



**City Council Minutes**  
**January 3, 2006 ~ 5:00PM**

**Regular Meeting**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2006 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Pro tem Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:02PM with a quorum (4) present.

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

Council member excused: Mayor Roy Gilbertson, Leslie Feilner

City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Dave Boadwine, Pat White

Four members from the community were also present.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Leith-Dowling reported:

- ✓ Guest speaker Robert Layne would not address the Council under *Request to Speak*, but would present an update regarding the Gerstle River Expansion Area at the January 17 meeting
- ✓ *Ice Arena Sign* under *Unfinished Business* would also be postponed until January 17 and therefore Purchase Order 010517 would be postponed as well

Heinbockel asked to delay *Reports* (except for Fire Chief Carin Bear who was present in the audience) in tonight's meeting until after action items are addressed.

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

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

Heinbockel reported one error in that the Brett Arena is located in Wasilla, not Soldotna.

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2005 meeting as amended; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

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

Janet Boyer asked if discussion regarding the ice arena sign was not a topic because there was no one present to represent the bill.

Leith-Dowling stated it would be postponed to January 17 because of Wayne Carpenter's prior commitments.

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE** - Pete Hallgren's April 11, 2005 letter to Melinda Brunner, DOT, regarding paving on the Richardson Highway and his December 29, 2006 letter to Jerry Rafson, DOT, regarding 2006-2008 STIP comments

Hallgren reported he submitted comments prior to the December 31 deadline and complained to DOT that the Jarvis Creek Bridge was not part of the 2006-2008 STIP. He said he also offered positive comments regarding passing lanes on the Richardson Highway which were listed on the STIP.

## **REPORTS**

**Fire Department** – Carin Bear reported Dave Boadwine has agreed to complete the work necessary to install a 2 1/2" hose (a fire engine fill system) and a sink for washing masks and other equipment. She stated annual Fire Department reports were submitted to the Fire Marshal by December 31 but it was the "last sigh that the computer could muster." A new computer needs purchased. Bear stated she would be very grateful if City officials could encourage Deltana to resolve their radio situation. Presently there is no local communication unless it is radio to radio. Otherwise everything must be communicated through dispatch. She said Deltana Fire Department moved to the Mill-Tan site (Andreassen's tower) and plans to move back to the Alascom tower. Bear stated there must be communication between the two departments. She also said she was concerned with the cost once everyone is using the ALMR (Alaska Land Mobile Radio) system because the technology was ahead of the price tag. Fees are not due until the first of this year.

Hallgren said he would work on resolving the fire departments' communication problem and said, "It would not be the simplest thing in the world."

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - none

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2006-04, A Resolution Honoring Thomas M. Devanney, Deputy Director of Ground-Based Midcourse Defense**

Hallgren said Thomas Devanney was particularly helpful to the whole community during the final days of BRAC in 1995 and through authorization of the Missile Defense program. He was involved in Delta receiving impact funding. Hallgren said Devanney would be honored at a retirement celebration in Huntsville, Alabama on January 5 and 6.

Heinbockel moved to adopt Resolution 2006-04, A Resolution Honoring Thomas M. Devanney, Deputy Director of Ground-Based Midcourse Defense; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

## **Passing Lanes, MP 265-341 Richardson Highway**

Hallgren referred to a map in the *State of Alaska Draft Design Study Report, Richardson Highway MP 265-341 Passing Lanes*, dated December 2005. He said review comments are due January 6, 2006. Basically \$5 million is designated to build passing lanes and 7 were identified between Delta Junction and Fairbanks. He asked Council for any comments.

Leith-Dowling said passing lanes were seriously needed in all 7 areas.

Heinbockel said some passing lanes only had a half-mile separation between them. Convoys can expand further than a half mile.

Discussion followed regarding the areas chosen for the passing lanes.

Heinbockel said he was not opposed to any one of the passing lanes because they would all be improvements.

Tvenge asked for signs to be posted in advance that would announce the passing lanes.

## **Purchase Orders**

PO#010513 to Jan Dick in the amount of \$5,531.40 for EMT training classes

PO#010514 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$6,633.30 for Jan '06 group health insurance  
PO#010515 to Big Brothers / Big Sisters in the amount of \$8,468.04 for FY06 1st quarter Social Service Grant  
PO#010516 to Bound Tree Medical LLC in the amount of \$1,791.78 for EMT equipment  
PO#010517 to Carpenter Contracting in the amount of \$4,255.00 for Ice Arena sign labor  
PO#010518 to Delta Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$10,000.00 for FY06 1st quarter Social Service Grant  
PO#010519 to Delta Lock & Key in the amount of \$1,595.75 for locksmith services at library and Rescue Squad  
PO#010520 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$947.79 for Dec '05 gas and oil for vehicles  
PO#010521 to Delta Youth Court in the amount of \$5,393.50 for FY06 1st quarter Social Service Grant  
PO#010522 to Hope Counseling Center in the amount of \$7,666.94 for FY06 1st quarter Social Service Grant  
PO#010523 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$1,220.00 for Dec '05 consultant services  
PO#010524 to Sam's Club in the amount of \$617.91 for office and cleaning supplies (copier paper, paper towels, trash bags, Lysol cleaners)  
PO#010525 to State of Alaska, DEC in the amount of \$830.00 for annual fee of landfill wastewater  
PO#010526 to Stewart Signs in the amount of \$8,262.00 for Ice Arena sign including freight  
Heinbockel moved to approve purchase orders 010513 through 010526 with the exception of 010517; Tvenge seconded.  
Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

#### **REPORTS Continued**

**City Administrator** – Pete Hallgren reported he spoke with MACTEC regarding the rec center. Hopefully they can provide rough drawings and cost estimates at the next City Council meeting on January 17. They are contacting the State Fire Marshal to make sure any auxiliary building is kosher and would not require the upgrade of the existing facility. MACTEC would also contact the architect who dealt with upgrades at the Brett Arena in Wasilla. Hallgren said the landfill and why the septic pits are almost full was also discussed. MACTEC said they neglected to inform our operators to leave the valve open all summer.

Boadwine said the operation manual instructed that the valves are kept closed for one year to allow a freeze-thaw cycle. MACTEC presented paperwork on December 5, 2005 that is far different from what is in the manual. He said he checked today and the tubes are not frozen. The system is not leaching whatsoever. Boadwine said he opened the valves during a warm spell and measured about 5 gallons of rainwater from each pit. It was not septic waste. He said the system is not working. The sludge pit is not leaching into the 8" pipe. He said the valves were open all summer until dumping began in October. The 2 inches of sand and perforated pipe are buried in a layer of gravel. The sand may be too fine to leach through.

Discussion followed regarding the septic waste system.

Heinbockel asked if it is possible to make it through the winter and a thaw cycle.

Boadwine said, "Not with only 4 inches of usable pit left." 5'8" of sludge was accumulated in a six-month period.

Hallgren said he would e.mail digital photos to MACTEC. He said that according to our records only half the space in the pits has been used.

Zimmerman said 64,000 gallons of septic waste was dumped through the end of November but the two-pit capacity is 120,000 gallons.

Boadwine said he calculated the gallons per cubic feet and believes there might possibly be more being dumped than what is being reported. He said there may also be an expansion factor due to freezing.

Hallgren said there is concern whether more volume has been dumped than what has been reported. Heavy sheetrock was also found in the garbage bins between closing and opening of business hours and

septic haulers are the only ones who have been given keys. He suggested possibly getting a surveillance camera.

Boadwine said he believed the garbage incident happened on only one occasion.

Discussion followed regarding unreported dumping and monitoring the pits.

Heinbockel said septic haulers increased their rates to customers because of the extra distance in hauling to the new landfill. Keys were issued to them for their convenience. He said maybe keys should be taken back and haulers should deliver during business hours.

Boadwine stated he is waiting for a response from Kent Monroe from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) because he asked about opening the old landfill.

Discussion followed regarding the functioning of the new septic pits compared to what was available at the old landfill.

Hallgren said MACTEC expressed they had not trained our people with the operation. He said Art Saarloos was completing the necessary survey and work to subdivide the Waldo property. It would be sold in the spring according to the terms of sale outlined by ordinance (2005-08, dated June 21, 2005). Hallgren also reported \$9,764 had been collected in fire subscriptions. The number of subscribers has increased because of people responding to advertisement in the local paper.

**Library** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported \$130,000 was received from Rasmuson as part of the matching grant fund. She said she does not believe there will be attempt to raise the other \$70,000 by June 2006. She stated the new lock system at the library is working well.

**Recreation** – Mike Tvenge reported he, Roy Gilbertson, Mark Carpenter, and Shannon Nichols installed the Ice Arena sign during the Christmas holiday. The following day it proved it could withstand Delta winds. Tvenge said Gilbertson suggested positioning a platform to make it easier when changing out letters and he agreed with that. Tvenge said the sign has not yet been wired. He asked if no-parking signs or bollards could be installed next summer to prevent people from parking in front of the exit doors.

Boadwine said he would order (4) signs and place them. It would take approximately one week.

**Public Works** – Dave Boadwine reported snow is not an issue but occasionally he grades approaches and bus loading zones. He would switch to courser gravel in the sander also.

**Charter Commission** – Lou Heinbockel reported the charter petition was submitted to the LBC today.

#### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Janet Boyer asked how many landfill keys were issued.

Hallgren said at least five.

Boyer asked about drinking water at the library.

Hallgren said it is being tested again and should be resolved by January 5.

#### **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Tvenge said he reviewed the borough petition and noticed the ice rink was budgeted at \$13,000 and the cemetery was \$12,000 in the FY07 projected expenditures. He asked if the Skating Association would still maintain the rink building if Delta were to become a borough.

Heinbockel said that budgeted amounts were based on past records. It is not locked in concrete but rather a point to start from. Operation of the rink might be a borough assembly decision. Heinbockel referenced purchase order 10525, stating \$830 is paid to the State of Alaska annually to dump septic waste into the landfill.

Hallgren said an estimate of \$16,000 is generated income off septic waste disposal in one year.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 5:45PM; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.