



City Council Minutes
May 3, 2005 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 5:02PM.

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

Council members excused: Susan Sandy, Will Pecchia

City employees present: Dave Zimmerman, Pat White

Three members from the community were also present along with students from the Ft. Greely School Debate class who attended the meeting solely to observe.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gilbertson reported one item to add to *New Business*:

- ✓ Purchase of Truck with Sander and Plow for Landfill

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 19, 2005 regular meeting as presented; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Leith-Dowling reported today's *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* article reported that 50 years ago today there was a battle over Fairbanks City Hall creating an ordinance that would force city employees to live within city limits.

Mayor Gilbertson welcomed the Ft. Greely Debate team. Each of the six students introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Steve Fields asked if City residents would vote on disbanding the City before borough formation.

Heinbockel said the petition could be released for the entire area to vote but in essence it would mean dissolving the City of Delta Junction and city resident's opinions might not be allowed. The assumption had always been that should a borough form the city would simply dissolve. The Council may have to address the issue.

REPORTS

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported a major leak in the ceiling of the new fire station. Nothing electrical was in the way to be damaged. She reported continued problems with the doors sticking, requiring physical force to close. Most of the fire equipment and both City tenders were available and in use on May 1 in response to several fire calls. It was a good experience in regards to dispatch tone-outs being in unison with those to forestry. Bear stated she met the Fire Fighter I instructor from UAF and both parties were eager to start the training program. In addition the training would include some airport rescue because of special qualifications of the instructor. She was working on furnishing the fire station and hoped it would be complete by May 20 when training would begin.

Heinbockel suggested making arrangements to use some chairs from the Community Center.

Bear briefed Council on the recent fire near New Hope in which it was within one foot of the Riche residence. The fire was contained but not yet out.

Sloan asked if the fire station contractor was contacted regarding the leaking roof.

Bear said the main contractor contacted the subcontractor who was responsible.

Sloan asked what would happen if the doors could not operate during an emergency.

Bear said the remote control for the doors does not work from the outside of the building. It can from the inside only.

Heinbockel said \$1.6 million was spent on a new fire hall and the doors do not work!

Gilbertson reported the fire engines couldn't be filled while positioned in each bay. An outside top fill needed to be added with the old "Snoopy Dog" which had been retrieved.

Discussion followed regarding renovating the old fire station to use as the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Heinbockel said it might be less expensive to build a small facility for what it would cost to renovate the old (albatross) fire station. He objected to spending \$35,000 for renovation because of future maintenance costs to heat and light the old building. The heavy equipment was still housed in the rented warm storage because that facility provides the space that is needed whereas the old fire station would not.

Zimmerman said \$58,000 was held in retention for the fire station.

Cemetery – Mary Leith-Dowling reported she and Ron Lester did some patchwork on the fence in the southwest corner. Lester also volunteered to spread fertilizer at the cemetery and the park.

White asked about Lester's extent of work because of others interested in volunteering labor at the park. The different ball leagues maintain the ball fields, but who pays for the fertilizer?

Heinbockel said the school district maintained (watered and mowed) the ball fields because of their baseball program. He did not know if they fertilized. In the past the City did not have funds to fertilize or cut grass and they relied on volunteers. He referred the question, to fertilize or not, to Bob Morley but agreed the City should cover the cost if it was decided to fertilize. He also questioned fertilizing weeds that had replaced the grass.

Sloan said it would be good to fertilize because the ball fields were more heavily used now. For the first time in many years adult leagues were organized and proved very successful last year.

Public Health & Safety – Lou Heinbockel asked about billing for fire and rescue. He wanted to know if the two were self-sustaining.

Zimmerman said a little over \$12,000 was collected at the beginning of the year on fire subscriptions. Residences were charged \$50 and businesses, \$100.

White stated she would provide an ambulance report.

Airport – Lou Heinbockel asked about the increase in the number of planes tied down at the airstrip. He said there was an established tie-down fee in which the Pilot's Association collected. It was used to defray the cost of insurance.

Zimmerman said half (\$3,700) of the insurance cost was received from the Pilot's Association.

Discussion followed regarding vehicles crossing the airstrip.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported over \$8,000 was collected at the annual Open House on April 23 and that it was again another enjoyable event. The library would host 11 elementary field trips in the next week and a half and they were preparing for summer reading programs that would begin in June.

Military Liaison – Roy Gilbertson reported the Eddy Drop Zone (EDZ) issue had not yet been resolved. The City still preferred the Donnelly Drop Zone site to the EDZ.

Heinbockel said he surveyed the EDZ on his four-wheeler. The Jarvis River created its own channel so its breakup did not divert through the EDZ as it had in the past. The flood threat would not be an issue this year.

Sloan asked why the ice was not accessed each year with a couple sticks of dynamite to eliminate the threat.

Heinbockel said the problem was because the area was all on military installation.

Discussion followed regarding past histories, aufeis and the large amount of snow melt this year.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel, referring to Hallgren's April 26 letter to Senator Gene Therriault, asked to prioritize streets. He felt South Clearwater, Rapids and Emmaus should have priority over Kimball Street because of traffic patterns.

Charter Commission – Lou Heinbockel reported the draft charter was complete. They were waiting on the end of the legislative session. HB 217 was introduced by Representative John Harris to protect communities like Delta from having their tax based on the value of the pipeline accessing their boundaries. It would be extremely important to know how much was needed to survive as a borough.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison – Mary Leith-Dowling reported DOT completed roadwork in front of IGA and GVEA.

Heinbockel said he would appreciate it near the new (Mt. McKinley) bank.

Additional Reports by Council – John Sloan reported he spoke with Mike Tvenge, President of the Skating Association, who inquired about improvements at the hockey rink, specifying removal of graveled areas inside the building (and replacing it with concrete), creating some sort of barrier to protect the siding from vehicles being parked too close to the building and a sign that designated the facility.

Heinbockel said he thought impact funds could not be used on the old building. Anything spent would take away from a new facility that would have a well and bathrooms and a zamboni room, everything except year-round ice.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Resignation of Council Members

Gilbertson said Susan Sandy verbally resigned from Council due to family matters. He did not foresee her returning for six months or longer. (Will Pecchia submitted a letter of resignation stating he would be moving outside city limits.)

Feilner asked if it was necessary for Sandy to resign or if she could take a leave of absence.

Gilbertson said it was Sandy's choice to resign her position.

Heinbockel moved to regretfully accept verbal resignation from Susan Sandy and written resignation from William Pecchia; Sloan seconded. **Motion carried.**

(White submitted advertisement to the local paper and would post notice on the Internet upon approval of resignations. The 30 days required to fill the positions would end at the close of business on Thursday, June 2, 2005. Interested parties must be qualified voters who had lived inside city limits for one year when filing. Appointments to fill the positions would end in October at the next regular election. At that time there would be four seats up for re-election, Seat C – Lou Heinbockel, Seat F – John Sloan, Seat E – Will Pecchia - ends in 2006, Seat G – Susan Sandy - ends in 2007.)

Purchase of Truck with Sander and Plow

Heinbockel said quotes were received from Dodge and Ford dealerships in Fairbanks. The Ford quote was \$800 more but was a better deal because it came fully winterized with an oil pan heater, transmission heater, etc.

Heinbockel moved to purchase the truck as quoted; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel asked about a quote from Tom Ferri Company in the amount of \$3,500.

Zimmerman reported there was a need for radios to be used for communication between equipment operators. The quote was just for information.

Discussion followed regarding using old emergency service radios.

Kiwanis - Fee Waiver Request

Sloan moved to waive the fee as requested by the Kiwanis to use the City Hall conference rooms on May 4 to conduct 8th grade scholarship interviews; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

Purchase Orders

PO#09834 to AAK Business Environments in the amount of \$2,368.75 for library video cabinet

PO#09860 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$5,449.59 for May '05 group health insurance

PO#09861 to DGSD in the amount of \$217,868.49 for Partners in Progress job training, Social Service Grant, Progress Payment #3

PO#09862 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$985.35 for April '05 diesel fuel

PO#09863 to GVEA in the amount of \$627.64 for April '05 electricity

PO#09864 to L.N. Curtis & Sons in the amount of \$13,774.00 for fire department equipment (Honda pump, tank, Nomex suits)

PO#09865 to Powerhouse Signs in the amount of \$696.00 for six School Zone signs

PO#09866 to Pat White in the amount of \$1,979.20 for ambulance service and notary training

PO#09867 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$6,180.00 for April '05 consultant services

Leith-Dowling moved to approve purchase orders 09834 and 09860 through 09867 as presented; Feilner seconded.

Heinbockel asked about 09863. He said \$627/month was a lot of electricity for a building in which the electric doors do not function.

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

Heinbockel said he would not vote to pay any more money toward "a very select minority group" because there were fewer pilots than there were library patrons.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janet Boyer asked about purchase order 09861. Was job training separate from construction?

Zimmerman reported the actual construction was in Phase 1. Phase 2 covered job training, which pays for instructors, wages, benefits and programs.

Boyer said job training was to be for the community, not students already enrolled in school. What does the public gain from the program?

Heinbockel said after-school adult training.

Gilbertson said some adults and students were presently involved in achieving their general contractor license along with cold weather training.

Boyer asked how long Sandy served on Council.

Heinbockel reported Sandy served the last two terms, which was six consecutive years.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel reminded everyone that Community Clean Up was scheduled for Saturday, May 14. He said the piece of property near the Presbyterian Church was never cleaned up even though there was an understanding that it would be done. Buildings had been removed but the garbage remained.

Sloan said to do it and send a bill.

Heinbockel asked for Hallgren to hire a couple of people to pick up the trash.

ADJOURNMENT

Sloan moved to adjourn at 6:07PM; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White

City Clerk

Date of approval: May 17, 2005