



City Council Minutes
February 7, 2006 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, February 7, 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, Mike Jenkins (arrived at 5:44PM)

Council member excused: none

City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Butch Ellis (6:17PM), Pat White
Seven members from the community were also present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

White reported changes to the agenda:

- ✓ The third line item under *New Business*, Brewis Subdivision Approval, was listed incorrectly. The subdivision is not Brewis but one that is adjacent to it and the topic was prematurely posted and will appear at a later date
- ✓ Pizza Bella Restaurant / Liquor License Renewal would be the first item of *New Business*

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the agenda as amended; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

White reported changes under *Request to Speak* of the January 17 minutes. She referenced where “magnetometer” replaced “megatometer” and she provided correct names in place of acronyms, UXO and GAO. She stated Michael Jaynes, DEC Environmental Program Manager, referenced an October 19, 2005 letter which she is still in correspondence about. She would be able to insert the correct data regarding the letter once Jaynes is able to provide it on February 8.

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2006 meeting as amended; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dan Beck, DGSD Superintendent, expressed appreciation to the City for the sand that was delivered to the school parking lot and driveway. It was helpful in dealing with the warm weather and ice.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Trooper Nasruk Nay – Formation of a Safe Schools Interagency Team Planning Program

Trooper Nay introduced himself, saying he was stationed in Delta Junction. He said he knew everyone present on one level or another. Nay and DGSD Superintendent Dan Beck, who was helping him formulate a team, attended a Safe Schools Forum in Washington, D.C. last year for the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children. Training was intended to entice communities to subscribe to more training for early intervention in neglected children's lives before they become juvenile delinquents, drug addicts or criminals as young adults. The purpose of the upcoming training, which is scheduled for the second week in May in Pittsburgh, is to have all the agencies in Delta Junction that work with children be able to work more effectively when sharing information. The training involves confidentiality issues. There is some freedom to share between the police department and schools if it pertains to child safety or school safety. It applies to Social Services, juvenile justice system and Mental Health (to a point). Locals participating in the *Safe Schools Interagency Team Planning Program* consist of himself, Nasruk Nay, representing the Alaska State Troopers (AST), Laural Jackson representing Delta-Greely School District (DGSD), Tracy Blais representing the State of Alaska Court System, Sandra Dighton attending as PTA President, Delta Youth Court board member and Deputy Magistrate, Pete Hallgren representing the City of Delta Junction, Myron Hosier, Supervisor for Office of Children's Services (OCS) in Delta Junction and Peter Hutter, Counselor for the Delta Elementary & Middle Schools. Tracy Dompeling, District Supervisor for Juvenile Justice in Fairbanks, will also attend the training. Nay said the training is to be shared with co-workers within their agencies. It teaches what current trends are nationwide in respect to juvenile delinquency and what can be implemented in our community as means of intervention to protect children that may be headed toward trouble. The training addresses violent catastrophes such as school shootings and explains traits and indicators to watch for in order to prevent them. Nay stated the planning program would allow different agencies to interact with each other in the interest of a child. The school may have disciplinary issues with a student, Social Services may be aware of problems at home and the troopers and the court system may be dealing with issues with the same child. The Team Planning Program would allow the agencies to effectively communicate with each other and hopefully intervene before the child goes to jail. Nay said there is no immediate fix but networking would allow agencies to work together.

Tvenge asked if the program is brand new.

Nay said there are many similar prevention programs available to schools. The *Safe Schools Interagency Team Planning Program* concept originates from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the nation's leading organization in child safety. Schools across the country are participating in the program. Nay said he attended training with approximately 50 people and of those in attendance were the school superintendent and the Chief of Police from the Miami School District. Benefits from the program will be more effective to the 1,500 to 2,000 Delta Junction resident children compared to 400,000 children in Miami.

Gilbertson said the agencies involved are appropriate. He thanked Nay and said he supported participation in the program because kids are the most important part of any community. Knowing someone cares makes a difference in a child's life.

Nay said it was important to advertise to as many community organizations as possible. He would speak at the next school board meeting on February 16 and hoped to again intellectual and moral support. Providing alternate places for kids will reduce juvenile activities. Community effort is needed to successfully subscribe to the program.

Feilner asked if the program was federally funded.

Nay said it was. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is a private, non-profit organization but is funded directly from Congress. As an example, retired police officers from across the country responded to the Hurricane Katrina crisis by answering phones 24 hours per day in Alexandria, Virginia. They assisted in reuniting missing children with their families. They can work with other states through a National Database and focus on child protection.

Feilner asked if the program would be ongoing or temporary.

Nay said it would depend upon support from the community and the ability to maintain momentum.

Dan Beck said the district received the Safe Schools Grant 4 or 5 years ago. Some things were started and they worked well when the grant was in place because there was interaction with the probation officer and Juvenile Justice. There have since been changes in interpretation regarding the release and sharing of information under the Family Rights and Protection Act. Written communication is prohibited unless appropriate procedure is followed but verbal communication between agencies is allowed. Counselors and principals continue to use remnants leftover from the Safe Schools meetings. There was no prior participation from OCS or AST though.

Nay said at some point participation in the program could be confrontational to someone. One or more of the agencies involved will have to address a parent regarding an "at risk" child. Community support is needed and a balance must be established so the system is not abused and remains beneficial.

Tvenge said the skating rink is open to the public for Sunday skating.

Nay said it is necessary to determine what resources are available. Brochures are available in other cities so why not an activity guide for Delta Junction?

DGSD Superintendent Dan Beck – Land Issues

Dan Beck, DGSD Superintendent, distributed maps showing the school district campus and surrounding areas. He told of the process that began in 1982. He explained the tracts and once DNR completes the survey DGSD wishes to get the title transferred to it. Beck said the dotted line along Tract C was designated for additional parking near the rink. The district would own Tract C. The smaller portion located in Tract C, identified as ADL 403102, and is where the university building is located. Beck said once they receive title to Tract C it would be easy to transfer something along that piece of property. The other issue is street vacation of North Clearwater. He referred to a second map and said the survey is complete for Kimball Street Extension. He said the district plans to retain both tracts, A and B. Tract B will possibly be used for additional ball fields. Kimball Street Extension bypasses Tract D as it connects to Nistler Road. Beck suggested approaching Alyeska, although they have been previously asked, about moving the road extension into the pipeline right-of-way. Presently, GVEA has given their permission to use the right-of-way. He asked for questions.

Hallgren explained some background and controversy regarding the school district building an extension off Kimball Street. Tract A, the northernmost tract, is the airplane tie-down area. The City earns no revenue off of it, nor do they maintain that section. The City Council has yet to approve vacating North Clearwater or a portion of it. Whether the City or school district would build the extension was also unknown. The issue was never resolved. Hallgren said it is important to note that dedication does not require construction. Long-term plans must be made. Hallgren said moving the north-south portion of the proposed road onto the pipeline would be useful to everyone involved. As it stands now, the State has contracted to survey a formal subdivision. Robert Layne from DNR said it would be easiest to complete the subdivision without street vacations and Kimball Street dedication, which could be done now or at a later time. Hallgren said he discussed the hockey rink facility with Layne. It is situated fairly close to the north boundary line. Should construction of an additional building become reality it would likely cross that boundary line and cause complications. Hallgren said he spoke to Layne about moving the boundary line. It could be done easily but not until the subdivision was complete. Both the City and the school district have interests in the matter.

Feilner asked if deeding the north tract (tie-down area) to the City was discussed with Robert Layne.

Hallgren said the tie-down area would be deeded to the City by the State when the subdivision was complete.

Beck said the district controls each of the tracts because of the Interagency Land Management Agreement (ILMA), which is an agreement to use the land that DNR owns. The district made a commitment a long time ago that they would deed Tract D, where the hockey rink is located, to the City once the process was completed. Moving the northernmost tract was also discussed.

Hallgren said the process would be stopped or severely slowed down if the school objected to the tie-down area being deeded to the City.

Beck said the district has no intention to do that.

Gilbertson said he understood Tract A and B were to be deeded to the City. Tract D and the area for the new building were also. He asked about the existing road.

Beck said liability issues were concerns to both the school and the City should a student be seriously injured or killed, especially because it has been an unresolved public issue for so long. Neither the district nor the City has money to build a road. An appropriation could be made should a borough be formed. Meanwhile, there needs to be an understanding that both are moving toward the same idea.

Gilbertson said crossing the pipeline would allow another 200 feet of parking space.

Beck said he would take the suggestion back.

Heinbockel said money is an object from both perspectives. He said the original road was platted and later constructed when the school expanded.

Feilner said she was opposed to closing North Clearwater because she utilizes the road. She said there was not enough traffic to pose a problem.

Discussion followed regarding the hazards of students crossing the road between the school buildings.

Beck said the idea is to create a corridor for pedestrians and eliminate automobile traffic. Parking would be on either side of the "fenced" walkway where students would cross.

Feilner said the road connects with the Richardson. It makes more sense to keep the road open.

Heinbockel said the Kimball Street Extension would solve the problem.

Tvenge said rerouting the road through a parking lot is only taking it back into the pedestrian area. Crossing the pipeline and accessing the Nistler Road further out would alleviate pedestrian traffic.

Gilbertson said the problem would no longer be an issue and needs to be addressed because it is a safety issue.

Discussion followed regarding past history of incidents regarding teenagers and traffic.

Martinez said the problem would increase with more people moving into town.

Beck said he would request the School Board meet with City Council to discuss the subject. Nistler Road is also a danger concern.

Gilbertson said an overpass on Nistler could be directed toward North Clearwater.

Beck said DOT would not approve of an overpass because drivers no longer watch for pedestrians who rightfully should be using the overpass.

Heinbockel said the area around the crosswalk is fenced and pedestrians are forced to go to a controlled intersection where they get run over.

Discussion followed regarding different scenarios and solutions.

Heinbockel said he was not sure a work session with the school district was necessary. It was a well-known fact that the City was not giving up North Clearwater until another route was created. That cannot be accomplished until there is funding.

Feilner asked if the transfer of the deed hinged on vacating North Clearwater.

Beck said he thought it did. All the land issues needed to be resolved.

Heinbockel said the City should keep North Clearwater and the school could keep the tie-down area.

Beck asked about a response to the school district's request for funding from the Pogo PILT.

Hallgren said the first \$100,000 is dedicated to hold down the landfill charges to the community, which leaves \$400,000. Currently the landfill is running an annual deficit on the first year's landfill operation of an additional \$40,000. He said he would be asking for another \$100,000 out of next year's (\$250,000) funding also. Administration funding is also running out and keeping city operations at the current levels is unsustainable. Part of Pogo's interest in providing the PILT was to maintain the City's staffing need and service level. Missile Defense impact funds that are designated for administrative funds would run out the end of this fiscal year, June/July 2006. Hallgren said the PILT would be needed to cover administrative costs. Should a borough be formed, the City and the school would join and obligation to fund education would go into effect.

Beck asked Hallgren if he would contact Alyeska about possibly putting a road near the pipeline. He would be out of town for the next week.

Hallgren said he would contact Robert Layne.

Beck said the pipeline is all State land.

Heinbockel said he would rather fund the school than spend money on the landfill.

Hallgren said rates can be minimized and the deficit eliminated if Ft. Greely utilizes the landfill.

Beck said the school is probably the biggest customer because they pay \$30,000+ for garbage service.

Feilner asked if the gas pipeline would run parallel to the oil pipeline. She questioned if the property needed near the hockey rink would be used for the oil pipeline.

Hallgren said it is likely the same corridor would be used but it depends upon the builder. He said there is also talk about the gas pipeline tying into the railroad right-of-way. Hallgren said the land is not needed, just the ability to place a road across it.

REPORTS

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported LEPC is active in solving radio communications problems. A HAZWOPER class was well attended and the training room at the fire station worked well. Bear said she ordered surplus equipment from a 2004 grant (remaining from previous Fire Chief). Dave Boadwine has begun hookup for a sink and the pressure fill system.

City Clerk – Pat White reported she attended the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC) Conference in Fairbanks on February 2 through 5. Updates on Division of Elections and Notary Law issues were included in the classes offered. Of the classes though, White stated she enjoyed the Paperless Packet Roundtable the most. She explained the process in which two clerks from Matanuska-Susitna Borough (population 75,000) sold their mayor and assembly on the concept. Because of the success several other communities were considering it.

White reported:

- Vendors attend the AAMC Conference each year. She dealt with one whose business was to preserve records. She asked, “Who would be responsible to preserve the City of Delta Junction’s records should a borough form and the City dissolve, the City or the proposed Deltana Borough?” White said each year another municipality reports their yearlong process in cleaning out records. Delta’s records will be a major undertaking and she said she would report progress. She was researching costs associated with preserving records should Delta Junction incorporate into a borough or continue as a second-class city.

Heinbockel said the borough charter proposes the borough would assume all liabilities and assets of the City of Delta Junction.

Hallgren said records would fit into either of those two categories.

Discussion followed regarding the process of preserving historical records and what vital records would be necessary in the event of a disaster.

- The Alaskan clerks voted to combine their annual AAMC Conference (in January/February) with the annual AML Conference (in November). This year’s AML Conference would be held in Juneau. Newly Elected Officials Training is always part of the AML Conference. In the meantime, Irene Catalone from Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (DCCED) agreed to provide training for our Council, particularly the newest members. White would make arrangements for the training.
- Council member Mike Jenkins agreed to accept responsibility as Council representative for *School Liaison* and would also partner with Leslie Feilner for *Park*.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported \$14,582 was collected in fire subscriptions. He said the process of getting reimbursed for fire service (\$50 from subscribers and \$2,500 from non-subscribers) has become more formal.

Hallgren reported:

- Channel 7 (KTVF) was attempting to install their satellite dish. Channel 5 (KUAC) will tie in with Channel 7. Hallgren said the present poor reception is because of the lousy signal being received by the translators. The Department of Public Works at Ft. Greely offered to plow the road to enable access for Channel 7.

Heinbockel said the problem might contribute to shifting of the old tower.

- ESRI instructor, Peter Hickman, who Council authorized to train Letha Burcham on GIS mapping, has come to Delta once. Burcham is extremely pleased with the service. Hickman will return on February 9 to provide more training.
- The FY 6-30-05 final audit was received. Hallgren said one reportable condition, which is called a material weakness in our general fund is cash reconciliation. It is because the City's finance module does not have a reconciliation module. All money is accounted for and the single audit for federal funds has no material weakness. Hallgren said he was researching a new requirement, Management Discussion and Analysis, which is basically a preview of what auditors expect to find in their research.
- Bob Morley requested to purchase the library pump for \$150. The new library well pump was too small and was replaced. Hallgren said the formal process in dealing with surplus equipment was to hold a sale periodically. Other used equipment consists of 4 or 5 computer monitors that were worth about \$25 each and 3 or 4 computers that may be worth something or they may not. Hallgren asked if a sale was necessary or if Morley's offer could be accepted. The pump does not have warranty. He said advertisement had not been done.

Feilner asked if advertisement was worthwhile.

Hallgren said he hesitated to throw monitors away. All shelving from the old library was donated to non-profit organizations. The same could be done with the old computers and monitors.

Heinbockel moved to sell the pump to Mr. Morley in the amount of \$150; Martinez seconded.

Discussion followed regarding cleansing computers and planning a surplus sale.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

School Liaison – Mike Jenkins reported the new school has some temperature regulation problems in a couple rooms, the new superintendent search is ongoing, new equipment is being installed in the Junior High gymnasium at Ft. Greely, and recent school bus changes appear to be successful. Jenkins stated school board meetings are broadcast over the local radio, KDHS 95.5. (School board meetings are scheduled the first Thursday of each month and work sessions are the third Thursday.)

DREDC – Mike Tvenge reported DREDC posted the Recreation Coordinator position in both the Delta Wind and Fairbanks News-Miner and the local websites (deltanewsweb.com and ci.delta-junction.ak.us).

Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported he received reports on the existing skating rink from architect Merle Jantz and local engineer Stephen Hammond. Both were favorable. He said due to extreme cold temperatures Alyeska provided the use of their Tioga heater inside the rink this past weekend. It was very well appreciated.

Heinbockel said some paint on the sign appears to be gone and was possibly sand blasted by weather.

Tvenge said the Ice Arena sign was still standing in spite of recent strong winds. Shannon Nichols did the welding and it was holding up very well. Tvenge said previous discussion centered on positioning a platform to assist in changing out lettering.

Heinbockel said it would be an invite for vandalism.

Discussion followed regarding changing letters.

Public Health & Safety – Pablo Martinez reported Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is working out final details for a planned Mass Casualty exercise in March. The exercise coordinates with the fire departments, medical responders and the Alaska State Troopers. The LEPC is also discussing an education program and distributing pamphlets to the public in the event of a natural disaster. They are also updating the committee's by-laws.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported he visited Donnelly towers today. Because of the wind it was not a good day to install a satellite dish. He said equipment operator Dave Boadwine had recently

graveled streets. Because of little snow this year the grader was not used often but the plow truck was on snowdrifts.

Hallgren said he researched a rudimentary surveillance system that qualifies under the construction portion of impact grants. He would purchase it and a motion detector next week.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison – Lou Heinbockel said he was pleased that the State was going to consider lowering the speed limit on the Alaska Highway, which the City had requested three different times. He said he attributed a recent accident to the excessive speed limit. A driver rear-ended a school bus during conditions of extreme cold weather and heavy ice fog. He said the diesel bus put out an unbelievable cloud of exhaust and the driver ran right into it.

Additional Reports by Council – Mike Tvenge reported Dave Boadwine posted the no-parking signs in front of the Ice Arena building.

Gilbertson said the sign should have been strongly worded to say “no diesel trucks.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -none

NEW BUSINESS

Pizza Bella Restaurant – Liquor License Renewal

Leith-Dowling moved to show no opposition to the liquor license renewal request by Pizza Bella Restaurant; Heinbockel seconded. **Motion carried** by unanimous consent.

DOT Re-Scoping Letter - Richardson Highway Reconstruction Project

Leith-Dowling referenced the January 25, 2006 re-scoping letter from the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT &PF). She said there was change to the proposed alignment of the Richardson Highway in conjunction with the replacement of the Jarvis Creek Bridge.

Hallgren said improvements would extend south of the landfill, an additional four miles of highway.

Heinbockel said he understood the extension would not make it to Waldo’s property and it would be immediately beyond the gate to the landfill.

Feilner asked about the timeframe of the work.

Hallgren said improvements were not in the 2006 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). He said he would respond to the DOT letter in agreement to their plans.

Shestopalov Subdivision Plat Approval

Heinbockel moved to approve the Shestopalov Subdivision Plat as presented; Jenkins seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Sale of Property – Lot 5, Block 27 in the Amount of \$6,000

Heinbockel moved to approve the sale of Lot 5, Block 27 of the Delta Junction Townsite, North Addition to Veniamin S. Kulikovskiy in the amount of \$6,000; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Cub Scouts Pack 76 – Fee Waiver Request to Use CC on February 17, 2006

Heinbockel moved to approve the fee waiver as requested by Cub Scouts Pack 76 to use the Community Center for a banquet on February 17 as long as there is no previous scheduled event; Feilner seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Deltana Fair Association – 2006 Gaming Permit Application

Leith-Dowling moved to show no opposition to renewing the Deltana Fair Association’s 2006 gaming permit; Heinbockel seconded. **Motion carried** by unanimous consent.

VFW Post #9889 Auxiliary (Tok, Alaska) – 2006 Gaming Permit Application

Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to renewing Tok's VFW Post Auxiliary 2006 gaming permit; Jenkins seconded. **Motion carried** by unanimous consent.

Purchase Orders

PO#010603 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$6,633.30 for Feb '06 group health ins

PO#010604 to Alaska Correctional Industries in the amount of \$1,059.12 for library book rack, tables

PO#010605 to Atta-Boy Awards in the amount of \$670.56 for donor recognition plaques at library

PO#010606 to Bound Tree Medical LLC in the amount of \$522.05 for Rescue Squad Life-Pak batteries and medical supplies

PO#010607 to Delta Library Association in the amount of \$1,785.00 for library gutters

PO#010608 to Delta Sanitation, Inc. in the amount of \$522.48 for Jan '06 dumpster service

PO#010609 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$996.60 for Jan '06 gas and oil

PO#010610 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$550.00 for Jan '06 consultant services

PO#010611 to Joyce McCombs in the amount of \$657.20 for reimbursement for library tabletop poster display stands

PO#010612 to Mikunda, Cottrell & Co. in the amount of \$1,300.00 for 6-05 final audit bill

PO#010613 to NC Machinery Co. in the amount of \$1,618.22 for landfill dozer parts

PO#010614 to World Book, Inc. in the amount of \$545.00 for library encyclopedia online service

Leith-Dowling moved to approve purchase orders 010603 through 010614 as presented; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janet Boyer asked Mike Tvenge when hockey rink plans would be made public.

Tvenge said the blue prints are the same that were drawn up by the Delta Skating Association.

Boyer asked if improvements could be made to the rink facility without requiring a sprinkler system.

Hallgren said nothing is in writing yet but it appears there are options.

Boyer asked if the old landfill is being used for septic waste yet.

Hallgren said plans to apply for the permit to use the old landfill would be done by the end of this week.

Jenkins stated he has received numerous inquiries about a rec center. He distributed copies of a possible rec center that includes a theatre. He said it was a plan to review and think about.

Boyer asked Jenkins to define a rec center.

Jenkins said a rec center means something different to everyone. It can include a pool, bowling alley, or an indoor track.

Nick Herman said Prudhoe Bay has a facility that includes a half-court basketball court, a weight room, two racquetball courts, a track and another room with exercise equipment.

Jenkins said FNSB is planning to construct a sports complex. Eielson is considering a facility similar to the plans he distributed.

Hallgren said costs would be a major consideration. During BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure between 1995/2002) it was disclosed that the annual operation cost to maintain the Ft. Greely pool was \$300,000.

Feilner said general consensus is to build a brand new building instead of upgrading the existing rink. She asked about the blue building at the fairgrounds, the one that was to be the original hockey facility.

Heinbockel said Jerry Story donated the building to the City around 1980. The Fair Association donated two modular units also and funding was available for posts and materials. Nothing was accomplished and the posts for the hockey rink were turned into part of the corral. That no longer exists now though.

Tvenge reported Stephen Hammond, M2C1, provided a report on the existing skating rink. He did not charge for the service but rather donated his time in support of the community.

Heinbockel asked about receiving a written report regarding upgrading the existing facility. He said not a lot could be build for \$2 million but Delta does not have a means to maintain a facility either. Hallgren said MACTEC architect Merle Jantz made contacts with people affiliated with the rink in Wasilla. Until it is in writing all we know is there are some interesting viable options available.

ADJOURNMENT

Feilner moved to adjourn at 7:02PM; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White

City Clerk

Date of approval: February 21, 2006