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**City Council Minutes**  
**April 19, 2005 ~ 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 Tuesday, April 19, 2005 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 5:03PM with a quorum (4) present.

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

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

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

Nine members from the community were also present.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

White reported three fee waiver requests to add to *New Business*:

- ✓ AARP Safe Driving Course – May 3
- ✓ National Day of Prayer – May 5
- ✓ Subsistence Hunting Permits – July 21/22

Hallgren asked for an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to update Council on attorney services.

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

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

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2005 regular meeting as presented; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Martha Kimball, Chamber of Commerce representative, asked for help with the Community Wide Cleanup scheduled for May 14. She asked that the landfill be open to the public, free of charge as it was last year for the regular dump hours (noon to 4:00PM) on Saturday, May 14. Kimball stated the Chamber would provide manpower and yellow garbage bags. Delta Sanitation would provide the dumpster that sits in the parking lot near the Visitor's Center. Volunteers are instructed to leave the yellow-bagged garbage along roadsides unless they are able to deliver them to the dumpster in the Visitor's Center parking lot (triangle). Delta Sanitation would then pick up the bagged garbage and any left in local dumpsters.

Heinbockel moved to provide the service to the community by opening the old landfill free-of-charge on Saturday, May 14 between noon and 4:00PM limiting dumping to yellow-bagged garbage and household trash only; Feilner seconded. **Motion carried.**

Hallgren said yellow bags can be delivered to the triangle dumpster throughout the following week. Delta Sanitation would not be charged to deliver that trash.

Dooley asked to clarify “household trash.” Did it include mattresses and other items of furniture?

Discussion followed and household trash was restricted from oil, auto-bodies or construction material.

Dooley said he’d been working with someone in Glennallen for two years regarding disposal of junk vehicles.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

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

### **REQUEST TO SPEAK**

Eli Schneider, representing Heart Fur Animals, explained their loosely formed organization was created last September because of stray and abandoned pets. Referring to her April 2005 report issued to Council members, Schneider explained that their group dealt with the on-going problem and asked to work in conjunction with the City. Since October four more strayed or abandoned dogs had been rescued. She said they appreciated use of the conference room to hold their monthly meetings. Schneider said the problem had increased because of the growth of the community. They planned to provide information to Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) and were working on a neuter/spay certificate program, which will be honored by the local vet. Presently they are raising funds to offset the costs of that program. She said Heart Fur Animals deals mostly with dogs and cats.

Hallgren asked about taking pets to the pound in Fairbanks.

Schneider said Heart Fur Animals volunteers take animals to Fairbanks only if they are unable to find someone to adopt them. They were also looking for foster homes that would keep pets for that 2-week adoption period.

### **REPORTS**

**Fire Department** – Carin Bear reported the Firefighter I series of courses would begin May 22, 2005 and would likely continue until fall.

Cliff Robbins explained that the fire department presently had two active grant applications: 1) part of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant, in which Delta had received twice in the past. He said a requirement was to guarantee \$2,286.80 in local funds and the Consortium’s contribution (\$7,200) had more-than covered it. 2) A grant application for the National Fire Safety Council Training Division in the same amount of the FEMA grant. Should the fire department be awarded that though, they would be deemed ineligible for the FEMA grant. The FEMA grant automatically cancels getting or receiving Fire Safety Council grant, which are the last resource for fire departments seeking funds for training. The National Fire Safety Council had never before received a grant application from a volunteer fire fighter organization. Even though they specify rural fire departments are eligible to apply. 95% of rural fire departments in the United States are on a volunteer basis. At this time neither grant application had provided any feedback. He felt there was a high probability of receiving the FEMA grant. It was also the last year of the “FEMA cycle.” Robbins stated they might require the City to make payment to the University of Fairbanks (UAF) for supplies until they could be recovered from grant funding. He reported Mt. McKinley Bank donated \$500 for fire fighter protective gear. The existing gear no longer provides heat protection as it was designed. Firefighters are under a higher risk when they fight structure fires with unsafe equipment. Robbins said if grant funding were received nothing would be asked from the City. If not approved, \$23,000+ would be needed. He provided a present synopsis of grants that had been applied.

Hallgren asked what the ultimate financial liability from the City would be.

Bear said the \$23,846 grant application that was submitted did not specify a period of time but it was assumed to extend over at least two budget cycles. What was needed for travel and training may have to rely on fundraisers. If they were turned down for the grant, they would be forced to use training and travel monies from two budget cycles.

Hallgren said the City could afford the liability if it had to. A motion would be required because Council was undertaking a fiscal responsibility.

Discussion followed regarding options for other grant processes.

Hallgren reported the current year's budget had \$14,000 in unexpended funds. New equipment allowed \$5,200, supplies had \$4,700, travel/per-diem had \$2,300 and repair/maintenance of equipment had \$4,200.

Heinbockel asked about repair of the old lime green tanker.

Hallgren said it would cost \$15,000 and therefore wipe out what was budgeted. He said Missile Defense (MD) allowed certification of landfill operation training and approval had been received. He could inquire about fire fighting training.

Heinbockel said comparing to the millions spent area-wide on public safety; he would be reluctant to spend any more until he saw more hockey pucks.

Feilner asked about timing.

Robbins said 1 1/2 years would be the pay off period. He said he was concerned with the timing and disruption of the schedule that was already in place. A commitment from the Fire Department was needed before UAF could get their instructors in place.

Heinbockel agreed to support the Educational Services Agreement but only under the condition that the Fire Department considered surplus of the lime green tanker. It was originally purchased in 1975, underwent numerous repairs and it was the center of a huge legal court case that cost the City thousands of dollars. The City needed to stop accumulating things. He was in favor of not spending the \$15,000 to repair that old tanker, especially because of a very decent tanker that was recently purchased with federal impact funds.

Bear agreed. She said the training was too crucial. She asked what would happen if their grant application was approved, would Council allow maintenance money be spent to fix the green tanker?

Heinbockel said he would vote that the City fund the training money (\$23,846) but part of it would be reimbursed out of the green tanker surplus.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the Educational Services Agreement as presented by the Delta Fire Department not to exceed \$23,846.00; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported bid packets for lawn/plant maintenance and flower baskets were advertised. Because the library lawn would take time to establish the library was not included in the bids. It should have been included in the flower baskets though. She would correct the situation.

**City Administrator** – Pete Hallgren reported permission was granted to use landfill impact funds to purchase a one-ton pickup truck with a plow blade and removable sander/salter. He reported information from the MD Roundtable meeting that was held today. Armed Forces Radio Network was expected back on the air by June. The plan was to have two stations. A “blackberry” repeater (a little hand-held everything enabling cell phone and internet connections) was located at Ft. Greely and was usable in downtown Delta. Ft. Greely would be the site of the State Skeet Championship in July.

Leith-Dowling said Boeing and the Corps of Engineers announced job opportunities, Delta Mine Training Center classes were active and the Chamber of Commerce was preparing for Frontier Days during Memorial Day weekend.

Hallgren reported upcoming meetings in which he would attend: Scenic By-Ways in Glennallen on April 25, Municipal Advisory Gas Line in Fairbanks on April 26, Quarterly Impact Fund in Delta Junction on April 28 and Homebuilders Association in Anchorage on May 5.

**Library** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the annual Library Open House was scheduled for Saturday, April 23. Volunteers were frantically creating auction baskets. She also reported Mt. McKinley Bank donated \$500 in support of the library.

**Park** – Lou Heinbockel reported a lot of fence repair was needed and asked that City employees do the work.

Gilbertson reported brushwork was needed also.

**Charter Commission** – Lou Heinbockel reported the Charter Commission meeting was postponed from Wednesday, April 20 to Thursday. He said the proposed charter draft was complete and the public was welcome to review it. Heinbockel reported Gene Therriault introduced a bill that would allow “the mining company to mess over local government as Alyeska did years ago.” The bill would no doubt be discussed at the next Charter meeting on Thursday, April 21.

**Public Works** – Lou Heinbockel asked to hire someone to repair the fence line at the old landfill before the inspection in June.

**Additional Reports by Council** – Mary Leith-Dowling, referring to recent well-water tests, stated, “overall, the sample results were good.”

Council discussed findings of wells in the area while referring to the April 15 Village Safe Water Trip Report that was submitted by George Wilson, Program Engineer.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Delta City Map and Land Status**

Dooley referred to copies of maps that he previously shared with Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) for their review. The maps were to serve as a prototype of how maps would appear for emergency response teams. Each emergency vehicle would be equipped with a bound and laminated booklet, each having 10 or 12 pages of maps. Dooley estimated each copy would cost \$10 through Kinko’s in Fairbanks. He said the biggest problem was dealing with the way addressing had changed, specifically relating to E911. Two or three road names in Delta Junction were too similar and he asked for assistance in clarifying them. The road between *Rebecca Lane* and north of it (*Sandra Street*) was called Debra. He suggested calling it *Debra Lane* to distinguish from *Deborah Street*, which already existed in front of City Hall. He stated several loops in the area in which a road changed cardinal direction and made it difficult to identify north and south and east and west. The State was presently addressing the Tanana Extension. The section south of the curve on the north end would be identified as *South Tanana Loop Extension*. *Tanana Loop Extension* would remain on the east and west section. Dooley continued by identifying platted roads that had no names.

Heinbockel asked to identify the unnamed road behind Bergstad Trailer Court after Gordon Mereness, calling it *Mereness Street* and the road between Cummings’ and Growden’s homes (behind the old Napa building off the Alaska Highway) after Chuck Gibson, *Gibson Lane*.

Discussion followed regarding other streets. *Harrild Way* and *Ward Way* would be the two unnamed roads south of the Moose Lodge off Jack Warren Road. One would be named after Eldon and Billie Harrild and the other after Hank Ward. *Kusz Way* would be the road off Emmaus Road, naming it after Julius Kusz.

Dooley asked to clarify Cathy Lane that loops around Brooks Road off of the section of Remington Road on the west side of Mill-Tan Road.

Gilbertson asked to name the higher road *McSweeney Ridge* because the area was located in McSweeney Subdivision and leave *Cathy Lane* on the lower end.

Discussion followed regarding a (section line) road off Emmaus and calling it *East Miller*.

Gilbertson said it used to be called Revord.

Discussion followed regarding *Foxy Lane*, which runs north off of Nistler Road. It was decided to call the road that runs west off of Mill-Tan, *North Foxy Lane*.

Dooley said no work was done on the Nilsson Subdivision because there were over 1,000 lots and over a hundred of them were 29' X 120'. It was the first trailer court in the area but some of the streets were yet unnamed.

Gilbertson said it would need to be re-platted because the lot sizes were not large enough.

Dooley said it would require a major review but most subdivisions had no plats in this community. Fairbanks Title provided some research, identifying that hundreds of lots had not been recorded. Dooley created polygons to help identify areas that were in question.

Heinbockel asked about Freddy Cook's subdivision.

Dooley said when subdivisions are approved the City needed to retain copies. He said every borough in central Alaska was experiencing mapping problems. With growth the problem would increase if it were not kept up with. He said names were important in connection with the 895 prefix. Duplicates were acceptable but not in the same telephone prefix.

Council thanked Dooley for his efforts and expertise in completing the mapping project.

### **Community Center Fee Waivers**

Heinbockel moved to approve Community Center fee waivers as requested by the Senior Citizen's for an AARP Driver Safety Course on May 3, by Fran Hallgren for National Day of Prayer on May 5 and from the Glennallen BLM field office to issue subsistence hunting permits on July 21 and 22; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#09799 to ACS in the amount of \$1,652.69 for Apr '05 phone services

PO#09800 to Arctic Fox Safety & Supplies in the amount of \$1,977.77 for hazard gas check meter for fire truck

PO#09801 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$812.79 for E911 Apr '05 phone service / lines

PO#09802 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,208.96 for credit card charges (annual fee, Cotten's airfares)

PO#09803 to Buffalo Center Auto Parts in the amount of \$1,581.18 for supplies (batteries, wire, lamps and hoses for Fire Department, equipment shop and landfill)

PO#09804 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$2,967.54 for Mar '05 heating oil

PO#09805 to Delta Medical Supply in the amount of \$983.60 for 8 fire extinguishers/brackets for Fire Dept

PO#09806 to Delta Sanitation, Inc. in the amount of \$504.85 for Mar '05 dumpster service

PO#09807 to GVEA in the amount of \$1,877.56 for Mar '05 electricity

PO#09808 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$7,130.02 for Mar '05 legal services (general, Charter Commission, landfill claims)

PO#09809 to Heiman Fire Equipment in the amount of \$917.55 for nozzle holder, spanner, red lights and bulbs for Fire Department

PO#09810 to NC Machinery in the amount of \$582.89 for road grader edges and bolts and landfill dozer oil filters and air filters

PO#09811 to Solid Waste Association in the amount of \$700.00 for Landfill Operations course for Dave Boadwine's certification

Leith-Dowling moved to approve purchase orders 09799 through 09811; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Janet Boyer asked which landfill would be open on May 14.

Hallgren said the old landfill would still be used. Tentative opening of the new landfill was scheduled in May and June but no later than July 1.

Boyer asked about Planner Dennis Dooley's last day of employment and how the City would distribute his responsibilities.

Hallgren reported Dooley's last day would be the end of April. Letha Burcham would handle all future addressing requests. As for mapping issues, Hallgren said the work would likely be contracted to one or two local businesses.

#### **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Gilbertson called for additional Council comments with none being offered.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Heinbockel moved to enter into Executive Session at 6:35PM after a break; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried. Executive Session began at 6:45PM.

Present during the Executive Session were Gilbertson, Heinbockel, Leith-Dowling, Feilner, Hallgren and White.

Heinbockel moved to end the Executive Session 7:48PM; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

No further discussion.

Heinbockel moved to adjourn; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White

City Clerk

Date of approval: May 3, 2005