



City Council Minutes
July 5, 2005 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2005 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 5:01PM.

Council members present: Mayor Gilbertson, Mayor Pro tem Mary Leith-Dowling, Lou Heinbockel
Leslie Feilner, Lynnetta Marcellus, Mike Tvenge, John Sloan
Council members excused or absent: none
City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Pat White
Two members from the community were also present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gilbertson reported three purchase orders to add to *New Business*:

- ✓ PO#010042 to Buffalo Fuel, Inc. in the amount of \$810.51
- ✓ PO#010043 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$1,531.35
- ✓ PO#010044 to UNIT SKW, LLC in the amount of \$35,633.88

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 June 21, 2005 minutes 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.

REPORTS

Airport – Leslie Feilner reported the Pilot’s Association created an “L” formation inside the tie-down area that would be designated for visitors. She said the Dept. of Forestry posted signs to discourage the public from accessing the area near the heli-pad.

Cemetery – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Circle S Greenhouse donated flowers to Joslin Enterprises who maintain the cemetery lawn. The flowers were planted in various places throughout the cemetery.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported the Governor signed the bill for DGSD to receive \$1.3 million for the new elementary school furnishings and landscaping. The city received \$300,000 for street paving. The State would allow it to be used in the next several years with no requirement to use it immediately. (It would be added to \$60,000 that was allocated two years previously.) \$125,000 was

granted to pay Alaska Mental Health Trust for the park. Hallgren said because the school district received funds to cover their request the \$250,000 loan from the City would not be necessary. The Governor also signed a bill that would extend the 2005 fuel grant that was given to small municipalities. The remaining \$23,000 was included in the 2006 budget.

Hallgren reported he met with a representative from IMA PARO (Installation Management Agency Pacific Area Region Office) and discussed the potential for new amenities at Ft. Greely, such as a bowling alley and theatre, and locating them so that they could be accessible to the whole community.

Sloan asked about the Black Rapids ski area that was used by both civilians and military in years past.

Hallgren said he would inquire but thought Black Rapids was no longer part of Ft. Greely.

Discussion followed regarding the area that once was considered part of Ft. Greely.

Hallgren said the new landfill opened July 1 for initial dumping by Delta Sanitation and then opened for the public on July 2. The landfill operators reported there was more business than what they anticipated. Hours of operation are still under consideration and are subject to change. 20-hours a week seems unnecessary and two longer days was preferable over five minimal days. Hallgren explained a fourth dumpster would be ordered to eliminate people having to wait.

Sloan asked about hazardous waste.

Hallgren said asbestos and car bodies would not be allowed. Household hazardous waste would be disposed of in a hazardous waste container. Local business NAPA-Buffalo Center accepts batteries but the landfill does not.

Discussion followed regarding fryer oil being a hazardous material, how it is disposed of in other communities and how it was used in the past to hold down street dust in Delta.

Hallgren said he would make inquiries. A manual describing specifics was compiled before permits were issued.

Discussion followed regarding what can be dumped under the guidelines of the new landfill.

Hallgren reported a letter was issued to septic haulers informing them that the new liquid sewage rate would be .625¢ per gallon, equivalent to \$50 per 1,000 gallons. Also access to the new site would be restricted to certain operating hours when City personnel would be available. Unlike the old landfill, keys would not be distributed. The old septic disposal facilities would permanently close on July 15. The letter invited haulers to visit the landfill before they have a full load.

Feilner asked about the new opening festivities.

Hallgren said details were not yet known so nothing was presently scheduled. He reported the TV station at Donnelly Dome required disconnecting the power in order to move the new squirrel-proofed building and all the equipment into it. A generator was purchased in the process.

Heinbockel said he thought the fire department could have loaned a generator and that it was not necessary to purchase one.

Zimmerman said the generator was a 2800KW and it was purchased from Polaris Junction Sales. The actual invoice would be in the July 19 agenda.

Heinbockel asked about plans to repair antennas this year.

Hallgren said there were no plans for construction or renovations this summer. He suggested band-aiding any problems until a permanent solution was decided upon.

Heinbockel said he thought satellite dishes should be purchased for every City resident who does not already have one. As of last week all Fairbanks channels (ABC, CBC, NBC, Fox and PBS) were linked to dish network. Once all the money had been distributed the Donnelly Dome site could be abandoned. He said it is not repairable, it is on military property, the system has been replaced numerous times over the past 30 years and it is time to do away with it.

Discussion followed regarding signals, other tower sites and dealing with dish network.

School Liaison – Lynnetta Marcellus reported the next school board work session was scheduled for July 21 and the school board meeting would be on August 4.

DREDC – Mike Tvenge reported he reviewed previous minutes from DREDC meetings and he would attend the next meeting scheduled on July 18. DREDC hired a lady from Billings, Montana to fill the recreation coordinator position.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the Library Board voted to purchase seamless gutters for \$1,700+. They would be installed within the next three weeks. The Library Board also paid half of the total cost (\$2,400) to reframe and matt six watercolor prints by artist Debbie Hayes. Leith-Dowling said 91 youngsters were participating in the summer reading program. The front entrance doors of the new library continue to be a problem. Glen Wright was working on resolving the problem. Leith-Dowling reported library statistics had increased about 20% in the past year despite the fact that the library was closed for six weeks during November and December when it was being moved. Even though the library was closed during that short period 25,000+ patrons passed through the library doors in the past year. There were 19,027 checkouts totaled for the year.

Park – Leslie Feilner reported she and Marcellus were looking into upgrading the existing outhouses. Discussion followed regarding hazards and problems related to the holding tanks, replacing the outhouses with rented portable toilet units and the present status of the restrooms at the pavilion.

Gilbertson suggested looking into upgrading restroom facilities at the park.

Hallgren said some of the grass and brush-cutting funds could conceivably be used toward restroom facilities or for playground equipment.

Sloan moved to rent two porta-potties for the park through the end of the summer (mid-September) and to close and lock the existing outhouses; Heinbockel seconded.

Marcellus said more swings in the playground area were needed.

Hallgren said he would research it.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Tvenge said one garbage can was not sufficient for the playground area.

Hallgren said the ball field area was a bigger problem because of birds carrying trash, beer cans and their cardboard containers.

Heinbockel said a dumpster with a decent lid should replace the 55-gallon garbage barrels. He spoke with Richard Lester who oversees the user groups at the park and suggested they also provide their own dumpster.

Sloan said user groups needed to take responsibility for their own garbage.

Heinbockel said in all reality the City should be providing a dumpster.

Hallgren said he would order a dumpster near the pavilion through July and August. He would research the restroom problem also.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported Alaska Mechanical (AMI) was still using the rink for storage and were also using it to complete their cabinetry work. Instead of giving a contribution for use of the building Tvenge was asked to submit a bill for the six months of use. He asked if there were any plans to complete any renovations this summer. A Zamboni building and washing capabilities upstairs in the concession area were needed. The engineers had deemed the building too costly to upgrade so it was not understood what could be done to prepare for the upcoming skating season.

Discussion followed regarding completing work in-house with force accounting.

Hallgren said he wanted an engineer's stamp of approval.

Gilbertson asked for a meeting to address ideas. He said it would take less than 30 days to design a facility large enough for two Zamboni rooms, a mechanical room and all the necessities such as water, restrooms and electricity.

Hallgren said it would need to be known how far the building must be located from the existing facility. He was presently still pursuing the possibility of upgrading the existing building, constructing a stand-alone building for the Zamboni, drilling a well and putting in public restrooms. An engineer was needed to prevent a fire marshal from issuing stop work orders and forcing the building to be vacated. He agreed that a meeting was necessary before starting with an engineer's opinion, establishing plans and obtaining permits.

Tvenge said he would arrange a meeting.

Heinbockel said a well and heated restrooms must be in one of the facilities.

Charter Commission – Lou Heinbockel said the Charter Commission was still in recess even though the charter work continued. An Anchorage senator requested a new Senate committee be created to encourage smaller communities to become independent. Heinbockel said the State of Alaska had focused their concentration on Delta Junction. He had no doubt that Delta would become a borough whether “we want it or not.”

Leith-Dowling said, “It would be better to create our own borough than to have one forced upon us.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Donation of Rocks to DGSD

Gilbertson reported DGSD Superintendent Dan Beck initially requested 12 boulders but now needs 20. He said he felt the City could donate the rocks, especially knowing how many rocks were available. The school district would transport them at their own expense.

Heinbockel asked about the value of rocks.

Feilner reported rocks cost about 10¢ a pound. A 2’ X 3’ estimated \$100. White stone was valued at 50¢/lb. She distributed handouts in which Brown’s Hill Quarry from Fairbanks said rock value was based on size and quality. She said there was a market for the fields of rocks at the landfill and selling them might offset the cost of running the landfill. However, Feilner said she was not opposed to donating rocks to the school who wanted to place them around the back patio near newly planted trees.

Heinbockel moved to approve donating 20 rocks to the school district at no charge; Feilner seconded.

Sloan said the school was hurting at one point and the City agreed to loan them \$250,000. The State later approved their request for \$1.1 million and actually granted \$1.3 million. That money was earmarked for furnishing the new school and landscaping the outside. He said the school had the funds to purchase the rocks. He would not object to giving a cut rate, maybe a nickel per pound, but he felt the school had the ability to pay.

Hallgren said should a new hockey rink be built it would be constructed on land that the school would deed to the City. The school board already voted to give the land to the City free of charge last September. He said, “We are two government agencies that can be helpful to each other.”

Marcellus said beautifying the school also beautifies the community.

Feilner asked that supervision be available while the rocks are being removed.

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

UNIT-SKW Library Pay Request #7

Hallgren explained \$5,500 was left in the contract. The sidewalk near the back door at the library, close to where the fuel tanks are located, was designed to be flat. It had a hump in it. Money was held because of it. Hallgren said the solution would be to widen the sidewalk and place a bench over the hazard area. He said a locksmith was hired to repair the front entrance doors. It was easier to deal with \$5,500 minor details than it was to justify withholding the whole amount.

Heinbockel moved to approve payment of \$35,633.88 to UNIT; Leith-Dowling seconded.

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

Request to Hire Part-Time Temporary Employee for Landfill Scale House

Hallgren said for safety purposes the landfill operation required two employees. Additionally a part-time temporary employee would be needed to run the scale house. That employee must be endorsed with HAZMAT qualifications. He estimated the position would require 14 to 18 hours per week but there was no money budgeted for it. It would be less expensive to hire a scale house operator without

HAZMAT training and rely on one of the heavy equipment operators, who are both HAZMAT qualified, when needed. His objective was to meet the requirements but to avoid unnecessary training costs. Heinbockel said the scale house operator would also have rock selling duties. If rocks are to be sold the cost of loading and depositing them onto the mode of transportation should be figured into the cost of purchasing a rock.

Hallgren said he would like to hire by the end of the month when professional training was scheduled.

Heinbockel moved to authorize Hallgren to hire a landfill scale house worker; Feilner seconded.

Sloan asked where wages would come from if they were not already in the budget.

Hallgren said wages would come from income from the landfill operation. It is totally a new system and time was needed to make it workable. If the income is too low, operating hours would be reduced or rates would change again. This year the Pogo PILT would be used to subsidize the operation. Hallgren added that DEC reported the annual landfill inspection, which took place two weeks ago, received a perfect score. He was very pleased with the operators running the landfill.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Purchase Orders

PO#010021 to New Horizons Gallery in the amount of \$2,387.04 for framing of six prints for library

PO#010033 to Airport Equipment Rental in the amount of \$1,187.50 for compactor rental for two days

PO#010034 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for June '05 warm storage rent

PO#010035 to Delta Skating Association in the amount of \$3,190.50 for acrylic glass/wallboards

PO#010036 to Greer Tank and Welding, Inc. in the amount of \$9,550.00 for 1,000-gallon heat/oil tank at Community Center

PO#010037 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$9,891.28 for May '05 legal services (charter)

PO#010038 to Motorola, Inc. in the amount of \$58,296.20 for 16 portable Astro radios (Homeland Security)

PO#010039 to Sam's Club in the amount of \$560.95 for four tables for City Hall and office supplies at new landfill

PO#010040 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$3,200.00 for June '05 consultant services

PO#010042 to Buffalo Fuel, Inc. in the amount of \$810.51 for landfill diesel fuel

PO#010043 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$1,531.35 for miscellaneous gas and oil

PO#010044 to UNIT SKW, LLC in the amount of \$35,633.88 for new library, payment #7

Leith-Dowling moved to approve purchase orders 010021, 010033 through 010040 and 010042 through 010044 as presented; Feilner seconded.

Heinbockel asked about 010021. He said he disapproved of spending that amount of money to reframe artwork when \$3,500 was needed to replace safety glass and floor matting at the hockey rink and \$200 was needed to provide a dumpster at the park.

Leith-Dowling said the Library Association paid \$1,200 and the rest was paid out of impact funds. A 20% discount was given because all six were framed at the same time.

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

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janet Boyer asked when the scale house operator's temporary part-time position would end.

Hallgren said it would depend on if the position proves cost effective. It could become permanent.

Boyer asked if training had occurred for scale operating.

Hallgren said training would last for three days at the end of the month. Running the scale was fairly simple. The extensive training would be for the finance officer to run the software.

Boyer asked if there was a reuse center at the landfill.

Hallgren said there was a covered area in which people could drop off reusable items. There would be a \$5.00 minimum charge to deliver but not pick up.

Boyer asked for examples of household chemicals that can be delivered to the landfill.

Hallgren said items purchased at grocery and hardware stores (paint thinner, stain, etc.) were considered household items.

Boyer asked how much rental was charged to AMI and who was paid.

Tvenge said AMI was billed \$6,000 by the Delta Skating Association. He said the organization tries to be self-sufficient. They pay for their own telephone, electricity and dumpsters but they do not pay rent to the City for the use of the building.

Boyer asked where the money would come from to pay for a stand-alone zamboni room, restrooms and running water.

Hallgren said impact funds.

Boyer asked how "recreation" became exclusively "hockey." "Couldn't impact funds for recreation be used toward park improvements?"

Hallgren said park improvements were not among the approved list. He explained that a budget was first negotiated with DOD. The public was then invited to facilitated meetings to determine what were high priority community needs. The library was high on public consensus and the recreation center actually centered on hockey and figure skating. He said at the time he was surprised at the unanimity and that the meetings were not more extensive.

Feilner said Jack Snyder, school construction supervisor, was very grateful for use of the hockey facility.

Heinbockel asked about blacktop paving because the hockey rink was in need of it. He asked if paving could be done in exchange for renting the facility.

Tvenge said it was considered but was not pursued. It was not logical to add that to their workload.

Boyer asked Hallgren when the Pogo PILT agreement was expected to be complete because the first payment was due July 1.

Hallgren said further meetings were pending. He said if the money were not received, the money that would be deposited into the sinking funds would be used instead.

Butch Ellis said the operation manual suggests posting an extra \$10 fee to penalize for uncovered loads. The goal would be to protect roadsides from becoming littered when people transport their garbage to the landfill. He suggested that or increasing the minimum load to \$10 instead of \$5.00. The old landfill minimum charge was \$11.

Tvenge said part of the fee could pay for a tarp to be used for future trips.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel said there has always been concern about where money comes from to pay for operation and maintenance. More recently the concern has been about increased fuel prices, paving and operating the landfill. This year the budget is \$1 million. The State paid three times what the park was worth.

Hallgren said the governor did change some of the appropriations. Several communities were due fairly expensive emergency vehicles but in order to receive them the State required communities cover their own workers compensation insurance for the drivers of those vehicles. Hallgren said life is a challenge and there are no guarantees. Delta Junction has been blessed with impact funds. "It's likely that the City or other form of government will still exist in 2020 but we must still be conscientious with how money is spent."

ADJOURNMENT

Sloan moved to adjourn at 7:00PM; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White
City Clerk

Date of approval: July 19, 2005