



City Council Minutes
January 17, 2006 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Thomas “Roy” Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

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

Council member excused: none

City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Dave Boadwine, Butch Ellis, Pat White
Nine members from the community and three out-of-town guests were also present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gilbertson reported items to add to *New Business*:

- ✓ Gostev Subdivision – first item of *New Business*
- ✓ PO#010577 to ACS, 010578 to DBS, 010579 to GVEA, 010580 to Guess & Rudd

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 minutes from the January 3, 2006 meeting as presented; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER / OATH OF OFFICE

(Council accepted Lynnetta Marcellus’ December 9 letter of resignation on December 20, 2005. Three letters of interest were submitted for the Seat E vacancy.)

Rules were established in how the voting would proceed. Paper ballots were distributed.

Heinbockel stated he would prefer people run for City Council because the public should decide who serves instead of the Council having to fill vacancies by appointment.

White collected the ballots. She and Hallgren tallied them.

Hallgren reported Michael Jenkins would fill Council Seat E until the next regular election in October 2006.

White administered the Oath of Office and Jenkins joined the table to serve as a newly appointed Council member.

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.

REQUEST TO SPEAK - Robert Layne, Natural Resource Specialist with DNR, and Michael Jaynes, Environmental Program Manager with DEC presented an information update on the Gerstle River Expansion Area. Layne referenced his October 12, 2005 response letter written to the Department of Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska and Jaynes referenced his October 19, 2005 letter written to Teresa Thomas, Army Corps of Engineers.

Layne presented a brief history of the Gerstle River area, which lies 20 miles south of town on the Alaska Highway. He said the U.S. military needed to conduct chemical warfare and biological testing in the 1950's. They designated areas in Alaska that were semi-wilderness and in 1954 19,000 acres, a rectangle that butts up against the Gerstle River, was selected. It was operated until the early 1960's when they decided more space was needed. 80,000 acres were then leased from the State of Alaska and the federal government. It is known as the Gerstle River Expansion Area. Layne referenced a map, *Gerstle River Expansion Area and Test Site*, dated 8-9-99, and explained the expansion area was approximately 125 square miles of land. According available records, it was determined that testing was not conducted in the whole area. The areas of concern were narrowed to approximately half a dozen sites. Another investigation of the Gerstle area was started in 1994 because of a congressional mandate to reinvestigate all chemical warfare sites in conjunction with the Chemical Warfare Treaty that federal government planned to sign. The Hajdukovich Fire started two months into the investigation. State Forestry had it under control but was forced to stop when the federal government backed out of the area. Approximately 22,000 acres were lost to that fire. Layne said it has been a goal for the past ten years to clean the Gerstle River site so that it is safe for recreation and firefighting, if need be. The areas of concern were narrowed to a few sites (9, 10, and 11), the borrow pits, etc. along the 1392 road off of the Alaska Highway, and a couple sites that were in the testing area. Layne said in order to feel comfortable with the public accessing the area they (DEC and DNR) requested more extensive research and calculations of the breakdown of the chemical by-products. Specific concerns related to residues that would still be a nerve agent even though they would be much weaker than their original state. They would still potentially be toxic or lethal. Research shows the breakdown of the by-products over the past 20 to 30 years in some areas. However, that research was conducted where conditions are substantially different than those in Alaska. Layne stated another concern addressed a reported HE round which was reportedly located on or near the test site. It was claimed to be a malfunctioned round located on the rim of the test site (9a), not State land. Two of the three gravel pits along the river were used as dumps. The government cleaned out the majority of the contents a couple years ago. Layne said cleaning the land filled areas reduced the threat. However, he had concerns regarding residuals because of which chemicals were used, the amount of chemicals used, and poor record keeping in the 1950's and 60's. Layne asked that the soils be removed from one of the borrow pits because they may potentially contain residuals from the myriad of chemicals that were utilized. Static testing, another form of chemical warfare (rounds blown from trees) was conducted on Site 11. There is no concern regarding dud rounds but there is concern regarding residue. Clearing of Sites 9 and 10 for chemical rounds was done fairly well but flaws in data and in grid placements have not yet been addressed. Restrictions from firefighting around the actual test sites (9, 10, and 11) will remain in place especially if equipment is needed.

Gilbertson asked if digital aerial mapping could be used to identify metal. Photos taken of the test area could be compared to ones taken in an uncontaminated area.

Layne said locating metal was not the problem. He explained the formula used to identify potential chemical rounds from the magnetometer work in which a search was conducted in 1995 to locate two potential rounds the size of a 155-m round that had 3/8" to 1/2" steel walls at Sites 9 and 10. They found 10,000 potential signatures on each test site.

Michael Jaynes stated calculations related to the magnetometer results were not initially satisfactory. GEOPHEX Consultant Jim Pastoric was hired by DEC for his third-party expertise in conducting the work on Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) sites. Pastoric is now confident the investigation was accurate. Jaynes stated DEC and DNR would like to manage the site with what they know.

Layne said confidence in the research was not boosted when, not 2 minutes after Clearwater Environmental concluded intrusive investigation, a hunk of metal that would have shown up as a signature of concern was found in the area that was claimed to have been 100% cleared. Clearwater's findings were that there were no unexploded rounds on the test sites. However, Layne said a certain amount of findings must be accepted without further information or data.

Hallgren asked for clarification, that DNR and DEC commented on inadequacies in the closeout report.

Layne said questions and issues were submitted to the Corps of Engineers (COE) but to date they have not responded. He is attempting to schedule a meeting to discuss concerns.

Feilner asked about testing for contamination in area creeks.

Layne said creeks are seasonal and only run periodically but DEC tested wells along the Alaska Highway near the Gerstle in 1995 and 1996. Chances of pollution in residential wells is incredibly small because the test sites were quite a distance away and ground water in that region can be deep. Layne said any contamination from nerve agents would be bound up in soil and therefore of greater concern at the sites themselves.

Jaynes stated managing the site with the acquired knowledge from research results is the present issue. The data indicates there are fairly minimal risks. Jaynes said he asked the Corps of Engineers experts to confirm degradations on the test sites. He explained an equation in a worst-case scenario: If 78 shells were fired an estimate of 593 pounds of VX (nerve gas) is released. The chemical is not capable of vaporizing or being exposed to the sun, so after 32 years only 1/2 pound still exists and after 50 years only 5 ounces is left. VX in its pure form is toxic at 1/10,000 of a milligram.

Heinbockel said testing was conducted in the summer of 1966 and its specific purpose was to determine how long the nerve gas would take to dissipate in order for troops to access the area. He said he participated as a meteorological observer and his purpose was to support artillery. The testing was unbelievably haphazard. Heinbockel said he recalled the chemical did not dissipate rapidly in the muskeg environment, but 40-some years later the only concern should be unexploded ordnance, if there is any.

Layne said he agreed except that encapsulated, unexploded rounds of nerve agent would not break down.

Jaynes continued his mathematical calculations and said assuming 2% of 592 pounds of VX hydrolyzed (water added) it would form EA2192. That equals 11.86 pounds. The half-life in a low-PH-type environment is fourteen days. After 25 years 1.2 pounds of EA2192 would remain. If that 1.2 pounds were scattered over a 1,000 by 1,000 square foot area, the contamination would be .00000264 parts per million. It means not much potentially exists but he would like his calculations confirmed. Jaynes said there are no reports of anyone having any lasting effects from exposure to chemicals near Gerstle.

Layne said Healy Lake has tales regarding strange moose. If the chemical is 'only' active 20 or 30 years afterwards, what happened during the time period there was no restriction or monitoring? More information is needed to ensure safety of anyone accessing the area. The Gerstle area has unique circumstances due to organic soils, low PH, low temperatures and lack of accurate recorded documents.

Heinbockel said last year within a two-week period all the buildings were removed from the testing area.

Gilbertson asked if the land would ever be reverted back for public use.

Layne said the Test Site might not ever be released from federal control. It would likely be used for Stryker training. According to a Government Accounting Office (GAO) document written by a former commander from Ft. Greely, it would take an estimated 120-years with an 8-man crew working 40-hour weeks to clear it. Layne said the expansion area could be used except for the specific sites in question.

Jaynes said State agencies were presently coordinating how that land would be managed. He plans to create and distribute fact sheets that describe what chemical weapons were used, when they were used, how they were used, what risks are associated to them and how they were evaluated according to military conditions. A map would be included and the information would be helpful in determining how the site would be used. Unfortunately 100% clearance will not be given.

Layne said they were much further ahead than they were a decade ago. The whole area, which was a mystery, has been narrowed to approximately one square mile of concern. Both DNR and Fish & Game have observed the area is used a lot and for that reason it is important to make sure the area is safe.

Heinbockel said whole community ought to be concerned with the federal government's ability to pollute, contaminate and then have no responsibility to the public. He would be very leery of accessing the old site.

Jaynes said there are State agencies that were pushing for State rights. He said, "We're dealing with chemical weapons, not blasting powder."

Layne said the COE and Army have "held the cards." The volumes of information that have been produced for review are by the federal government except for what Jim Pastoric documented. Records were very concise between '62 and '67 regarding fieldwork but records were virtually non-existent between '54 and '62 as well as procedures for disposal actions. Crystal Fosbrook, the active military contact person, alluded to the fact that the information was available in Aberdeen, Maryland. Layne said it is difficult to "buy off" on the closure plans when documents and information are not available for review. He has asked for 7 years for a series of notebooks that were found at Ft. Greely but has not yet been able to obtain them.

Feilner asked if DNR has coordinated with Fish & Game. She asked, "Is the problem generational?"

Layne said it is not. Contact with the chemical is an acute emergency where impact causes the animal to drop over dead. It is assumed the chemical would break down. Layne said he ate blueberries on the site and in hindsight he would not have. The question is 'how much does it take of something potentially toxic and how much is currently present on the sites.' He said he was not comfortable in saying whatever is ingested is safe.

Discussion followed regarding levels of carcinogenic exposure.

Jaynes offered for Council and the public to contact them regarding questions and concerns.

Heinbockel said he felt better about accessing the expansion area than he did about the test site.

REPORTS

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported a teacher from Anchorage would instruct a one-day refresher course in hazardous waste operations on January 28. The City Fire Department plans to join Rural Deltana in the same radio program. Radios will not need reprogrammed when the fees are due in 2007. Both fire departments and the Delta Rescue Squad will share frequencies. Bear reported the Steese Fire Department in Fairbanks has "adopted" the City Fire Department and offered to mentor her as the City's Fire Chief. They donated a couple thousand dollars to repair and purchase equipment and they continue to provide training for the local firefighters. Bear said the Steese Fire Chief was one of the greatest in Fairbanks. She stated the City Fire Department would participate in a fire prevention program with Deltana on January 21. The program relates to safe and defensible structures along the Alcan Highway. Bear also reported firefighters participated in a National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS) class with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

Airport – Leslie Feilner reported the Pilots' Association has discussed posting signs as an effort to prohibit traffic from accessing the runway. The City plans to order "no motorized vehicle" signs that the pilots will post in the spring when weather permits. The signs would address automobiles, four-wheelers and snow machines.

Boadwine said he had yet to coordinate with Jack Morris.

Feilner said some pilots are utilizing one of the pilot's private properties instead of at the regular tie-down area. It makes the traffic issue more significant.

Layne asked if the shooting range (located not far from the city airport, between the Richardson Highway and the Delta River) was still in use.

Heinbockel said it was unofficially.

Layne said the State's stance was that it not be used. If people are discharging firearms it should be an AST / public safety issue, especially with airplanes in the same vicinity.

Discussion followed regarding the dangers involved with activity at the old shooting range.

Layne said he would gladly work with any non-profit entity that identified a piece of State land that could be turned into a safe shooting range.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported there was evidence of at least two loads of septic waste delivered to the landfill in the past two weeks but only one load was reported. Each pit holds slightly more than 60,000 gallons. 110,000 gallons of septic waste has been dumped into the pits since opening in July but only 70,000 was reported. Hallgren said he knows of only 5 septic haulers who were issued keys. Each one purchased a license from the City to use the facility. He would order a surveillance camera and asked if locks should be changed and if haulers should be limited to landfill business hours. He said the honor system had failed because septic haulers were not leaving recorded messages when they access the landfill.

Leith-Dowling said it was time to take away the keys. She asked how many runs were actually considered emergencies. She said she did not like being put in a position to mistrust.

Heinbockel said septic haulers require flexibility without incurring extra cost of sending a City employee out to meet their needs. The surveillance camera would resolve the issue.

Martinez asked how much a camera would cost.

Hallgren said he estimated less than \$1,000.

Heinbockel said septic haulers blame the City for having to increase their rates to the customers. Yet the customers have paid for the 40,000 gallons of septic waste that the haulers have not reported to the City. Heinbockel suggested the major culprit be denied use of the landfill and be forced to haul to Fairbanks or find other means to do business. Not everyone is dishonest. He has received reports of sighting of a particular vehicle accessing the landfill at all hours of the night.

Hallgren said the City was not prepared to name any official party. DEC has given permission to use the old landfill site on a temporary basis once a permit is applied for. A long-term policy regarding operation of the new landfill system must be submitted when application for the permit is submitted. He said he was working with the engineers.

Hallgren continued his report:

- A part-time janitor was hired to take Connie Morley's position.
- An Alaska Railroad representative will be a guest speaker at the February 21 meeting. Discussion will follow regarding the railroad extension coming through Delta Junction.
- An Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) teleconference was held today. The EUL concerns the proposed hotel and clinic. The military reported proposals were due by February 2.
- During a Roundtable meeting today it was reported the Eddy Drop Zone decision is likely to be made by early March. Hopefully the decision is one that can be accepted.

School Liaison – Leslie Feilner reported she attended a Mental Health Roundtable on January 16. Quality Schools and Quality Students, also known as QS2, was the topic of discussion. Focus of the grant is to improve student achievement. One recurring theme is the increasing need to identify and support children with mental health needs. Services that would be instrumental in response to future needs of the community must be identified. Feilner said the meeting was deemed a good beginning in discussing mental health issues. In the spring, once the survey is returned, a service plan will be formulated. Feilner reported on a meeting to discuss bus schedule changes. The elementary presently has a long delay between bus runs. Thirteen of the seventeen buses have scheduling problems.

DREDC – Mike Tvenge reported DREDC met on January 16 and decided on a new plan for hiring a Recreation Coordinator. He referenced the *Request for Proposals – Deltana Activities / Recreational Assessment*, which was drafted by DREDC. They opted to not recruit another VISTA but instead RFP for someone to first start with a needs assessment in regards to community recreation and social events. The job requires developing surveys for youth, adult and family recreation, developing a list of nonprofit organizations, a monthly list of community activities and assembling a master calendar of community recreation / social events. RFPs are due by February 27.

Mike Jenkins stated DREDC would hire an independent contractor for a 3-month time period to get the program started. Thereafter the qualified person would reapply until the job is complete.

Tvenge said the program is more doable and will provide the next coordinator something to work with.

Hallgren said the recommendation to City Council is to accept the sub-grant under Social Services and to advertise the RFP.

Heinbockel moved to authorize DREDC to move forward with the proposal as presented; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Tvenge stated DREDC maintains the right to reject any bids.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Hallgren stated Councilmen Tvenge and Jenkins are both DREDC members. He noted that neither would have any financial or personal gain from approving the recommendation.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the library has good water and heating issues seem to be lessening. The one-year anniversary celebration of the new library opening is scheduled for January 22 from 1:00 to 4:00PM. Jane Oliver will unveil her stained glass art that was created from a Rasmuson Artist grant. Leith-Dowling reported Ann Rasmussen resigned from the Library Board in which she served for the past 25 years. She said PFD and IRS documents were available at the library. Archive boxes have been ordered and they will be used to properly store historical past issues of local newspapers. She said some furniture items are in the process of being replaced.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported activity at the rink has been very busy since the Christmas break. The Ice Arena sign is wired and functions well. The messages are updated regularly. “No parking” signs are still a priority and necessary to prevent diesel vehicles from parking near entrance doors where they are left running. There have been delays in cleaning up accumulated aluminum cans. Community service workers are presently involved in accomplishing the task. Tvenge said the Skating Association rented the rink facility to Alaska Mechanical Inc. (AMI – the elementary school building contractor) throughout the summer. \$9,000 is due but nothing has been paid. The Skating Association attempted to go through Willis (bonding agency in Anchorage) but found AMI had dropped them. He plans to meet with the AMI Vice-President and will report his findings. Tvenge said AMI was appreciative to use the rink facility and verbalized it often. He could not accept being stiffed by AMI from not paying the \$1,000/month.

Zimmerman suggested filing a lien against the new school building and secondly send the invoice to the school district, requesting a dual-payment check.

Discussion followed regarding filing requirements.

Public Health & Safety – Pablo Martinez asked Carin Bear about communication with Deltana.

Bear said hand-held and mobile radios would be programmed with the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) system to enable communication between fire departments.

Charter Commission – Mary Leith-Dowling said 4 signatures (of the 259 that signed the Deltana Home Rule Borough Petition) were not valid. Progress on the petition is still moving forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ice Arena Sign and PO#010517 to Carpenter Construction in the amount of \$4,255.00 for ice arena sign labor

Tvenge reported he discussed the bill presented by Mark Carpenter. He had not realized the bill would be the size it was.

Leith-Dowling said she talked to Carpenter who offered to deduct \$500 from the bill. He said he was having vehicle problems and was unable to attend the meeting. Carpenter stated he paid both a part-time worker and one that worked full time.

Tvenge said the sign involved numerous hours to research, purchase and install it. He understood it was all volunteer time and was disappointed to receive a bill for services.

Heinbockel said he would like an altered bill in writing.

Heinbockel moved to approve PO#010517 in the amount of \$500 less than \$4,255.00. Should Mr. Carpenter not accept that, he would readdress the issue at the next meeting on February 7; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Heinbockel said installation of the sign is one accomplishment at the rink in the past 5 years.

Feilner stated a precedent is being set for the community and business owners. When an agreement is made, that handshake is a covenant. She asked to reconsider approving the bill, especially because Carpenter is unwilling to publicly discuss the bill.

Martinez stated unless the contract was in writing the bill must be paid. In the future handshake agreements are to be in writing.

Jenkins asked if the City ordered the job done through Carpenter.

Tvenge said installation was approved. Some costs were known.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Gostev Subdivision

Heinbockel stated one parcel is to be divided into two 2-acre lots.

Hallgren said the Gostev property is located in the Jack Subdivision. He spoke with Sebastian Saarloos of Delta Surveys Associates who said there are presently no recorded covenants in this Jack Subdivision.

Heinbockel moved to approve the application of the Gostev Subdivision as presented; Jenkins seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

GIS Professional Proposal

Hallgren said the GIS mapping program costs about \$1,000/year to maintain. Letha Burcham keeps track of new addresses, new electrical hookups and updating the first responder and E911 maps in the Delta area. Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) recommended Peter Hickman, a consultant who resides in North Pole. He would provide assistance and training to Burcham that would include instruction in entering data and printing maps. Peter Hickman charges \$105/hour. Hallgren said he would like to invite Hickman to Delta. His first trip would likely clarify how much time would be required to accomplish the training.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the GIS mapping proposal with a maximum of \$2,000; Jenkins seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc. – Fee Waiver Request for January 13

Heinbockel moved to approve the retro fee waiver request for Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc. to use the conference room on January 13; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

City Hall Carpeting

Hallgren explained the history of plans to re-carpet City Hall. He referred to the third cycle of getting quotes (which was distributed as confidential information to Council members). Hallgren recommended accepting Florcraft's bid in the amount of \$28,000 and deducting \$798 if rubber base carpet is used. He suggested not using rubber based and said the overall price could be ultimately higher because of having to move furniture during installation.

Leith-Dowling moved to award the carpet contract to Florcraft, Inc. in the amount of \$28,000.00; Feilner seconded.

Feilner asked when the last time new carpet was installed.

Leith-Dowling said seventeen years ago.

Heinbockel asked where the funding would come from.

Hallgren said it would be paid out of Missile Defense impact funds, the remaining money to be used in the recreation center. He said City Hall carpeting and the front sidewalk are projects that have been in the plans for the past two years.

Motion failed on a roll call vote with four (Tvenge, Martinez, Jenkins, Heinbockel) voting against and two (Leith-Dowling, Feilner) voting in favor. Motion failed before Mayor Gilbertson cast his vote.

Hallgren asked for direction, go out for bids again or inform Missile Defense that there are no longer plans to re-carpet the building?

Discussion followed regarding hiring locally, the present condition of the floors and making further inquiries.

Heinbockel said the carpet is functional, the building is warm and lighted but the skating rink is without heat and water. He asked to stop spending money that needs to be put into a recreational facility.

Gilbertson asked to consider replacing the carpet in the City Hall office area under force accounting. There are qualified local people who could install it and costs would be cut in half.

Purchase Orders

PO#010530 to Debra Heral in the amount of \$762.50 for transcribing meeting minutes for Borough charter and LEPC

PO#010531 to Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks in the amount of \$525.00 for clerk training for Pat White (AML conference in Anchorage in Nov '05, AAMC conference in Fairbanks in Feb '06)

PO#010532 to Alaska Municipal League in the amount of \$1,509.00 for 2006 membership

PO#010533 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$806.81 for Jan '06 E911 phone service

PO#010534 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,354.79 for Dec '05 credit card charges (Lamar Cotten travel to/from Anchorage, Joyce McCombs travel to Juneau Library conference in Feb '06, Pete Hallgren travel to El Paso in Dec '05 for US Army MD conference and copier supplies)

PO#010535 to City of Fairbanks in the amount of \$4,656.96 for dispatch services (\$776.16 per month x 6 months)

PO#010536 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$4,941.80 for Dec '05 fuel

PO#010537 to Delta Sanitation, Inc. in the amount of \$522.48 for Dec '05 garbage service

PO#010538 to Emergency Medical Products, Inc. in the amount of \$1,180.06 for Rescue Squad supplies

PO#010539 to ESRI in the amount of \$1,000.00 for E911 mapping software update

PO#010540 to IKON Financial Services in the amount of \$971.97 for Jan '06 copier lease + extra copies

PO#010541 to Interior Building Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$542.30 for ice chipper and fluorescent bulbs for City Hall, electric outlet cover for Library, and photo eye, light bulbs and sawzall blades for street lights

PO#010577 to ACS in the amount of \$1,289.82 for Jan '06 phone services

PO#010578 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Jan '06 warm storage

PO#010579 to GVEA in the amount of \$2,288.48 for Dec '05 electricity

PO#010580 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$4,706.23 for Dec '05 legal services (hotel taxation and Charter Commission)

Leith-Dowling moved to approve purchase orders 010530 through 010541 and 010577 through 010580 as presented; Feilner seconded.

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

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nick Herman stated he was a Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) representative. He said Council had requested a recommendation from DCC regarding a multi-use recreation facility. He asked how much money was earmarked for the facility.

Hallgren stated \$2 million. The City's capital construction wish list that was submitted to the legislature requested an additional \$2 million toward the project but a recreational facility was not listed above

street paving. He said the 1999 study estimated upgrade and adding new functions would cost a little over \$4 million. That included a teen center on the second floor. Construction of a new facility should cost considerably more because of inflation. The current earmarked \$2 million should allow major improvements through an adjoining building or upgrading the existing building. Architect Merle Jantz is presently reviewing the designs.

Janet Boyer said she thought there was previous discussion to find a firm that had completed upgrades to similar facilities.

Hallgren said it might be preferable to Council members to upgrade the existing building rather than construct a separate new building. He said he was authorized to have MACTEC speak to architects who worked on the Wasilla facility. USKH had reviewed the facility for MACTEC in the spring of 2004 to determine what was necessary to bring it up to code.

Boyer asked what the City was incurring for the review.

Hallgren said he did not know what the charge would be. He said MACTEC was also tasked to determine if the existing building must be brought up to code if a separate facility is built nearby.

Boyer asked how much the unreported 40,000 gallons of septic waste equated to in dollars.

Zimmerman said \$1,900.

Boyer asked if there is no concern regarding damaging or tampering with the surveillance camera.

Heinbockel said the camera would be placed inside the scale house.

Boyer asked about approving payment for installation of the skating rink sign. Was the amount too high by \$4,000 or \$500? She asked what the oral agreement was.

Tvenge said the amount is unknown. The original agreement stated a helper would be paid and materials would be paid. There was no dollar estimate and the project did not go out to bid because it was too minimal. Rink repairs, coaching, the Skating Association Board, most everything related to the rink is volunteered. Issues with the sign were because of the cold weather. Tvenge said, "The project was done but when is a person's word worth something?" He said he failed by not getting it in writing.

Hallgren said verbal agreements could be interpreted differently in good faith by both sides.

Bill Smith said he was at the Skating Association meeting when the topic was discussed. It was clear the work was to be volunteered. It was later misinterpreted. He said Council did the right thing in paying the bill but he wanted them to know that should a project come up again there are volunteers who are not contractors that are willing to do the work.

Stephen Hammond said he established his company in Delta several years ago and has attended periodic Council meetings since 2002. He provides engineering, consulting and contracting services and has been able to provide those services to the City on only one occasion and that was a minimal project. He asked about the procurement process that the City must abide to when hiring engineering services. He asked why he was not notified or asked to participate.

Gilbertson said he asked for his input regarding the rink 3 months ago.

Hammond said the City indicated he was to be issued a packet soliciting services but he has yet to receive it. It was just one example out of 4 years of doing business in Delta Junction.

Hallgren said Hammond was correct. He was instructed to issue packets and Hammond did not receive one because at the following meeting he was instructed to not spend money to educate new engineers and architects and to stay with MACTEC who had done the preliminary work on the rink. Hallgren explained RFP's were distributed to engineering companies in 2002 at the beginning of the Missile Defense impact projects. The City received responses from six companies. MACTEC was chosen for the landfill and another firm was chosen for the other projects. Later the other firm parted from the City and MACTEC took over the projects and became the "defacto" City engineering firm. There will be street projects this summer for paving next year.

Martinez stated it is a good habit to request proposals.

Hammond said he wished to educate new Council members. He employs 5 to 10 local employees and his money stays in Delta. His business is of value to this community. Hammond said he has a resume to

support his company and his services. He and his employees are interested in helping Delta Junction grow through their capacity of providing engineering services.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Feilner said she finds Dish Network (Channel 70 and 8299) so informative because the legislature sessions are televised from the Capitol Building in Juneau. Discussion of bills is very educational also.

Tvenge asked about Channel 7 on regular TV.

Hallgren said Channel 7 (KTVE) was to link into satellite a few weeks ago. Now the work is to be done "this week."

Jenkins said a couple meetings ago a resolution was passed to make the recreation center a priority.

Feilner said it was a City priority, not a legislative priority.

ADJOURNMENT

Feilner moved to adjourn at 7:27PM; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White

City Clerk

Date of approval: February 7, 2006