREDC; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Sandy stated DREDC tabled the LEAP (anger management counseling) application and is awaiting additional information before making a recommendation to Council. She said that DREDC is also establishing qualifications for a recreation development position. The idea is to put out a request for proposals for an organization in town to place an employee on their staff as the recreation coordinator. Information is still being compiled for the job description and it may possibly be a two-month process. Both youth and adult recreation are needed throughout the community.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported almost \$41,000 has been collected in eight weeks. It goes toward the matching Rasmuson Foundation Grant. To date there have been 130 donors and less than 20 of them are local businesses. One mystery donation of \$4,500 cold cash arrived in an envelope via mail and labeled in memory of Mabel Olmstead and Viola Seitz. Rasmuson doubles each contribution made, up to \$200,000. Leith-Dowling stated she was impressed that an average of approximately \$5,000 per week has been collected from our community, considering its size.

Heinbockel said he was impressed with what was collected for the Skating Association also.

Leith-Dowling said the volunteer labor is outstanding as well.

Dooley asked if volunteer services were considered as in-kind contributions.

Leith-Dowling said librarian Joyce McCombs is keeping track of volunteer hours.

Military Liaison – Roy Gilbertson reported he would meet with the Commander of the Stryker Brigade on November 22 to prepare for the public hearing, which is scheduled for December 2 at the Community Center.

Additional Reports by Council – Leslie Feilner reported she and Mary Leith-Dowling attended the AML Conference and she came away with very valuable information. She also attended the Alaska Wildland Fire meeting on November 15. There was a low community turnout. She reported there were 706 fires in the state, costing \$110 million and burning 6.7 million acres. New strategies are being researched for future seasons. Discussion followed regarding the *Executive Session*. It was decided to postpone it to later in the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DREDC Recommendation for Social Service Grant Funding Requests

See Susan Sandy's *DREDC Report*

Reduction of Retainage for Landfill from 10% to 5%

Consideration of Landfill Pay Request

To be discussed after the *Executive Session*, following *Purchase Orders*

Resolution 2005-03, A Resolution Supporting Erosion Control at the Big Delta State Historical Park

Sandy moved to approve Resolution 2005-03 as presented; Pecchia seconded.

Pecchia said it would boost tourism and preserve what is well needed in the community.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Report

Hallgren reported 33 pages were compiled over a period of close to two years. DREDC volunteers, City Planner Dennis Dooley and State of Alaska Development Specialist, Ruth St. Amour, completed the work.

Discussion followed regarding information provided in the report.

Dooley stated the project assigned could not have been completed without the aide of Ruth St. Amour and Jeff Durham and he wished that they be recognized for their involvement.

Heinbockel moved to adopt the CEDS report as presented; Sandy seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Consideration of New Signs for City Hall and Community Center to Match New Library Sign

Hallgren stated the library staff has already ordered the sign for the new library. He asked that the signs for the library, City Hall and Community Center match because of their close proximity to each other.

Mike Stockinger, sign contractor, explained the makeup and durability of the signs. He said they require maintenance every 10 or 12 years. He would guarantee them for his lifetime. Stockinger asked for a deposit if the decision is made to construct all the signs. The projects require 4 to 6 weeks to complete.

Leith-Dowling asked investing money into signs that could change in the event that a borough is actually formed. She could accept "Delta Community Center" but questioned "City of" Delta Junction.

Discussion followed regarding appropriate titles.

Heinbockel stated we are "Delta Junction" and not necessarily the "City of" or "Deltana." As one example the school sports teams became the "Delta Huskies." He said in reality the junction is why Delta Junction exists and it needs to remain in the title.

Gilbertson said if Delta becomes a borough there would be four or five years before change would be required.

Sloan asked to approve the signs as is and let the assembly deal with it should a borough form.

Feilner asked about all-wood signs and their durability. She would like all the signs within the city to match.

Stockinger explained all-wood was not as good. He explained his preference and his construction process.

Sandy moved to approve construction and purchase of signs as presented; Sloan seconded.

Sandy amended the motion so that the signs clearly read "Delta Junction" and not "City of..."; Sloan seconded.

Hallgren said the signs would be paid with impact funds.

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

Request for Support for Library Move on November 27 and December 11

See Joyce McCombs discussion under *Request to Speak*

Purchase of Used Tender

Hallgren reported a used (1996 T-800 W) tender was located and it has approximately 411,000 miles, is equipped with a brand new 3800-gallon tank and a 1000-gallon-per-minute pump. Equipment operator Dave Boadwine has approved the tender. Hallgren asked to view the vehicle before purchasing even though Boadwine feels it is not necessary. The price is between \$69,500 and \$72,500 and is within the fire department budget, substituting the 20-30,000-gallon tank buried under the fire station. The tender has air-ride and would like to change it to a more solid suspension. It was not used for heavy lifting in its former life. If purchased Boadwine would pick up the vehicle in Portland and deliver it to Bremerton so it could be transported via barge to Valdez.

Sloan moved to purchase the used tender as presented; Sandy seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel said more money would need to be spent because the tank on the current tanker will need repairs if it is to be maintained as a second vehicle.

Hallgren said the current tank needed to be replaced, not repaired. He said it would be 4-6 weeks before the used tender arrives.

Request to Support Alaska Railroad

Hallgren said he received a call from an Alaska Railroad representative who asked to postpone consideration of a resolution in support of the Alaska Railroad and bring it back for discussion at the December 21 Council meeting. Time is necessary to agree on wording for the document.

Fire Station Pay Request #4

Hallgren reported the recommendation is to approve Fire Station Pay Request #4 (\$448,526.69) subject to receipt from the contractor of a Consent of Surety form and a signed copy of Change Order #2.

Heinbockel moved to approve Pay Request #4 as presented; Pecchia seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Moose Lodge Liquor License Renewal

Heinbockel moved to show no objection to the request by the Moose Lodge for renewal of their liquor license; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with six (Heinbockel, Leith-Dowling, Sandy, Feilner, Sloan, Gilbertson) and one (Pecchia) voting against.

Alpha Omega Request to Waive Rental Fees for Community Center

Delta Youth Court Request to Waive Rental Fees for Community Center

Sandy moved to approve waiving rental fee for Alpha Omega and the Delta Youth Court as requested; Pecchia seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Purchase Orders

PO#09361 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$798.24 for Nov '04 E911 phone lines

PO#09362 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$6,409.95 for Oct '04 fuel oil

PO#09363 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$746.12 for Oct '04 gas and diesel

PO#09364 to Family Medical Center in the amount of \$2,010.92 for Homeland Security supplies

PO#09365 to GVEA in the amount of \$1,610.00 for Oct '04 electricity

PO#09366 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$5,367.86 for Oct '04 legal services (U.S. Army Range EIS report, new landfill claims, Charter Commission, prison loan review, City general)

PO#09367 to Kenneth P. Jacobus in the amount of \$994.50 for legal services (final payment on prison settlement)

PO#09368 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$13,417.61 for Sept/Oct '04 engineering service (fire hall)

PO#09369 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$19,582.47 for Sept/Oct '04 engineering service (library)

PO#09370 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$18,713.89 for Sept/Oct '04 engineering service (landfill)

PO#09371 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$3,707.52 for review of landfill contractor claims

PO#09372 to Richard Stanton Construction in the amount of \$448,526.69 for Fire Station Progress Payment #4

PO#09373 to Tom Ferri Company in the amount of \$1,174.00 for radio change to new ambulance

PO#09374 to Wire-Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$2,361.50 for final payment on new library phone system

PO#09375 to UNIT SKW LLC in the amount of \$523,170.95 for Landfill Progress Payment #6

PO#09396 to ACS in the amount of \$1,590.10 for Nov '04 phone service

PO#09397 to Arctic Fire & Safety Company in the amount of \$39,250.00 for Fire Department air packs (provided by Homeland Security)

PO#09398 to Bank of America in the amount of \$2,138.92 for Oct '04 credit card services

- ✓ Chief Bear and Jessica Smith - Fire Training Conference in Sitka
- ✓ EMTs Connie Ott and Lisa Maddox - Travel to Whitehorse after ambulance repaired
- ✓ Framing for historic photo of City Council
- ✓ Hallgren – Resource Development Conference in Anchorage
- ✓ Antivirus software renewal for City Hall
- ✓ Internet parts for new library

PO#09399 to Mikunda, Cottrell & Co in the amount of \$8,500.00 for 6-30-04 annual audits
Heinbockel moved to approve all purchase orders as presented; Leith-Dowling seconded.
Heinbockel amended motion to approve all purchase orders, excluding PO#09375; Leith-Dowling seconded.
Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stockinger asked about the tank on the used tender. He said there is a history of problems with aluminum tanks. Council took a break at 7:15PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Eddy Drop Zone EIS and Landfill Contract with City Attorney Jim DeWitt

Leith-Dowling moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:25PM with City Attorney Jim DeWitt for the purposes of discussing the Eddy Drop Zone EIS and the landfill contract; Pecchia seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Present during the Executive Session were seven Council members, City Administrator Pete Hallgren, Planner Dennis Dooley, Consultant Lamar Cotten, City Attorney Jim DeWitt (telephonically at the start of the Executive Session) and City Clerk Pat White.

Will Pecchia exited at 7:56PM. DeWitt exited at 8:05PM. Dooley exited at 8:06PM.

Heinbockel moved to reconvene the regular City Council meeting at 8:27PM; Sloan seconded. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS continued

Reduction of Retainage for Landfill from 10% to 5%

Heinbockel moved to reduce retainage for landfill to 7.5%, contingent upon receipt of necessary paperwork as required by the contract; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with six voting.

Consideration of Landfill Pay Request

Sandy moved to approve Landfill Pay Request #6, in the amount of \$523,170.95, contingent upon prior acceptance by the contractor of Change Orders 5 & 6; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with five (Sandy, Feilner, Sloan, Leith-Dowling, Gilbertson) and one (Heinbockel) voting against.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Leith-Dowling asked if Council needed a DOT liaison.

After discussion it was agreed and Leith-Dowling accepted the role.

ADJOURNMENT

Sandy moved to adjourn at 8:40PM. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Pat White
City Clerk
City of Delta Junction
Date of approval: December 7, 2004