



City Council Minutes
March 15, 2005 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Pro tem Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:02PM.

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

Council members excused: Mayor Roy Gilbertson, Lou Heinbockel

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

13 members from the community were also present, five being 12 and 13 year old Boy Scouts.

Leith-Dowling welcomed Boy Scout Troop 56.

Ben Feilner explained the scouts' presence was part of requirements for rank advancement to First Class Scouts. They are required to learn about the US Constitution and laws and how they apply to themselves as citizens. They are to observe and learn how a government organization functions. City Administrator Pete Hallgren spent time with the boys prior to the meeting.

The Scouts led City Council and the public in both the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leith-Dowling reported two items to add to *New Business*:

- ✓ Delta Youth Court Request to Waive Community Center Rent
- ✓ Purchase Orders 09740, 09741, 09742

Pecchia moved to approve the agenda as amended; Sandy seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Sandy moved to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2005 regular meeting as presented; Pecchia seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ted Hamilton, Fire Chief of Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD), presented a plaque to the City Council. He read aloud the inscribed wording that expressed appreciation toward the City, Mayor, Council members and employees for "sharing and administering various federal impact funds and grants from 2002 through 2005." Hamilton stated he wished to thank them personally and on behalf of the RDVFD. The new fire trucks and equipment would benefit the department and the whole community.

Troxell Hebert, NAPA-Buffalo Center/Service Parts owner, said his comments regarded purchase orders that would be discussed later in the meeting. He asked Council to purchase locally whenever possible. Local

vendors sponsor activities within the Delta community. Business in Delta is inherently more expensive because of added freight costs. He pays twice the rate to freight from Anchorage to Delta because it is shipped to Fairbanks. The leg from Fairbanks to Delta is the same as Anchorage to Fairbanks. Given the opportunity local merchants would provide better service. Delta businesses should be given an opportunity to meet or beat the lowest price. We are the guys who will open the store on Sunday or stay later to take care of customer needs. Fairbanks businesses take the business and contribute nothing back into the community.

Hallgren stated a government agency must buy from the lowest priced provider. He said City employees try to purchase locally as well as spread the purchases for non-bid smaller items. An example recently dealt with Homeland Security equipment, which was purchased from two local vendors. Hallgren said he appreciated Hebert's comments. Local businesses have proven to do their best to compare to Fairbanks prices and provide a much more user-friendly atmosphere.

Sandy said to make certain City employees recognize the goal to purchase locally if at all possible and to do a price comparison to give that opportunity to local businesses. Fairbanks is accessible, which is one reason local businesses have tried so hard to keep prices down. The influx of bigger stores in Fairbanks is also an attraction.

Hebert said their business delivers merchandise to Delta and often directly to the customer's door. Purchases in Fairbanks are not necessarily the best deal when equipment or items need to be returned because of damage and/or repairs.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Pro tem Leith-Dowling called for Council comments on non-agenda items with none being offered.

CORRESPONDENCE - GVEA Exercise of Option Agreement – no discussion

REPORTS

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported the new office furniture was in place. Firefighter I training would begin in May. Partners for Progress in Delta Consortium would fund at least 50%.

Planner – Pat White reported in Dennis Dooley's absence. Dooley worked for the past two weeks primarily on the creation of an (11 X 17") Emergency Road Map Book. The pages would be large enough for grids. Presentation was made to the Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) on March 10 with approximately 10 people in attendance. Four board members agreed to assist Dooley in locating and naming roads. Draft maps were made available to each volunteer on March 11. Dooley reviewed lighting at the new fire hall with Chief Carin Bear and recommended bulbs be replaced. He forwarded comments concerning the fire hall and landfill to both Dave Boadwine and MACTEC engineers.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported on several topics:

- GVEA was exercising the option to purchase 8 acres. A deed was drawn and he was awaiting title and the remaining \$45,000 of the purchase price.
- E911 still appeared to be too expensive to undertake because of the cost of phone company trunk lines (\$2,300/month). Income was only \$1800/month. The number of cell phones may make a difference. Additionally \$10,000/year is paid for dispatch from the General Fund. Hallgren said Ft. Greely would be the first military base in Alaska to institute E911. They graciously asked to allow them their own hard line fees in exchange for cell phones because most cell phones E911 calls would be from people who live off post. They would draft a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the City to review.
- Ft. Greely also suggested avoiding gigantic phone costs by using a secure Internet protocol to transfer information. Hallgren planned to ask Dooley to research.
- Ft. Greely responded to an emergency at Bolio Lake (within the Delta Rescue Squad territory). He said Ft. Greely has an agreement with U.S. Army Alaska to respond to USARAK installations. However, they do not respond off Ft. Greely to highway or private property emergencies.
- Potential sales tax during the construction period was discussed at a recent Gas Line meeting. The Gas Line Committee was recommending that local sales tax not be preempted by the State agreement.

- A proposed Richardson Highway Tourism Association formation meeting was scheduled in Glennallen for March 18. Sandy, Leith-Dowling and Hallgren planned to attend.
- He attended the March 3 Department of Transportation (DOT) meeting in which highway improvements between Delta and Ft. Greely's main gate were discussed.

Ben Feilner asked to inquire if a bicycle path could be built between Delta and Ft. Greely. The timing would be reasonable during any existing highway construction project.

Hallgren continued with his report:

- Highway improvements planned are to straighten the Richardson near Jarvis Creek, rebuild the Jarvis Bridge to include wider lanes and shoulders and build three-lane turn-ins to Ft. Greely. Improvements would stop at the Ft. Greely gates. Hallgren said he would request rebuilding the highway further south, at least to the City landfill, which would include the Missile Base and Meadows Road. If DOT considered a bike path it would obviously have to be built on the east side because the Stryker Brigade uses the west side.
- GMD support unit would move a number of people from Anchorage to Ft. Greely to live in the Delta area. He and Mayor Gilbertson would meet with Colonel Kevin Norgaard and his replacement on March 25.
- The University of Alaska would sponsor a Gas Line Job Training Initial Survey in Kenai on April 4 & 5. That training ties into the Gas Line Committee in which Hallgren sits. Workers need trained in certain skills before the gas line construction begins. The Governor is presently negotiating a contract that would include money from the pipeline constructors to provide payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) up front to affected communities prior to and during construction of the pipeline. Delta Junction would be in line because it would impact this community before the gas starts to flow. Agencies that provide training are preparing for the opportunity. Information had been passed onto the consortium and school district.

Discussion followed regarding attendance of the Kenai meeting by Hallgren, new City Administrator Gene Kane and others and rescheduling the next City Council meeting, presently set for April 5. It was decided to keep the City Council meeting as scheduled.

Sandy asked for someone from the City Council and consortium to also attend.

DREDC – Susie Sandy reported DREDC met on March 14 to discuss hiring of a VISTA volunteer as a recreation coordinator to determine feasibility of a program for this community, which was a part of the original Social Service Grant. The hope is that the program can be funded on a continuous basis through grants or whatever is available to support it when there are no longer Social Service funds. VISTA would be paid and they would pay the volunteer a \$12,000/year stipend on a monthly basis as well as cover their medical insurance and benefits. At the end of the year the VISTA volunteer is given an educational award or cash grant. Sandy said DREDC requested approval of authorizing a maximum of \$40,000 to put the program together, even though at this time, the actual costs are uncertain. \$12,000 was budgeted for housing but DREDC hoped it would cost less. The program required supervision. DGSD Superintendent Dan Beck suggested Delta Youth Court Director/DGSD Recreation Coordinator Jody Zollman for 1-2 hours/day initially and he also offered office space at the school. VISTA does training only certain times of the year. The goal is to be able to meet the next available training in April. The VISTA volunteer application would list DREDC as the sponsoring agency, the school will provide office space and the DGSD would provide the supervisor to oversee the position. Sandy asked the City to submit a letter of support for the application.

Sloan moved to approve the proposal and budget up to \$40,000 of Social Service Grant funds as presented by DREDC; Feilner seconded.

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

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported library staff attended the Library Conference in Point Barrow. Plane difficulties were the only downside of the trip.

Park – Will Pecchia said he would present a proposal at the next Council meeting to discuss additional playground equipment for 2 to 5 year olds. He asked the Boy Scouts if they would be interested in volunteering to install the equipment this coming summer.

Ben Feilner, speaking on behalf of the troop, stated they would be interested in helping.

Public Health & Safety – John Sloan reported the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was scheduled to meet at 5:00PM on March 16. The special meeting was called because he, as Co-Chair, would be out of town and unable to attend in April. The next regular LEPC meeting would be on April 7.

Charter Commission – Leith-Dowling reported the March 16 meeting was postponed for two weeks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Delta Youth Court Request to Waive Community Center Rent on March 11, 2005

Pecchia moved to waive rent fees as requested by the Delta Youth Court for their youth dance; Sandy seconded. **Motion carried.**

Purchase Orders

PO#09687 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$810.14 for Mar '05 911 phone service

PO#09688 to Alaskan Emergency Medical in the amount of \$600.00 for EMT training

PO#09689 to Alaska Industrial Hardware, Inc. in the amount of \$626.32 for toolbox for new fire department tender

PO#09690 to Bowers Office Products, Inc. in the amount of \$923.97 for City Hall conference room wall divider panels

PO#09691 to Buffalo Center Auto Parts in the amount of \$602.04 for new tender hose adapter and parts, grease and oil for landfill loader

PO#09692 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,077.30 for new library rocker/stool

PO#09693 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$6,602.93 for Feb '05 heating oil

PO#09694 to Delta Sanitation, Inc. in the amount of \$524.00 for Feb '05 dumpsters

PO#09695 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$980.36 for diesel fuel used by Rescue Squad, landfill and for snow removal

PO#09696 to Delta Youth Court in the amount of \$8,050.00 for Social Service Grant, Progress Payment #1

PO#09697 to GVEA in the amount of \$1,750.25 for Feb '05 electricity

PO#09698 to Motorola Inc. in the amount of \$42,998.40 for (12) portable digital radios

PO#09699 to Office Equipment Finance Services in the amount of \$1,240.40 for Dec-March lease of library copier

PO#09700 to Office Max in the amount of \$529.05 for office supplies

PO#09701 to Sears in the amount of \$2,165.87 for tools and cabinet to be used at new landfill

PO#09702 to Washington State University in the amount of \$850.00 for clerk training

PO#09703 to World Book, Inc. in the amount of \$799.00 for renewal of library reference books

PO#09740 to Family Medical Center in the amount of \$6,986.45 for resuscitation oxylator and IV pumps

PO#09741 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$6,411.02 for legal services (borough study, GVEA land sale)

PO#09742 to LEAP II in the amount of \$5,742.00 for Social Service Grant, Payment #2

Pecchia asked about 09699 (lease for library copier).

Hallgren said technology changes so rapidly it is less expensive to lease than it is to own. The last lease at City Hall was 2/3 through when the same company offered a newer, better machine for a less amount. Maintenance is included in the lease package. It is incredibly expensive to own the machine and pay for repairs. He said normally leases last for a 5-year period. He guessed the purchase price would be \$12-15,000. The City pays approximately \$300/month for the lease agreement.

Sandy asked about 09698 (more radios).

Feilner said radios cost approximately \$5,000 a piece.

Leith-Dowling said \$200,000 of Homeland Security funds was designated for radios for the whole Delta area (Delta Rescue Squad, Delta Junction Fire Department and Rural Deltana Fire Department).

Sloan said technology had changed and upgrading radios that were rendered useless would be incredibly costly.

Ben Feilner stated Alaska was a test case for the United States and they are merging all 911 emergency channels onto a single system so the military and all State and local government would work off of one. Ft. Greely and

CRTC are purchasing all new radios and putting in new repeaters. Old radios will become obsolete. All other states will follow suit if Alaska proves successful.

Hallgren said the digital system, which was completely funded by Homeland Security Grants, was to be operational two summers ago. Both the fire departments and the Delta Rescue Squad voted to stick with the current analogue radios until they were assured the new system would work. The digital system was behind and had not yet proven to be a successful. He said the Delta area could submit only one application, that representing the City and Deltana. The City was the only entity with employees who could administer over the grant monies.

Sandy moved to approve purchase orders as presented; Feilner seconded.

Sloan asked about energy cost (09693 and 09697).

Hallgren said he hired MACTEC engineers to research. They are sent bills as they arrive, including ones for the existing City Hall and fire station to be used as comparison. Hallgren said the existing heating system at the new library had failed three times to date. He said the current explanation is not a satisfactory one.

Discussion followed regarding the problems.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Connie Ott stated she was disappointed in not being able to follow the meeting and that it was very apparent that a speaker system was needed. She said she would have to read the minutes to know what was discussed during the meeting even though she was sitting in the front row. Her hearing was poor but not so bad that she had to learn to read lips or facial expressions.

Sandy stated she appreciated Ott's comments and said the noise problem was caused by the ventilation system. She said a sound system was needed.

Discussion followed regarding rearranging tables and chairs to possibly improve the situation.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro tem Leith-Dowling called for additional Council comments with none being offered.

ADJOURNMENT

Pecchia moved to adjourn at 6:10PM; Sandy seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White
City Clerk
City of Delta Junction
Date of approval: April 5, 2005