



City Council Minutes
July 19, 2005 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2005 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Pro tem Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:01PM.

Council members present: Mayor Pro tem Mary Leith-Dowling, Lou Heinbockel, Leslie Feilner
Lynnetta Marcellus, Mike Tvenge, John Sloan, Mayor Gilbertson (arrived at 5:46PM)

Council members excused or absent: none

City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Pat White
Seven members from the community were also present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leith-Dowling reported four purchase orders to add to *New Business*:

- ✓ PO#010088 to GVEA in the amount of \$1,693.96
- ✓ PO#010089 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$4,383.75
- ✓ PO#010090 to MACTEC in the amount of \$3,379.73
- ✓ PO#010091 to ProComm Alaska in the amount of \$3,825.00

Heinbockel moved to approve the agenda as amended; Marcellus seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel moved to approve the July 5, 2005 minutes as presented; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tracy Blais, State Magistrate, asked to speak about two issues, alcohol at the ball fields and lack of lawn care along the roadside through the center of town. She said, speaking as a member of the community, she participates in sports activities at the park and has since 1981. She said she felt alcohol consumption had escalated in the past several years so that it now was a serious problem. Blais asked the Council to not ignore it and to take responsibility as community leaders to protect the safety of those that are leaving the park intoxicated as well as other drivers. She said she had no problem with responsible drinking. At the very minimum “no alcohol” signs could be posted at the park. The signs would not enforce no drinking but it might enlist the community to begin policing itself. To do nothing would be a disservice to the community. Blais said in regards to the downtown area it was disgraceful and was looking horrible, “like a field.” She has had visitors to the courthouse comment on the lack of upkeep of the roadsides and medians along the Richardson Highway and through town. She spoke to Brenda Peterson at the Chamber of Commerce and a DOT supervisor in Tok but was given no immediate

assistance. Their response was confusion in not understanding why the City maintained the roadside but would no longer continue.

Sloan reported the lawn maintenance bid for that contract (Richardson Highway, City Hall, Community Center and Library) was too high and it was thrown out. It had doubled from two years ago.

Blais asked why the City could not hire out that portion of the Richardson as they do the rest of the contract.

Hallgren said the rocks along the roadside destroy equipment and the City had the experience of replacing not one, but two windshields from passing vehicles. He said he inquired about the islands (medians) near the triangle and asked if pesticides could be used to kill off growth. That was rejected by DOT. He said a long-term solution was necessary.

Discussion followed regarding local business owners participating in maintaining the areas in front of their businesses and paving the "islands".

Feilner reported the cemetery contractor, Joslin Enterprises, was presently investigating the prospects of completing the work.

Heinbockel said he, his son, Eddy, and Todd Zachgo volunteered their labor in the past but it was very destructive on their equipment. He said it needed to be cleaned up at least once, just before fair time, and suggested putting out a one-time quote to cut just the upper edges and not the ditches.

Leith-Dowling said she did not understand why the City was responsible for the State highway.

Blais said Cathie McCollum voluntarily maintained flowers and grass in the median for many years.

Discussion followed regarding using weed whackers instead of lawn mowers and flower boxes and light posts being considered road hazards.

Blais asked if the City would consider inviting mower and weed whacker owners to take on the project similar to the annual Community Clean Up Day.

Heinbockel asked if John Lunn could complete the work.

Hallgren said Lunn planned to leave the end of July but he would make sure the school road and the fairgrounds would be mowed in time for the start of the Deltana Fair on August 20. He would look into paying personnel to operate a weed whacker to mow the islands first and then attempt the roadsides.

Heinbockel asked to include the bike paths also. He said riding mowers would not suffice.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

REPORTS

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported problems with radio and repeater communication. She said it was likely related to the phone line feeding back to Fairbanks. Bear said she has tried to deal with the problem but could not get service. She asked the City to get involved. It was not acceptable for Fairbanks Dispatch to not be able to communicate with the fire department. Bear said dispatch insists the problem was not related to their new console.

Hallgren said he would facilitate by contacting the phone company. The City was paying for dispatch but because of the problem the service was not being provided.

Edgren said Forestry had a similar problem when they lost four lines because of a lightning strike within a quarter mile of their office.

Airport – Leslie Feilner reported on an incident at the airstrip tie-down area on July 12 that started when a pilot was fueling his airplane. Two explosions followed and State Forestry arrived on the scene followed by the City Fire Department. The only damage was a totally burned vehicle and an airplane that sustained some body damage. Had the pilot not responded by moving his truck away from neighboring airplanes the scenario could have involved multiple airplanes, wooded areas and homes. She said response from both forestry and the fire departments was commendable.

Bear said she had heard complaints regarding their response time. The tone out was received at 16:44PM, the City Fire Department was on the scene at 16:67, Deltana's trucks arrived at 16:68 and 16:69 and the fire was out at 17:05PM.

Discussion followed regarding fire subscriptions.

Al Edgren explained the fire was created because of static electricity and a plastic fuel can. Fuel was still being siphoned from the can when it was pulled away from the wing of the plane. The can was dropped into the bed of the truck and driven away from the airplanes and tie-down area. Fortunately both the pilot and his partner were wearing cotton clothing. Because of their quick thinking the scenario worked out as well as it could've.

City Clerk – Pat White reported the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) would present findings for the Chemical Weapons and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Munitions Site Investigations at the Gerstle River Expansion Area at the next City Council meeting on August 2. They will host an open house the following day, August 3, at City Hall in the small conference room, between 11:00AM and 1:00PM. The public is encouraged to attend. She also reminded Council and the public about the mobile office for Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Ted Stevens that was scheduled to be in the parking lot at the Community Center on August 2, between 10:00AM and 2:00PM. The public is asked to share comments and concerns that can be taken back to Washington DC. Both events were well advertised.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren asked Council members for input regarding carpeting to be replaced in the (old library) conference room. He reported:

- Galena was added to the BRAC list today along with several other military communities.
- Landfill equipment operators would use cell phones to communicate. The operation was being refined and would likely cut hours to the same as it was in the past if not moderately expanded.
- A meeting was scheduled on July 20 with a representative from the Fairbanks Borough Mayor's office who has offered help to the Delta area. Hallgren invited Council members to join him around 11:00AM.
- A meeting was scheduled at 10:00AM, July 26 at Ft. Greely with the Corps of Engineers who would present a briefing on Enhanced Use Leasing (EUL). Hallgren's understanding was to locate newly constructed amenities in such a place that the general public could utilize them. They would probably be constructed by private entities on military property and then leased. The meeting would not be a Council meeting but Council members were invited to attend.
- A complaint was received yesterday from a septic hauler who said there would be problems during the winter if sewage runs into basements in the middle of the night. Septic haulers needed immediate access to the landfill, which they do not have without keys. An emergency plan was needed and/or possibly a special price increase during non-business hours.

Leith-Dowling said septic hauler fees had increased. In the past they paid an annual \$100 permit fee. Now they are expected to pay \$50 for 1,000 gallons of septage waste.

Hallgren said as of today no one had used the septic system at the new landfill.

Gilbertson arrived at 5:46PM.

Hallgren said he received a complaint regarding not enough library hours.

Heinbockel said the library was open enough to accommodate the public. 10:00 to 6:00PM Monday through Thursday, 10:00 to 7:00 on Friday, 10:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and 1:00 to 5:00 on Sunday was plenty of opportunity and conducive to any work hours.

Discussion followed regarding impact funds used to enlarge the community library, rearranging hours to accommodate for Internet access, increase of operating costs and fulfilling public obligations.

School Liaison – Lynnetta Marcellus stated she toured the elementary school with Dan Beck, DGSD Superintendent on July 15. Beck would host the same tour for the Council tonight following the meeting. She said staff began moving into the new building on July 18. The school district expressed interest in housing the VISTA volunteer (DREDC recreation coordinator).

DREDC – Mike Tvenge reported discussion items from the July 18 DREDC meeting:

- Karen Cedzo spoke on behalf of Partners in Progress and Tanana Valley Campus (TVC). They would like local businesses to request classes that would increase the skills of their employees. Computer Tech was an example. A class could be offered if there was enough interest. Rick Caulfield, TVC Director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, would discuss it at the September 15 Chamber of Commerce luncheon.
- Recreation Coordinator Rene Greenfield is scheduled to arrive in Delta around August 18 and the Council was invited to join DREDC in greeting her at 6:00PM on August 22 at City Hall. Housing and transportation options had been researched.
- Kacy Telfer, AMERICORPS National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) representative, presented information and an application for a group of traveling youth volunteers to come to Delta to provide service in completing community projects such as painting a park fence or planting flowers to beautify the town or work at the fairgrounds. He said they hope to stay four to six weeks. It would be an opportunity not only for the traveling volunteers but also for our local youth to be exposed to the program and its opportunities beyond Delta. It is a volunteer program but youth are given money to be put toward their own education.
- DREDC elections were held last night and Paul Knopp remained President, Steve Fields Vice President and Nancy Morris, Secretary.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported phone lines were an issue at the library. The phone company was tracking the six phone lines. Detail work, such as window shades, was being completed.

Hallgren said City Hall would be cutting two phone lines also because of the high speed Internet and an answering machine being installed. Some rewiring was required to install the answering machine.

Heinbockel asked why one of the phone lines could not be transferred to the landfill.

Hallgren said he would inquire.

Park – Lynnetta Marcellus said the President of the Little League expressed appreciation for use of the porta-potties and offered to put \$500 toward the rent of the facility and the cost of removing the existing permanent outhouses. They would also continue to contribute to costs associated with renting the porta-potties.

Sloan said he researched the hazards of children falling into outhouse holes and found that bars were laid at a certain level above the pit. The bars served as a precautionary measure.

Discussion followed regarding the permanence of the park outhouses and their history of when they were built in 1990 or 1991, capping the pits or locking the facilities to alleviate the safety problem, and possible vandalism.

Heinbockel said there should be no objection to keeping the outhouse in the playground area and allowing Little League volunteers to remove the one on their end of the park as long the ground is left in a decent condition.

Gilbertson said the outhouses need to be safeguarded but should not be destroyed when they are still functional. If they are functional they may be needed some time in the future.

Feilner stated she would research it further. She reported a section of fence that was bent.

Heinbockel, as “Crime Scene Investigator”, reported he thought at first a moose had attempted to jump the fence. However, moose hair was not found at the scene. Instead there was a pair of prescription sunglasses. Advertisement was posted that the glasses would be returned in exchange for repairs to the fence.

Hallgren said the septic system in the park pavilion was repaired. There were actually two separate breaks in the lines and equipment was required for the digging. In doing so the underground power line was also located, chipped and then repaired. The temporary portable facilities could now be removed.

Discussion followed regarding cleaning, buying or leasing portable outhouses for four months each year.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge distributed preliminary drawings showing a separate freestanding 28 X 60 building that could be positioned north of the existing hockey rink. It would house a zamboni room, heated restrooms and a mechanical room. The overhead doors would be aligned to allow driving the

zamboni from one building directly onto the ice in the hockey rink. Ownership of the land is needed. No longer would the zamboni need to be driven to and from the school to store and/or refill with water. Edgren explained the 6 or 8 feet that would be added to the preliminary plans to accommodate for bathrooms and handicap accessibility.

Feilner asked about putting a cover on the container that collects cans outside the hockey rink.

Tvenge said using a tarp failed but he would look into a mesh top. He said transporting recycled cans was not an easy matter. The Skating Association hauls two semi loads each year. Lynden Transport had done it for the past two years. He would prefer an alternate method because paying to have the cans hauled cuts into earnings and the effort of collecting them. Only \$80 is made in profit after paying for transport.

Military Liaison – Roy Gilbertson said hunting would be limited in the Donnelly area. He referred to a map that was issued by U.S. Army Garrison Executive Officer Mark Vaughn.

Hallgren said there was yet no update that could be shared on the Eddy Drop Zone issue.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported a number of streets were in need of repair, Emmaus Road being the most urgent. He said Souhrada Road was almost impassable and asked that it be graded also.

Loretta Schooley said she doubted anything could be done at this time of year without a lot of water.

Discussion followed regarding counters being placed on Souhrada and Mil-Tan roads.

Leith-Dowling said there was discussion regarding the amount of travel on other roads after Nistler Road was constructed. The State is studying the effect on Souhrada and Mil-Tan because of that.

Heinbockel said work at the landfill was a first-class operation but it was more labor intensive on behalf of the equipment operators than anticipated.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison – Leslie Feilner said light post across from Jack's Service Station was knocked over. The base remained intact only.

Leith-Dowling said the post was the State's responsibility.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Prison Loan – First Installment

Hallgren stated repayment of the prison loan was already passed and included in the FY06 budget. It was listed as an agenda item for discussion purposes because the first payment was due.

Heinbockel asked that the records show the City of Delta Junction had begun repayment of the debt.

Authority to Sell Rocks at the Landfill

Heinbockel moved to authorize the sell of rocks at the landfill; Feilner seconded.

Hallgren asked for clarification, "Would authority be given to make a sale or bring a proposal back for approval before authorizing to sell?" Delta Sand & Gravel requested 80 rocks and offered to pay \$80 for each rock. They are also negotiating with Dave Boadwine, equipment operator, to trade for work at the landfill by removing rocks in the pits.

Gilbertson said it would be a benefit because Delta Sand & Gravel would use their picker to deposit other rocks where the landfill operators designated.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Funding Request from Deltana Fair

Loretta Schooley, President of the Deltana Fair Association, stated the original plan was to put up a semi-tent. Vandalism and other accidents that cause damage were discussed and the plan changed. Instead of purchasing a tent they would pour a concrete pad and frame a building to make a permanent structure. If it were ever damaged, parts could be purchased locally. The structure would be 36' X 50', large enough for a teen dance and an Imaginarium. It would be an open building and its size would not require center posts. She said she envisioned one similar to what was located at the Pioneer Park. She had originally considered asking for \$10,000 but because plans had changed \$5,000 would be enough. Delta Building Supply offered to assist with providing steel and the Deltana Fair had funds to put toward

the project. Schooley said community volunteers would be needed to provide skilled labor and holding the walls in place during construction.

Hallgren said the money would come from the General Fund but he would inquire if leftover Social Service impact funds could be used. There was \$32,000 left over from 2004 but permission from the State of Alaska would be required. He would inquire.

Sloan moved to approve splitting the difference and contributing \$7,500.00 to assist the Deltana Fair in providing a structure at the fairgrounds; Tvenge seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel asked about the old school modules that were located on the fairgrounds.

Schooley said they would likely be removed by fall. Previous attempts were not yet successful.

Conference Room Fee Waiver – Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc. – July 8, 2005

Conference Room Fee Waiver – Forget Me Knot Quilters Guild – July 22/23

Heinbockel moved to approve waiving rental fees for use of City Hall conference rooms on July 8 as requested by Alpha Omega and on July 22 and 23 as requested by the Forget Me Knot Quilters (FMKQ) Guild as long as there was no conflict with paying customers; Sloan seconded.

Anne Mauer, FMKQ guild president, stated the guild provides service to the community by creating quilts to distribute to fire victims and this year started giving quilts to military families in Alaska who had lost their loved ones. Funds are raised each year by raffling one or two quilts and auctioning quilted wall hangings at the fair. This year the annual membership dues were increased. Most recently problems occurred because of unexpected costs associated with bringing an out-of-town instructor to Delta. It cost more than anticipated because of adding meals, lodging and mileage to the cost of the two-day course. Mauer said the guild was willing to pay for half of the rental fee but would be grateful if it could be reduced this one time.

Heinbockel said he disagreed with reducing the fee and would not change his motion.

Sloan agreed.

Heinbockel stated he felt federal monies were given to the city and the use of the conference room could be waived to a community-minded group as a service to them.

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

Purchase Orders

PO#010048 to State of Alaska – Division of Administrative Services in the amount of \$50,000.00 for first payment on \$1,200,000.00 prison loan settlement

PO#010049 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$5,795.41 for July '05 group health insurance

PO#010050 to ACS in the amount of \$1,411.69 for July '05 phone services

PO#010051 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$806.84 for July '05 E911 dispatch service

PO#010052 to Bank of America in the amount of \$3,807.04 for June '05 credit card charges
(Letha Burcham – lodging and course fee for mapping training in Portland, strobe light for new Ford truck, parts for DR brush mower, two HP printers for library)

PO#010053 to DREDC in the amount of \$9,975.00 for VISTA grant advance

PO#010054 to City of Fairbanks in the amount of \$4,656.96 for first half of FY06 911 dispatch

PO#010055 to Joslin Enterprises in the amount of \$2,533.33 for July '05 cemetery lawn contract

PO#010056 to Polaris Junction in the amount of \$995.00 for 2800 watt generator at TV site

PO#010057 to Tanana Adventure Sports in the amount of \$17,966.00 for boat package (20' aluminum boat with 90 HP Honda motor and trailer) to be used for Homeland Security event

PO#010058 to Mark Weller in the amount of \$1,296.66 for July '05 park lawn contract

PO#010059 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,626.21 for new library window blinds

PO#010088 to GVEA in the amount of \$1,693.96 for June '05 electricity

PO#010089 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$4,383.75 for legal services (fire department, Emergency Coordinator position description/City Code and charter)

PO#010090 to MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$3,379.73 for service to close

out the library and landfill contracts
PO#010091 to ProComm Alaska in the amount of \$3,825.00 for Homeland Security digital radios
Leith-Dowling moved to approve purchase orders 010048 through 010059 and 010088 through 010091 as presented; Feilner seconded.
Sloan asked about 010090.
Zimmerman said the bill was for engineering services provided in June and July and related to closing the library and landfill contracts.
Hallgren said MACTEC was authorized to complete work in order to obtain a permit for public drinking water that was required by the State. Research showed the well casing was not high enough off the ground. It should have been caught during inspection one year ago. Hallgren said \$5,500 was still being held from the contractor, awaiting completion of the cement walkway around the building. He intended to address a letter to UNIT-SKW asking them to complete work or close it out so the work could be finished. It would be less expensive to resolve the faulty details in-house.
Feilner asked about the landfill work, specifically the leaking roof that was not completed.
Hallgren said the one-year warranty would end on December 1, 2005 and the landfill operators would deal with those issues.
Sloan asked about PO#010057. He asked if the boat could be contracted out for a fire event on the river.
Edgren said the boat was purchased by Homeland Security to use in response to a boat accident, search and rescue, cabin fire, or accident on a river. He said he doubted the boat would be used much. It would be stored at the Deltana Fire Station for use by both fire departments. A rubber raft, which was considered safer to use for swift water rescue, was denied by the State. In the past private entities provided rental boats during wild land forest fires but most people do not have watercraft that is Coast Guard approved with fire extinguishers and life jackets.
Sloan said he would not vote in favor of purchase order 010048.
Motion passed on a roll call vote with five (Tvenge, Heinbockel, Marcellus, Leith-Dowling, Gilbertson) voting in favor and two (Sloan, Feilner) voting against.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Tvenge asked what could be done about irresponsible four-wheeler drivers.
Heinbockel said idiot drivers were not necessarily on four-wheelers.
Discussion followed regarding addressing a letter to the troopers and publishing it in the local newspaper, posting signs, positioning rocks and string wire to serve as speed bumps and attempts to resolve the problem in the past.
Edgren thanked Heinbockel for bringing history to the Council meetings. He said he appreciated his knowledge.

ADJOURNMENT

Leith-Dowling moved to adjourn at 7:01PM; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

TOUR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Upon adjournment members of the City Council and City staff toured the new elementary school. The tour was guided by DGSD Superintendent Dan Beck and ended at approximately 8:30PM.

Pat White

City Clerk

Date of approval: August 2, 2005