



City Council Minutes
December 20, 2005 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2005 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 5:02PM.

Council members present: Mayor Roy Gilbertson, Mayor Pro tem Mary Leith-Dowling
Mike Tvenge, Lou Heinbockel, Leslie Feilner, Pablo Martinez

Council member excused: Lynnetta Marcellus

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

Four members from the community and two out-of-town guests were also present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gilbertson reported discussion regarding the ice arena sign would be added to *New Business*.
Leith-Dowling moved to approve the agenda as amended; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Feilner moved to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2005 meeting as presented; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Gilbertson asked for public and Council comments on non-agenda items with none being offered.

CORRESPONDENCE

- December 2, 2005 letter from DOT and November 22, 2005 e.mail from AML regarding STIP Discussion deferred to guest speaker, Dave Sanches.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Dave Sanches, DOT Area Planner, introduced himself and Emily Bratcher, Fairbanks Area Assistant Planner. He reported the 2006-2008 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) draft was available for public comment. Comments are due by December 31, 2005. He referred to handouts, the draft STIP and the December 2005 Northern Region DOT Project Briefing (information extracted from the STIP that pertains only to the northern region of Alaska). Sanches said that one of the local comments should address Milepost 257 (City landfill) to 265 - Reconstruction and Replacement of the Jarvis Creek Bridge project. Presently under the 2006 draft there are no funds available for construction even though the project is in design. It would be reasonable to have the money allocated by 2008 when

the Environmental Assessment would be completed. Sanches highlighted other projects (MP 148 through 173 – reconstruction to widen that section of the Richardson Highway between Paxson and Sourdough, MP 228 – replacement of One Mile Creek Bridge near Black Rapids, MP 265 to 341 – passing lanes between Delta Junction and North Pole (Eielson Air Force Base), MP 273 - Shaw Creek Bridge replacement, and the Cummings Road Connector that will bypass the section of road that washes out each year). Sanches said technically Cummings Road is the responsibility of the DNR. The preliminary plan is to spin off Barley Way and cut across downstream of the Gerstle River. Sanches said the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is contributing \$2.1 million toward the project. Presently DOT is negotiating with the BIA on how the process would progress. Sanches said the Cummings Road connector would be an all season road. The connector would bypass Cummings Road so that it crosses above the area where the sawmill is located. The section from there to the Alaska Highway would be abandoned. It is not presently maintained. DNR built the road with ag money and DOT has no obligation to maintain it.

Discussion followed regarding previously spent and projected costs for bridge and road improvements. Sanches asked comments to be based off what is printed in the STIP and that comments be submitted by the December 31, 2005 deadline. (Contact information was available in the handouts.)

Hallgren said the City Council is most interested in reconstruction of Jarvis Creek Bridge.

Heinbockel said Cummings Road is a concern but not as much of a priority as Jarvis. He said he was thankful the BIA was involved in the Cummings project. Heinbockel, referring to the \$3.5 million for improving the Tok airstrip and \$11 million to repair earthquake damages to the Northway airport, asked if the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) could assume responsibility for the Delta Junction airstrip also. He said Delta is one community in the State that has no support from ADOT&PF.

Sanches said the airport in Delta is not recognized on the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), which is a guideline the State uses to identify eligibility for FAA funding. He said there is recent discussion regarding joint use with Allen Army Airfield.

Hallgren said the City used a \$250,000 FAA Grant to investigate the feasibility of joint use with Allen Army Airfield five or six years ago. At that point \$6 or 7 million dollars was available for joint use. The stipulation was that the airport must remain open for 20 years. The two qualified sponsors would be the City of Delta Junction and the State of Alaska. At that time this Council determined that we did not have the financial wherewithal to handle the project. It is presently understood that the City airport is to be kept open but there is a need to have joint use with Allen Army Airfield. There is an area just off the Richardson Highway that would be perfect for a terminal and private usage for residents to board commercial airliners. Hallgren has attended several meetings with US Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) who are receptive to the idea of joint use. Regarding the list, Hallgren said he understood the Delta Junction airstrip does not qualify due to its size. A regional airport at Ft. Greely would be their first choice for a joint use venture.

Sanches said he would investigate status of the joint use meeting and report back.

Discussion followed regarding medi-vac emergencies, size of airplanes that have been able to land on the Delta airstrip and work on the Northway and Tok airstrips.

Hallgren said the City would appreciate the State sponsoring joint use of Allen Army Airfield.

Gilbertson asked if erosion control was part of straightening the road near Jarvis and replacing the bridge. The erosion is where the Delta River and the Jarvis Creek meet, which is within 300 feet of the proposed new bridge.

Sanches said he would inquire about the erosion issue. He said the existing four-wheeler trail between Delta Junction and Ft. Greely might be paved into a bike path. If not, it may be an improved gravel path.

Heinbockel said paving takes away from the traditional use as a four-wheeler and snow machine trail.

Feilner asked to have a bicycle path on one side and a recreational trail on the other. It would be beneficial to both the Delta Junction and Ft. Greely communities.

Sanches said multi-use trails create liability issues. He explained the bike path in Tok and how snow machines use it. He explained modification of ditches near Manley Hot Springs to accommodate dogsled mushers so they could train dogs with sleds and four-wheelers.

Hallgren said Ft. Greely residents were in favor of a bike path regardless which side of the Richardson it is located. US Army Alaska (USARAK) owns all of the ground around Ft. Greely. Hallgren said Stryker vehicles traveled on the west side of the highway along the dirt trail. USARAK may prefer to continue using that side of the Richardson. Hallgren said a detailed letter was submitted to the State regarding concerns on the Jarvis Creek project. He would submit another letter requesting the project be moved up. Hallgren reported the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) was investigating the possibility of extending to Delta as a temporary terminus prior to traveling to the Lower 48. Several scoping sessions were held to identify where the railroad would cross, near the local medical clinic or the north end of Jarvis Creek. He said he would invite ARRC representatives to present their ideas directly to the City Council because where the railroad accesses the community will be important to area residents. Of importance to ARRC would be State plans regarding road changes.

Feilner said there was concern regarding positioning railroad tracks on berms located in the flood area.

Hallgren said some prefer the railroad crossing Nistler because of flooding that occurred three years ago.

Gilbertson said he felt the best route for the railroad would pass near the clinic, along the pipeline through the affected flood area. An aqueduct could drain any water into the Delta River. An overpass could replace the misaligned bridge and that portion of Nistler Road. That route would also eliminate crossing private property.

Sanches said he thought the Jarvis Creek plan would be more difficult.

Leith-Dowling said crossing a main feeder into town did not make a lot of sense.

Gilbertson asked Sanches if there were any plans to upgrade that flooded road section.

Sanches said a request for Nistler Road improvements and gravel pavement in the Delta area were submitted when the administration was looking for general projects but neither one were chosen for the 2006 budget. Sanches explained the recent surface transportation (highway) bill that just passed. It is called SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users). As of December 15 the Governor released his capital budget proposal stating \$93 million would be used to upgrade bridges in Ketchikan and the Knik Arm Crossing. It is yet unknown what will be spent on interior roads. Sanches said a couple projects on the Parks Highway were questionable. He explained the Denali Commission and that they would meet on January 5 in Juneau to select projects of importance. They are specifically looking at road improvements in rural Alaska that are design-ready, where construction funds were not currently available.

Gilbertson thanked Sanches for providing information.

Heinbockel asked if all the surveying of Jarvis was complete and if there was funding for the actual construction.

Sanches said most of the survey was complete. It would take at least another year to complete the environmental process.

Gilbertson asked if there was any money for a crosswalk or a sign on Nistler between the two schools.

Sanches said last May he spoke with DGSD Superintendent Dan Beck who had requested it be put into the school supplemental budget. Money is available beyond 2007 in the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for school zone upgrades. Sanches said he did not know current status but would inquire whether it was approved.

Gilbertson said it was a critical area.

Sanches stated they asked that the new school entrance align with the existing North Clearwater but that was not achieved.

Heinbockel said the school district's desire for the past 20 years has been to abandon North Clearwater so that traffic does not flow between the four main school buildings.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Carin Bear reported new squad members were completing EMT I training.

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported they have yet to locate a Hazardous Waste Operator trainer but she was still hopeful. She said the water tankers eventually would have to have pressure fill. The gravity top fill hoses are not always workable.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren presented a draft letter he wrote, at Mayor Gilbertson's request, inviting railroad personnel to a regular or special City Council meeting so that Council could make formal recommendations regarding the railroad route.

Gilbertson said the City should to be involved in the preliminary stages.

Hallgren referenced a December 8 letter from City Attorney Jim DeWitt, which explained the authority of the proposed borough to levy taxes on property that would include a hotel and medical clinic under the Enhanced Use License (EUL) agreement with the US Army. Hallgren stated he would like to send the letter onto the Corps of Engineers.

Discussion followed regarding fire subscriptions, tie-down fees from local pilots, airport insurance premiums, and current operations of airport management.

Hallgren continued his report:

- Channel 7 (KTVF) is broadcast from Donnelly Dome. They plan to install a satellite receive dish on December 29 on Donnelly. KTVF will abandon the receive-antennae that they currently use. Hallgren said he granted permission to install the satellite dish onto the new white radio shack. KTVF has purchased all the necessary equipment.

Heinbockel said as of today they would not be able to climb the hill to the tower.

Hallgren said Channel 5 (KUAC) is sending out a bad signal. The Channel 7 technician was at Donnelly Dome last week and identified a problem in the cable or antennae system that feeds the signal into KUAC. The two channels may be able to resolve the problem together. If Channel 5 wishes to abandon the receive-antennae the City would pay for equipment to put a satellite feed into Channel 5, which would cost approximately \$2,000 and would qualify as Missile Defense (MD) expenditure.

Heinbockel said everyone within City limits should get a free satellite dish and the whole Donnelly Dome system should be abandoned.

Hallgren said all local funding was gone. If the Channel 7 satellite feed is successful, Channels 5 and 13 will be added. If not, the antennae system and tower will be abandoned. It would then be up to the Council to rebuild the transmit antennae and towers. There is no immediate fix for Channel 5.

- Merle Jantz, Jantz Associates, Inc. architect / owner, reviewed rough drawings of the building that will potentially be built next to the skating rink. He commented that it looked feasible but the locker rooms were too small.
- A revised memo, dated 12-19-05, was written explaining Pogo PILT expenditures. It was based on the school district letter that was received on November 23 in which they requested funding. Hallgren said the City Hall administration money was projected to last until December 2006. It will last only until the end of this fiscal year (July 1, 2006) because of the expenses related to borough issues. \$171,000 total was spent. He said the PILT funding is not spare cash but will be needed to keep the current City administration, which will cost \$250,000 for one year.

Feilner asked about the GVEA backup generator.

Hallgren said it is operating in Delta. He said one of the suspicions in temperature fluctuations at the library is related to changes in electrical power and testing of the generator that affected the computerized heating system.

Heinbockel said the problem is no fault of the design and engineering. It must be GVEA.

Hallgren said the other possibility is because of the outside wall thermostats. Merle Jantz suggested foaming behind the thermostats in the wall. In any event, Hallgren said the problem was temporarily fixed by reducing the temperature gauge.

DREDC – Mike Tvenge reported DREDC would not seek a VISTA volunteer to take the Recreation Coordinator position. Instead they would advertise statewide for a local person who would have their

own vehicle, housing and area-wide experience. DREDC asked if the City Council agreed with their decision. Tvenge said \$38,000 remains from the initial (\$40,000) grant. He explained limitations set by the VISTA program and how DREDC decided to change their plan. RFP's would be required.

Hallgren said no guarantee for second year funding. By the second year the program is to prove means to self-sufficiency.

Gilbertson asked to consider working with the Chamber of Commerce.

Discussion followed regarding Chamber, City and school district involvement.

Tvenge said he would bring the concept back to Council for approval after the January 9 work session.

Hallgren said MD must approve the proposal but he felt it would be all right because the focus on the position had not changed.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Morley Electric and Glenn Wright would install a new lock system on the library doors on December 26. She said Chamber of Commerce Christmas Photo Contest awards are on display at the library. Leith-Dowling stated the library has a new collection of CD's to checkout and they were a very popular addition.

Personnel – Pete Hallgren reported Connie Morley resigned from her janitorial position because of taking a day job. Advertisement for the position was posted in the local paper and the City's website.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge expressed appreciation for Dave Boadwine plowing the ice arena parking lot. He said aluminum cans would be loaded into the trailer to clean up the area. The Ice Arena sign is due to arrive in Anchorage on December 21. Tvenge referenced a December 1 invoice from Carpenter Contracting, Inc., which was received on December 16, 2005, and a spreadsheet prepared by Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman showing a breakdown of costs associated with installation of the new sign. Tvenge said he was not aware that the invoice would be as much. He attempted to contact Carpenter for the past two days.

Gilbertson said he had spoken with Wayne Carpenter. He is unhappy that many local businesses are not proactive in providing services toward community projects. Delta Concrete, Delta Industrial, Airport Rentals and Carpenter Construction agreed to take part in the sign installation. Carpenter reasoned his \$4,255 bill was because cold temperatures required renting an excavator to cut into the frozen ground and he had to hire employees to accomplish the project. Gilbertson said Carpenter did agree to not charge additional fees, estimated \$1,000, to hook up the sign with any necessary welding and electrical work, even if he had to hire out the work. Gilbertson said he did not approve of paying it.

Tvenge said volunteers are lined out to complete the sign installation once it arrives.

Gilbertson said he had hardship with \$1,300 warming blankets that just sit in a warehouse. "Why could they not be used for a community project?" He said the spirit of supporting the community is missing.

Discussion followed regarding the deep-pocket philosophy versus bad-mouthing the City government for how money is spent and the work performed by Carpenter.

Tvenge said he put in a service line a couple years ago and it cost \$800 (5 hours x 3 men). He said Carpenter knew what he was up against. He had negotiated with Carpenter and had a gentleman's agreement. The work was completed when he was out of town at the AML conference. Tvenge said he ordered steel posts from Delta Industrial and they would be an additional \$283. He apologized for the bill, which he said was embarrassing.

Military Liaison – Roy Gilbertson reported he was invited to Tom Devanney's retirement on January 5 in Huntsville, AL but because of a 12-hour delay in Anchorage and another day in Chicago he would not be able to attend. He would present a resolution to approve and sign at the January 3 meeting. Gilbertson said Devanney's relationship with Delta began before the City was tasked to identify the reuse of Ft. Greely. The whole community owes Tom Devanney respect and gratitude.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported he spent quite a bit of time at the landfill. The two septage pits are essentially full. They are designed to handle 60,000 gallons each. The accounting report shows 64,000 gallons were dumped through November 30, "so why are they full?" Either not all that is dumped is being reported or the pits were not built to the capacity they were designed for.

Discussion followed regarding the system and how it is set up to drain.

Butch Ellis said the operation papers received last week were not in the manual.

Heinbockel said septage waste was not even received until late July.

Charter Commission – Lou Heinbockel reported the required signatures were collected and the charter petition would be mailed to Lamar Cotten on December 21. He would submit it onto LBC. Heinbockel said hopefully no more than \$171,000 will be spent on what might be considered a wasted effort.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Fred Sheen, GVEA Delta Division Supervisor, replaced bulbs along Nistler Road and in front of City Hall. There was no charge to the City. To get it done quickly the bulbs were purchased locally. Sheen said that two streetlights near the elementary school were out because of interference from tree branches. Leith-Dowling said she appreciated Sheen intervening on the City's behalf.

Heinbockel said that act of community service is what Mayor Gilbertson was referring to earlier as cooperation from the community.

Gilbertson said Sheen's involvement saved up to \$3,200 that was quoted to replace bulbs and ballasts. He requested a letter of appreciation be published in the local newspaper so the public is aware of the community service performed.

Additional Reports by Council – Roy Gilbertson stated he would like the electric bills paid with the City's credit card to benefit from mileage incentives. He said making a prepayment prior to charging would avoid being denied because of a limited credit line.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Legislative Priority List

Hallgren referenced his December 14 revision draft letter to Representative Harris and the original draft written on December 7, 2005.

Discussion followed regarding listed items and how they were prioritized.

Hallgren said the legislature's decision making, allowing for one and not another, was unknown. He suggested asking for \$2 million toward the Recreation Center. Along with the \$2 million that is currently available it should cover the cost of the middle building (zamboni/locker rooms/restrooms) and a larger heated facility directly north of it. \$4 million is not enough if ice-making equipment is needed.

Tvenge said the costs of refrigeration units vary. Chillers that were built 20 years ago are not as efficient as today's. He said maintenance fees differ by thousands of dollars between the Brett Arena in Wasilla, the Dipper and Carlson Center in Fairbanks and Polar Ice in North Pole and not to be intimidated by monthly costs of operation. That should all be clear in the initial design. Tvenge stated he would like another hearing for community input.

Discussion followed regarding maintenance of a new facility, a recent Fairbanks News-Miner article explaining excessive monthly energy costs at the Big Dipper in Fairbanks, how much ice time would be utilized in Delta, user fees and how they would work.

Tvenge said new Kenai Arena built by Joel Anderson was a couple dollars per hour (\$1.50/hour = \$30/day = \$1,000+/month) to operate. Will the new rec center have indoor ice?

Heinbockel said lighting is a much bigger expense than refrigerated ice.

Hallgren said it was estimated to cost \$4.4 million in 1999 to convert the existing building, assuming the building was up to code. He said the basic must be determined first. Further dollars would need to be raised to build additional features to what is established and already useful.

Gilbertson agreed to request \$2 million from the legislature.

Leith-Dowling said the recreational needs are more than skating. She agreed another public meeting was needed.

Martinez asked if the rec center could be designed to be a shelter in the event of a disaster.

Hallgren said the school would be more likely to be designated during an emergency.

Discussion followed regarding activities involved in a recreation center and what the needs of the community are.

Hallgren stated bids must be ready by February or March in order to build next summer. Missile Defense (MD) requires progress on the project.

Tvenge said there will never be a heated ice rink in this town if the new rec center is built without ice.

Heinbockel said the engineers say the existing building cannot be insulated so it will never be heated.

Gilbertson said he discussed the topic with Gene Kane at the time he was to take the City Administrator position. Kane researched the hockey rinks in Juneau and Wasilla. Both were remodeled into insulated, heated buildings. Design Alaska determined there was no reason the existing rink in Delta could not be upgraded because it had already met code. If a brand new building is constructed it must meet a different code. He said he would like to spend some time to resolve the situation.

Discussion followed regarding status of the existing building and additional requirements when using public financing.

Hallgren said he would contact Design Alaska tomorrow but it will cost to bring them to Delta to inspect the building. At this point the "mid building" rough plans were reviewed by Merle Jantz. He recommended sending out request for proposals. Jantz was involved in calculations in upgrading the existing building because of the code issue. At the time, about two years ago, the architects and engineers established that the State Fire Marshal issued waivers when the building was originally constructed.

Discussion followed regarding contact with engineers and dealing with "deep pockets" (State and federal government spending).

Tvenge said the Brett Arena in Wasilla is the same type of metal building and they have made many improvements. That building has hosted six years of high school hockey tournaments. If Delta's existing building can be upgraded maybe another rec center would not be needed.

Hallgren said it can be upgraded but it would be less expensive to build a new facility. The existing rink could be an auxiliary.

Tvenge said the existing building needs running water.

Hallgren clarified that another building would be constructed as close to the existing rink as possible and would include a zamboni storage room, heated locker rooms and public restrooms. He recommended contact with Design Alaska regarding upgrade of the existing rink and then asking advice from MACTEC.

Tvenge said the zamboni building needs built so that it is useful to the existing building. It could serve both the existing rink and the new recreation center (if it has ice).

Discussion followed regarding contact with design and engineering firms.

Hallgren said the question remains, "Are we going to upgrade the existing building?" He said he strongly believed it would be more expensive to educate another firm than to continue with MACTEC. He recommended requesting \$2 million from the legislature for the Recreation Center / Construction funding and allowing him to take the present drawings to MACTEC for review, determining how close it can be built to the existing building, and give an idea of how much it would cost. He would talk to Design Alaska also in regards to not bringing the existing building up to code in order to upgrade it. One to two years ago MACTEC quoted \$1.2 to \$1.5 million to insulate and upgrade the existing rink.

Heinbockel moved to contact Design Alaska and MACTEC as recommended by Hallgren and to accept Hallgren's alternate draft letter to Representative John Harris, adding the \$2 million figure for the rec center; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Hallgren explained changes to the draft letter before submitting it onto Representative Harris: He would insert the \$2 million request for the rec center, clean up unused numbering and change \$150,000 spent on borough formation to the more accurate figure, \$175,000.

DGSD Request for Funding

Heinbockel said his opinion has not changed and he felt helping the school was appropriate.

Discussion followed regarding PILT, school reserves and no specific amount requested by DGSD.

Gilbertson said no action was necessary.

Heinbockel, referencing Hallgren's December 19 revision of his December 16, 2005 Pogo PILT memo, said the present hours in which the landfill is open to the public may not be necessary. He was there for 1 1/2 hours on a Friday and there were no customers in that time.

Hallgren said 250,000 to 400,000 pounds of garbage is being collected on a monthly basis, that being mostly from the haulers.

NEW BUSINESS

Vacancy - Council Seat E

White referenced Lynnetta Marcellus' December 9 letter of resignation. She reported advertisement for Marcellus' seat would show in the local paper on December 22. It would also be posted to the City's website. The deadline was set for the close of business on Friday, January 13, 2006 so that appointment could be made at the regular City Council meeting on January 17, 2006.

Heinbockel moved to accept Marcellus' letter of resignation with regret; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel instructed White to call others who have recently submitted letters of interest to inquire if they are still interested in serving.

Ice Arena Sign

See discussion under *Recreation Report*

Access Alaska – Request for Waiver of use of Conference Room

Heinbockel moved to approve waiving the fees associated with renting the conference room on January 17, 2006 for the purpose of presenting Access Alaska, an explanation of the Medicare drug program, to residents in the community; Feilner seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Nenana Ice Classic Association – 2006 Gaming Permit Renewal

Heinbockel moved to show no opposition; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Purchase Orders

PO#010477 to ACS in the amount of \$1,337.80 for Dec '05 phone services

PO#010478 to ATT in the amount of \$806.81 for Dec '05 E911 phone service

PO#010479 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,644.88 for Nov '05 credit card services

(pre-paid phone cards for City Hall, antifreeze for fire station and landfill buildings, travel for Hallgren and Tvenge to AML conference in Anchorage, travel for Hallgren to El Paso for US Army / MD conference, reverse hotel reservations for library staff to attend annual library conference – not until February)

PO#010480 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Dec '05 warm storage

PO#010481 to Delta Concrete in the amount of \$9,017.46 for concrete used at the skating rink

PO#010482 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$10,192.25 for Nov '05 heating oil

PO#010483 to Delta Industrial Services in the amount of \$1,572.91 for warming blankets used on skating rink concrete, welding and bolts, nuts, washers, thread pipe used on ice arena sign, holding rack used for storing street signs, oil for loader)

PO#010484 to Emergency Medical Products, Inc. in the amount of \$906.09 for Delta Rescue Squad medical supplies

PO#010485 to GVEA in the amount of \$3,022.09 for Nov '05 electricity

PO#010486 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$2,513.56 for Nov '05 legal services (review Mike Murphy letter regarding accepting PILT, landfill and Charter Commission advice)

PO#010487 to Mikunda, Cottrell & Co. in the amount of \$2,516.73 for June '05 audit, progress billing

PO#010488 to NC Machinery Co. in the amount of \$2,878.15 for repair parts on landfill dozer and street grader

Heinbockel said he wanted the record to show that close to \$6,000 was added to expenses to maintain the newly constructed buildings. He said the old fire hall is just as efficient as the new ones.

Tvenge, referencing Mike Murphy's November 23 letter regarding the Pogo PILT agreement and PO#010486, asked if all letters from concerned citizens are processed through the attorney.

Hallgren said he would contact Jim DeWitt in regards to his response to the letter.

Heinbockel moved to approve purchase orders 010477 through 010488 as presented; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Zimmerman asked about Carpenter's invoice for the ice arena sign.

Hallgren said discussion would be postponed to the January 3 meeting.

Janet Boyer asked if the City Attorney's letter that discusses authority to levy taxes on the hotel and medical clinic (Enhanced Use Lease - EUL) was available to the public.

Hallgren said it was not considered confidential.

Boyer asked if residents would need extra equipment to receive TV signals off the repeater.

Hallgren said the standard analog signal would be broadcast. Because we are low-powered, we are grandfathered and are not required to become digital.

Boyer asked if the City was submitting the borough charter petition to LBC. She also asked how many signatures would be attached.

Leith-Dowling said the petition would be mailed to City Consultant Lamar Cotten and the signature count was over 250.

Boyer asked if the \$2 million in impact funds would be used to renovate the recreation center so that it would house the zamboni, locker rooms and restrooms.

Hallgren said part of the remaining impact funds would be used to upgrade the existing rec center. If the building cannot be upgraded the money will be used to construct another facility nearby that would provide water, heat and restrooms.

Boyer asked if the Fire Marshal confirmed that construction of a new stand-alone building would not require upgrades to the existing building.

Hallgren said it is not clear how far the new building must be from the existing facility without affecting the requirements on the existing one. That would be a question he would ask the engineers.

Boyer said two years ago it was very clear that any improvement to the rink facility that resulted in increased public turnout would require a sprinkler system. Constructing another building (with heated restrooms and locker rooms) in close proximity to the existing facility would draw more people and be considered improvements. She said that question must be answered before plans are made to construct a stand-alone facility.

Hallgren said he would have the professionals address that.

Boyer asked why the Fire Marshal's input is not asked, if he is the one who makes the decision.

Gilbertson said the Fire Marshal comes to Delta only when responding to a complaint.

Boyer said she thought there should be a strategic plan. \$20,000 was recently spent on concrete at the existing rink.

Heinbockel said water, restrooms and a place for the zamboni are needed. The engineers need to understand that the existing structure must be incorporated with the construction of a new facility.

Hallgren said he discussed that with Jantz.

Heinbockel said locker rooms and restrooms are similar to a lean-to attached to the Brett Arena in Wasilla. He has heard comments regarding activities to include in the new rec center, such as a bowling alley, swimming pool, a fitness center and theatres. Heinbockel said he knows of a privately owned bowling alley in the Mat-Su Valley that went out of business because they could not make money.

Another theatre is open a few days a week for the same reason. Therefore he would be hard to convince that the City of Delta Junction, a governmental agency, should provide what the private enterprise should be providing. No private enterprise in Delta would compete against the existing rink. He said he thought a bowling alley could survive, but not a theatre.

Boyer said a theatre is a money-losing business.

Feilner said Ft. Greely had a theatre, bowling alley and swimming pool. She asked if they would bring them back.

Gilbertson said 600+ residents signed a petition that recently circulated regarding opinions on use of a bowling alley.

Tvenge asked Gilbertson to clarify a statement that appeared in Boyer's article in the last local newspaper that referenced construction of a new recreation center and he was quoted as saying, "And we're not talking about ice."

Gilbertson said his definition of a rec center did not mean recreation limited to ice. He meant a multi-purpose rec center that included activities for the whole community. He did not mean to nix skating activities.

Heinbockel said Soldotna has an ice facility that also includes meeting rooms and weight rooms.

Feilner suggested reviewing the dome idea.

Hallgren displayed and explained the zamboni room / locker rooms / restrooms design as last presented by the Skating Association. Jantz commented earlier today that the locker rooms were probably too small for high school teams. He suggested including a movable partition or door between the two locker rooms.

Tvenge said part of the logic in the design is to host high school tournaments. The rooms may just need to be enlarged to accommodate the players.

Hallgren said he would take the plans to MACTEC for their review.

ADJOURNMENT

Feilner moved to adjourn at 8:10PM; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White
City Clerk

Date of approval: January 3, 2006