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**City Council Minutes**  
**December 21, 2004 ~ 5:00PM**

**Regular Meeting**  
**Old Library, City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**

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The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, December 21, 2004 in the old library at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 5:05PM.

Council members present: Mayor Roy Gilbertson, Mayor Pro tem Mary Leith-Dowling  
Lou Heinbockel, Leslie Feilner

Council members excused: John Sloan, Will Pecchia, Susan Sandy

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

Approximately five members from the community and Teck-Pogo Regional Manager Karl Hanneman were also present.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Gilbertson reported seven purchase orders, #09492 through 09498, to add to *New Business*:

- Machinery Connection LLC - \$60,000.00 for tanker balance
- Alaska Correctional Industries - \$36,681.48 for new library bookshelves
- Delta Presbyterian, PCUSA & Faith Lutheran, ELCA - \$3,500.00 for Social Service Grant, payment #1
- Enslow Publishers, Inc. - \$555.55 for library books and crafts
- LEAP II - \$5,714.00 for Social Service Grant, payment #1
- Samson Tug and Barge - \$3,566.90 for tanker freight (barge)
- UNIT SKW LLC - \$613,730.15 for (revised) landfill invoice #7

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2004 special meeting and the December 7, 2004 regular meeting; 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**

Ken Farrow, Executive Director of Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc., referred to a December 21, 2004 letter he addressed to the Mayor, Council, City Manager and City Planner. He asked for the ambulance that City EMS no longer uses be given to Alpha Omega so that it can be used in their food distribution program. He explained that they were able to resolve some problems but have outgrown their ability to provide transportation. They deliver almost 1 1/2 tons of food twice a month, 104 boxes divided among 66 families.

Hallgren said Alpha Omega is being overwhelmed with the success of the food service project. Discussion followed regarding the condition of the ambulance and how it could be utilized for the food service program.

Farrow said he could improvise with a heater to keep food warm on the occasion when they were unable to connect with recipients.

Sue Miller, Rescue Squad Chief, said the vehicle is road worthy and it is stripped except for inside cabinets and a backbench seat. It is also currently located in Fairbanks.

Leith-Dowling moved to donate the 1983 ambulance to Alpha Omega as recommended by City Administrator Pete Hallgren; Feilner seconded.

Heinbockel asked to table discussion to ensure that any possible disposal ordinance is not violated. He asked that it be researched first.

Miller stated the State of Alaska gave the ambulance to the City 20+ years ago and no one in Alaska wants the used ambulance at this time. Permission was given to sell it and use the proceeds to purchase EMS equipment. She said the State would not have a problem with donating it to another service organization.

Feilner asked for documentation.

Leith-Dowling withdrew the motion to continue discussion at the next meeting on January 4.

Discussion followed regarding parking vehicles in available warm storage.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - none

## **REPORTS**

**Rescue Squad** – Sue Miller reported ambulance transports were up to 211 as of December 18. She stated the squad had a major personnel turnover. Three new members joined but several others resigned. Mary Treybal, Melissa Luntz and Mary Beth Ellis officially resigned and Connie Ott is in the process. Treybal was a 10-year member, Luntz – 6 months, Ellis - 3 years and Ott - 18 years. Miller stated an upcoming EMT class would hopefully recruit more members.

**Fire Department** – Carin Bear reported the engine block on Engine 5 has been repaired. The pump-to-tank valve was temporarily fixed but will continue to stick because of how it is located and constructed. She stated the Fire Department registration was challenged by the Fire Marshal but was resolved. The Fire Prevention program is in progress and the goal is to visit 100 homes in the Delta/Deltana area. The Fire Department received a training bid involving hazardous materials at the mine in January. And Bear is applying for a joint grant with Julia Philips, hoping to receive additional funding from Homeland Security.

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported Cassi Wyckoff was to report to Council upon contacting local businesses to raise money to cover her tuition to travel to Australia. She was still awaiting response to her letters.

White asked for Council attendance at the Village Safe Water Assessment work session rescheduled for 10:00AM, Friday, January 7, 2005. The work session was originally planned for December 15.

**City Administrator** – Pete Hallgren reported he and Leith-Dowling attended the AUSA Space & Missile Symposium in El Paso, TX. A meeting is scheduled for December 28 in Delta in which they and Mayor Gilbertson will meet again with LTG Dodgen, Commanding General of U.S. Army SMDC (Space and Missile Defense Command). Hallgren stated he and the mayor met with Governor Murkowski in Anchorage on December 16. They presented the school district's request for \$1.1 million to complete the new elementary school but it was not well received. The governor did however indicate that the school district would receive about \$450,000+ for each of the next two years (2006/2007) for increased CPI (Consumer Price Index) and PERS/TRS (employee retirement) benefits. The City is budgeted for \$75,000 in energy assistance this year and approximately \$3,500 increased PERS for this year and next year. Additionally five million dollars is to be used

toward construction of additional passing lanes between Delta and Eielson. Hallgren also reported they asked the governor and his staff to sponsor legislation this session to increase funds in statute for borough formation incentive. Those funds have not been increased in 25 years.

Hallgren reported fewer than 400 letters were mailed recently for the annual fire subscriptions. Approximately \$12,000 was received last year and he expected to collect that amount or more because of increased construction. Additionally the Fire Department collected \$3,000 in water sales. He reported the landfill has passed substantial completion and “punch list” work is being completed. The library is complete and punch list work will be completed in the spring. The fire hall has also reached substantial completion, now that the overhead door safety switches were repaired.

**Finance** – Roy Gilbertson stated he was unhappy with his meeting with the governor and his response to the school project. The governor faulted the district, stating the contract that was put out for bid was too costly.

Heinbockel said the City should not be in the position to be the bearer of school district requests. They were short a substantial amount of money and part of that is because of increased steel construction prices. He said all other Regional Educational Attendance Areas (REAA’s) in the State have their school buildings provided by the State of Alaska. The least the State could do, since the federal government has provided 10.5 million dollars toward the new elementary project, would be to contribute \$1.2 million. Heinbockel said he’s been retired for 15 years and recalls that was the last time the State put anything into the school facilities in Delta. The State did actually contribute \$90,000 toward the \$10.5 million.

Hallgren repeated the governor’s budget for the school district and the municipality. Communities larger than Delta receive no other assistance. He said Delta’s population is just small enough to receive the maximum and not large enough to receive nothing.

**Recreation** – Lou Heinbockel stated he feels blindsided that the school opted to sell the old zamboni. It would have been better to keep it as a backup in this community as well as allow it to be used at Ft. Greely since it was the federal government who paid for the new machine. He asked Hallgren to explore the possibility of an inner agency transferring the zamboni title to the City for \$15,000 to keep the machine in this community.

Gilbertson said he talked with Delta-Greely School Board President Dan Green, who was to poll school board members for reconsideration. Hopefully the issue can be resolved by the next Council meeting. He said he felt the zamboni should stay in this community.

Feilner stated she attended the last school board meeting and she addressed the issue. She asked the school board to reconsider and loan the zamboni to Ft. Greely. It would be a small gesture compared to all that the government has done for our community.

Hallgren said Colonel Cornelius (newest school board member) stated they are looking into purchasing a used zamboni from the Fairbanks area. Hallgren agreed though that selling the used zamboni was not “putting our best foot forward in the present situation.”

**Library** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported 10,000 books were moved in three hours on December 11. The library is nearly prepared to open on January 3. She stated Boeing donated \$1,000 toward the Rasmuson goal.

**Charter Commission** – Lamar Cotten reported the commission put final touches on the draft charter. He said Pogo presented a concept concerning future revenues, perhaps a method of PILT from the mining company. Chair Mike Schultz requested a subcommittee form to review details of the proposal and bring back to the full City Council body. Schultz volunteered himself, as did Pat Schlichting and Bill Ward, two other members of the Charter Commission. Cotten said the proposal is a complex effort from the Teck-Cominco-Pogo group to work with a possible borough. The Charter Commission is scheduled to meet again on December 22 to review seasonal tax and sales tax. Cotten reported the borough petition should be completed by mid-January. State Assessor Steve VanSant would have numbers to review at that time also.

Heinbockel said Teck-Cominco is proposing to put money into the City even if a borough is not formed.

Leith-Dowling asked to appoint Mike Schultz, Bill Ward and Pat Schlichting to the Charter Commission subcommittee. She, Mayor Gilbertson and Feilner volunteered to represent the City Council.

Heinbockel asked that Hallgren attend because of his expertise.

Hallgren accepted the invitation.

**Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported lighting in some of the major intersections is a topic of discussion. She asked for community input to identify areas of concern. She said Jack Warren and Tanana Loop is one example of potential serious risk.

Feilner said replacing the light at the Ft. Greely entrance would also be of significant importance.

**Additional Reports by Council** – Heinbockel reported he, his son and the neighbors were keeping the Waldo property plowed. He had a concern regarding the “beacon” of light at the new landfill and how expensive it will be to maintain. However, Dave Boadwine, equipment operator, turned it off.

Hallgren recommended opening the new landfill sometime in May when the dirt piles would be thawed.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **City Administrator Job Qualifications**

Hallgren stated his position, as City Administrator needs to be advertised. He created a proposed job qualification, not a job description. He said in the past it was difficult to attract candidates for administrative positions but now Delta is in an excellent position.

Heinbockel said would like to be in the selection process by February 15.

Hallgren stated he would advertise in a number of papers and on the City’s web page.

### **Legislative Wish List**

Council discussed the prison loan and money needed for the elementary school.

Hallgren explained the legislative priority list, item by item. Each item was discussed in detail with Council input.

Feilner asked about maintenance in the event that the City does not become a borough. How would the roads be maintained?

Hallgren said one mile of Mil-Tan was paved eight years ago. The other half was paved two years ago along with (crack sealing) maintenance of that first mile. He said maintaining a paved road is less expensive than maintaining a gravel road.

Heinbockel asked to add an amount of money for improvements at the recreation center (i.e.: well, septic system, restrooms and warm storage for the zamboni).

Discussion followed regarding realistic costs and alignment of prioritized items.

Hallgren clarified the legislative wish list and priority as:

1. Down-town arterial street and school access paving - \$950,000
2. Purchase City Park from Mental Health Trust - \$125,000
3. Rec Center improvements – well, zamboni storage, septic and restrooms - \$225,000
4. Mausoleum at cemetery - \$100,000
5. Reallocate remainder of Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant match (\$14,872.56) to park maintenance and playground equipment

Gilbertson said it is a shame that the hockey rink cannot be upgraded. The ice on the ceiling weighs more than what 2” of insulation would be to eliminate that ice.

Hallgren stated he would add a paragraph explaining the need for rec center improvements.

## **Alaska Highway Community Roundtable Request**

Leith-Dowling reported the NRAHTA (Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association) required a letter of support from the City of Delta Junction, specifically addressing initiatives that everyone agreed to work toward. Leith-Dowling said seed funding is needed to offset activities through March 2005. (See 12-7-04 faxed memo from NRAHTA.) She said most communities along the road system have contributed toward the project. (The City and the Chamber of Commerce each contributed \$1,000 in September and that was used for the September 29 conference in Dawson City.)

Discussion followed regarding Delta's distinction as the end of the Alaska Highway.

Leith-Dowling moved to contribute \$1,000 toward the Legacy Foundation activities; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with four (quorum) voting.

Heinbockel said Tok did not send a representative or contribute and their community profits more from tourism than any other community along the road. Tok and Glennallen have no local government and they are the ones who receive the new schools. Delta is penalized because we are a city.

### **Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2005-05, A Special Ordinance Setting Interim Landfill and Septic Rates**

Hallgren asked to postpone discussion of landfill rates to the January 4, 2005 Council meeting when he will have acceptable figures. He said it is clear the City will be out-of-pocket \$20,000 if the new landfill is not opened by May. An increase will cause hardship to local residents and that is what he is trying to avoid. He continues to have contact with the military and still believes it will be less expensive to run the landfill with military participation than it would be for them to run their operation with an incinerator. For the past one and a half months Ft. Greely garbage and debris has been disposed of at the City-run landfill because they have, for various reasons, been unable to accept it. Hallgren said the City has had a very successful record since taking over the landfill operation last January. There is good documentation of what is being dumped in the landfill.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Landfill Pay Request #7 (PO#09498 for \$613,730.15)**

Hallgren said MACTEC recommended authorizing payment of pay application #7 to UNIT SKW LLC as revised in the amount of \$613,730.15. It does not include Change Orders 5 & 6 and it was not controversial.

#### **Purchase Order**

PO#09452 to ACS in the amount of \$1,089.76 for Dec '04 phone service

PO#09453 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$798.24 for Dec '04 E911 phone service

PO#09454 to Bank of America in the amount of \$8,991.65 for credit card charges

- Renew phone calling card, paper for HP plotter, travel (Pete Hallgren, Mary Leith-Dowling, Lamar Cotten, Pat White, Paul Knopp, Dave Boadwine, Joyce McCombs, Nancy King), floor cleaner parts, deposit for City Hall sign

PO#09455 to Delta Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$11,500.00 for Social Service Grant, Payment #1

PO#09456 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$8,156.80 for Nov '04 heating oil

PO#09457 to Delta Medical Supply in the amount of \$995.00 for Homeland Security ropes and rescue harness

PO#09458 to Mary Leith-Dowling in the amount of \$917.60 for travel expense reimbursement

for AML Conference in Fairbanks and Army Symposium in El Paso, TX

PO#09459 to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital in the amount of \$504.49 for Rescue Squad pharmacy supplies

PO#09460 to GVEA in the amount of \$1,801.28 for Nov '04 electricity

PO#09461 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$15,720.43 for Nov '04 legal services

- Allvest lawsuit, US Army range expansion, landfill claims, charter review

PO#09462 to Peter Hallgren in the amount of \$1,094.16 for travel expense reimbursement for

Army Symposium in El Paso, TX

PO#09463 to Hope Counseling Center in the amount of \$15,500.00 for Social Service Grant, Payment #1

PO#09464 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$2,963.13 for Nov '04 engineering services at landfill  
PO#09465 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$790.35 for Nov '04 engineering services at library  
PO#09466 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$1,558.06 for Nov '04 engineering services at fire hall  
PO#09467 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$6,189.44 for landfill contractor claims  
PO#09468 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$17,762.55 for review of contractor delays  
PO#09469 to NC Machinery Co. in the amount of \$644.72 for 4 grader edges to use on streets  
PO#09492 to Machinery Connection LLC in the amount of \$60,000.00 for tanker balance  
PO#09493 to Alaska Correctional Industries in the amount of \$36,681.48 for new library bookshelves  
PO#09494 to Delta Presbyterian, PCUSA & Faith Lutheran, ELCA in the amount of \$3,500.00 for Social Service Grant, payment #1 (youth program)  
PO#09495 to Enslow Publishers, Inc. in the amount of \$555.55 for library books and crafts  
PO#09496 to LEAP II in the amount of \$5,714.00 for Social Service Grant, payment #1  
PO#09497 to Samson Tug and Barge in the amount of \$3,566.90 for tanker freight (barge)  
PO#09498 to UNIT SKW LLC in the amount of \$613,730.15 for (revised) landfill invoice #7  
**Leith-Dowling moved** to approve purchase orders 09452 through 09469 and 09492 through 09498 as presented; Feilner seconded.  
**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call vote with four (quorum) voting.

#### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Janet Boyer asked if the Governor would have been more amenable regarding assistance for the school construction if this area were part of a borough.  
Hallgren said if Delta were a borough our area would have bonding capability. The State would automatically pay approximately 60% of the new school. If we were in a borough we would not be in a position to beg.  
Heinbockel said the Governor was concerned with the higher fees (\$300 per square foot) for a school being built on the road system. It is thought that the school district spent more than what they should have.  
Gilbertson said the school project came after the City's projects. Construction costs increased substantially in those five months.  
Hallgren said it was pointed out that there is a ranking of importance and Delta schools are not considered in as bad of shape as other schools.  
Boyer asked if the \$15,000 (to purchase the old zamboni) would be forgiven from the \$250,000 that was given to the district.  
Hallgren said the question would be addressed at the next meeting. The State has given permission to loan the \$250,000 and it is not in the City's "coffers". The State invests the federal funds and advances quarterly payments to the City. The money that was agreed upon has not yet been issued to the school because they decided it was not needed.  
Discussion followed regarding the legislative budget process.

#### **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Gilbertson said the zamboni issue needed to be resolved. He said he asked Superintendent Dan Beck and School Board President Dan Green to turn the zamboni and its title over to the City and let the City be responsible for maintenance and transporting it to Ft. Greely. The City should pay no money for it because it belongs to the community.  
Hallgren said it could be loaned to the military and they could maintain it.

Feilner asked that communication and transactions be secured in writing.

Heinbockel said the zamboni would never be worth less than \$15,000. The City needs to control and store the zamboni machines so that the community group is not being held hostage.

Karl Hanneman stated he is looking forward to working with the Charter subcommittee.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

##### **Landfill (Change Orders 5 & 6) and Proposed Draft EIS Comments with City Attorney Jim DeWitt**

Council broke at 6:38PM and resumed at 6:47PM.

Heinbockel moved to go into Executive Session to discuss landfill and EIS topics. Motion carried.

Present during the Executive Session were four Council members (Gilbertson, Leith-Dowling, Heinbockel, Feilner), City Administrator Pete Hallgren and City Clerk Pat White. City Attorney Jim DeWitt was not present.

Leith-Dowling moved to come out of the Executive Session; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 7:10PM; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White  
City Clerk  
City of Delta Junction

Date of approval: January 4, 2005