



**City Council Minutes**  
**April 4, 2006 ~ 5:00PM**

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

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, April 4, 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  
Pablo Martinez, Mike Jenkins, Mike Tvenge

Council members excused: Leslie Feilner

City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Letha Burcham

10 members from the community were also present.

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

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the agenda as presented. Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

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

Martinez moved to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2006 regular meeting and from the March 30, 2006 Executive Session meeting as presented; Tvenge seconded. Motion carried.

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

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

#### **REPORTS**

**Fire Department** – Carin Bear reported on the behalf of Rescue Squad that Mike Musgrove, introduced last week as the new Assistant Squad Chief, has now moved to Fairbanks to take a job. The Fire Department had the Mass Cal (Mass Casualty) exercise on Ft. Greely with all safety agencies responding. The City Fire Department did very well but there is still a problem with radios. Chief Bear discussed difficulties with the radio systems such as the radios canceling each other out and said she’s not sure that the Fairbanks tone-outs can be received. She said the new system is still being programmed into the radios. There will be a corrective tabletop exercise this Friday, April 7 where these things will be brought up. Otherwise the City has reason to be proud of the organization. Everything else went well and according to the SOP’s (Standard Operating Procedures). The department has a computer and the new reporting system will be downloaded tomorrow (April 5). The state Fire Marshall will aid in learning the new reporting.

Heinbockel stated that the council had recently received in their mailboxes some resignations, one from the Rescue Squad Chief and he noticed that a fire member also resigned. He asked for the current membership of the Delta Fire Department.

Chief Bear answered that those really active are Vern Heintz, Pat Krepel, herself, and Cory Nydam. Dave Wilkinson and Harry Weaver are less active. The department has three new members, but all the resignations are a concern. It is very sad because as soon as people start to be trained they seem to disappear. It has not been a good thing for those who have done both Fire Department and Rescue Squad. It's easy to think that we'll manage and go on but you can get overworked. New training has given a new perspective on who the department is and what it does, which is unattractive to some of the older members. But the department is becoming attractive to some new people. Maybe it will be a good thing to get a different profile with more teamwork within the departments.

Heinbockel said that we don't have anyone to speak for the Rescue Squad tonight, but he wondered how their resignations are affecting their membership.

Bear said that she knew it was extremely low.

**City Clerk** – Letha Burcham reported the lawn bids were posted on the City's website but would not be advertised in the local newspaper until April 13. Bid opening is scheduled for 2:15 PM on Friday, April 28.

**City Administrator** – Pete Hallgren reported:

- On Friday a staff member from the Governor's office will be here to meet with the Mayor and himself to talk to us about gas-line developments at this point.
- M2C1 has come up with a draft contract for moving forward on the hockey rink and he is getting that to the attorney so he can have a look at it.
- The final proposed Richardson Highway passing lanes are in a little booklet on the desk if Council wants to look at them. We've commented favorably on them in the past.
- We also have the newest potential railroad maps for going through the Delta area, which are on the desk over there. They are very similar to what we looked at when the railroad was here earlier. They're showing three alternatives going through the Delta area and if anybody wants to look at them, they are welcome to.
- Television status: Channel 17 has a new transmitter that has been put in at the same old spot near the clinic. If you have been able to get Channel 17 in the past, you should be able to get it better now. If you were never able to get anything on Channel 17 in the past, you probably still won't get it. That's the State's channel. Channel 7 disappeared Monday morning. It is obviously still broadcasting, but it's a black picture. He talked to Channel 11. The problem is up at Donnelly Dome so it is a matter probably of getting a snow machine up there to reset that system. Channel 13, which is at Donnelly Dome, is still broadcasting through the original system so we know there is power to the building. Channel 5 said that when they can be assured that the road will be open for their access, they will immediately come up and re-install the translator and hopefully be back on the air.
- The last thing is the Eddy Drop Zone issue. Council has copies of the letter from our attorney that went out this afternoon. It is a preliminary comment by the City concerning our disappointment that the Eddy Drop Zone is again being chosen as the site for the new BAX, CACTF. Council authorized this letter at the Executive Session meeting on March 30. We would like any Deltans who wish to make comments to come to the Public Meeting on April 6 in the Community Center. We are not sure the Public Meeting will bring about any changes. It seems that the process is a forgone conclusion. The reason we're coming up with that conclusion is because that at the same time the supplemental draft environmental impact statement was issued, the Army also issued an application to the Corps of Engineers to construct the specific improvements at the Eddy Drop Zone. The final date for commenting on that permit happens to be May 1, which is the same date you can put final comments in on the draft on the supplemental EIS. It doesn't appear that any other sites were considered anywhere near that closely. Donnelly Drop Zone site, which was in an earlier draft considered to be a practicable site, is now being declared in a footnote to be impracticable, thereby leaving Eddy Drop Zone under the Executive Order as the potential site. Our reading of the Executive Order was that you couldn't build on

flood plain if there are other practicable sites. This latest draft took sites, which were earlier declared practicable and declared them impracticable, thereby leaving Eddy Drop Zone open. This is all preliminary. What we've really asked here and what we'd really like to do is have a meeting with USARAK, to sit down face-to-face and see if we can come to some sort of understanding. The same type of meeting was asked for last time but we didn't get one and we were forced to sue. That put the project back several years and cost us a lot of money and didn't help the Army much either. The Delta area is good for fail-safe ranges and there are sites we believe would be useful, but, the City Council continues to have the same worries as they have had in the past in regards to the Eddy Drop Zone.

**Library** –Leith-Dowling reminded everyone that on Friday at 7 P.M. Judy Dewar is going to do a presentation on her trip to Africa. She'll have slides and discuss her trip and will have some food items and African handicrafts. It looks like it's going to be lots of fun so everybody is invited.

**Recreation** – Mike Tvenge stated that at the ice rink last Saturday they had a barbeque and a social for the end of the season. They had a big turn out, on a beautiful day. Mike Kingston and Janet Boyer were there taking pictures and interviewing kids. He said it was a real good afternoon for everybody. The Skating Association Board has scheduled a spring cleanup at the rink for May 6 at 9 A.M. That is two weekends before the community cleanup, so they hope to have the place patrolled pretty nicely indoors and out. He mentioned that a few of the City championship crowd were in the audience with both Squirts and the PeeWees represented.

**Public Works** –Heinbockel reported that he visited with the guys out at the landfill. Our Caterpillar was severely broken and they were hunting down the parts to fix it. In the interim, of course, we are not covering the most recent stuff that's being dumped in the landfill. Boadwine told him they found the parts to repair in Tampa, FL and they were on their way. He said we have another compactor tractor at the old landfill that we ought to move, in case it could be used in an emergency basis. If not, let's have a disposal this spring and sell it.

Hallgren said that he talked to Dave Boadwine about this and they want to keep it. It would be useful for compaction because it actually crawls over the cover better. It will be moving to the new landfill in the near future.

**Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison** – Leith-Dowling said this would be covered further down in the agenda.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **City Hall Carpet**

Hallgren said we have carpet samples here for Council and public to look at. The mayor is a carpet dealer. He has offered to purchase the carpet chosen and have it shipped here at cost with no markup. He recommends Council look at the samples, choose a color and authorize order of the carpeting. We would then attempt to have it installed through forced accounting, mainly hiring people to do it. Removing the old carpeting doesn't require a lot of expertise. Hallgren recommended we hire someone with proven expertise for installation.

Tvenge asked if that meant local?

Hallgren said as local as we can get the expertise for a reasonable amount.

Tvenge asked if we will be hearing the price once the carpet was chosen.

Hallgren said he does not know the exact amount of yards. Bob Morley has been working on it and he has that information. This is at least our third attempt at getting carpet for this building. It is one of our impact-funded projects. This body has rejected the bids we've had from carpet dealers that include the installation at least twice, due to the bids coming in at over \$30,000.

He believes that we can get the carpet before markup and hire somebody, and by putting them on as temporary City staff we should be able to do the job more inexpensively than doing through contract.

Heinbockel suggested we choose and get the number of yards and cost at the next meeting.

Gilbertson said the samples are Behr carpet, Class 3, and heavy-duty commercial such as you see in hotels and the Mayo Clinic and different places. It has a very good 10-year guarantee and it's a very good carpet. By purchasing it this way, the City will save approximately 60% on the carpet including freight. The City will get the original bill, original invoice and copy of Gilbertson's check sent for payment to the company and a copy of the freight bill. We did this with the fencing at the Cemetery. Discussion followed.

Gilbertson said he would bring a quote to the next Council meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Nistler Road Repairs**

Leith-Dowling said last week she called Department of Transportation to see if there was some way we could work with them and pay them out of our road repair funds to take care of Nistler road in the area near the school. Mike Coffey, DOT Regional Maintenance Manager, was coming through town the next day. He met with Gene Eggleston and looked at the area. He said he would call in a day or so with a quote and see if it was doable. They estimated the cost for repair would run between \$14,000-\$15,000 for the approximate 800' of road needing repaired. But, they have to know within the next week or two if we want to do this.

Heinbockel inquired what would the 800' include? We have a big dip there by George Sandlin's and two more down by the school. Would it catch all of that?

Leith-Dowling said yes.

Heinbockel moved to have DOT make the repairs to Nistler Road not exceeding \$20,000. Leith-Dowling seconded.

Tvenge asked if anything is being done by DOT regarding the traffic and the kids. Are there some lights going up or anything?

Leith-Dowling said the school district is working with DOT on that.

Tvenge asked if it would interfere with any of those plans?

Leith-Dowling said no. This is to repair of the road and re-paint the lines in that area. They will have the equipment down in Tok which they weren't planning to come this way, but if we let them know in the next week or two that we are willing to do this, they will include us in their plans.

Hallgren stated that this was not changing the footprint of the road whatsoever so it's not to make changes for the benefit of the school. He said he doesn't believe it is doing subsurface work

Heinbockel said they will be using the old asphalt and it will become a rough surface road. They are going to chew it up, level it, compact it and lay it back down.

Hallgren explained that we currently have two grants that can be used for paving. We got \$300,000 from the State last year and two years before that we got \$60,000 from the State. He has looked at the \$60,000 grant and it is not going to be expiring before 2008 and it would specifically allow paving. He recommended that the City pay this out of that \$60,000 State grant.

Heinbockel said to add that to his motion and explained he said up to \$20,000 because if they are going to be here and there is anything else that they can improve or help fix on that road it will be pre-approved.

Leith-Dowling clarified that this meant in case they had to go a few more feet.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **Large Conference Room Fee Waiver Request – Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center**

Heinbockel says we have a note that says the Community Center is previously booked for Ruby's Native Potluck. Obviously they can't use the Community Center.

Leith-Dowling asked if that meant using this meeting room.

Heinbockel says he has no problem with it.

Hallgren says he has no problem with as long as we don't have the new carpeting in.

Martinez moved to waive the required fee for the large conference room. Jenkins seconded.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call vote.

Hallgren wanted to point out that the conference spaces are being used more and more. The tables at the other end of the room have been used for some State home schooled testing being done this week.

### **Request for Landfill Services on May 20**

Heinbockel referenced a note in which the Chamber of Commerce asked if there would be free dumping on community cleanup day. He said that he had come in and talked to Pete about it yesterday. For two years this has been near and dear to his heart to make one free day a year for the Deltana community to hopefully cleanup some stuff. His observation last year was people saved stuff for an entire year so they could get something for nothing. And when he showed up to dump a trailer of nothing but yellow bags that he collected along the side of the road, he was told to go to the end of the line by a local resident and he lost it. He proposed a plan. Delta Sanitation has historically, as a community service, picked up those yellow bags. Anything Delta Sanitation takes out to our landfill on the 20<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the cleanup day should be at no charge. They don't cost us anything extra; they'll take it directly to the pit on their own, dump it and drive away. However, the volume of trash we receive on that day if it is totally free could overwhelm our guys because they will have to pick the dumpsters up and compact the garbage. He proposed that this year, we have on that day extended dump hours and charge 50% of normal rate for what people dump.

Discussion followed regarding fees for the day, rules for dumping and the management of the 2005 cleanup day at the landfill.

Heinbockel moved to charge half price for garbage dumping at the landfill on cleanup day, allowing Delta Sanitation to dump community bags for free. Martinez seconded.

Tvenge said he likes the fact that people cleanup around their yards and beautify the city. He would hope that on that day stuff would be from your ditch and trees, etc. Whatever we can to beautify we need to do.

Nick Herman said he thought on the cleanup day, just trash that was picked up by the community along the roadways was free to go to the landfill.

Gilbertson said we have always opened it up to the community for cleanup day. But the last couple of years it has gotten out of hand.

Tana Wood asked if there would still be a five-dollar minimum.

Hallgren advised that charging the five-dollar minimum would avoid some problems, especially with everyone having to be weighed and it being so busy on that day.

Heinbockel said in the past we made it free for anything that was brought in, which was obviously the wrong thing to do. This is a good deal. It will still encourage people to get rid of trash.

Gilbertson asked for a repeat of the motion.

Burcham said the motion was made to have the rate at the landfill on May 20 at half price with a five dollar minimum, that Delta Sanitation would be able to dump yellow bags for free and that the Chamber dumpster filled with yellow bags not be charged even if it comes a few days later.

Heinbockel said the only problem is that there will be a run on the yellow bags!

Gus Probert commented that he had been hauling his own trash for quite a number of years and the price used to depend on who was checking him through the gate. At four cents a pound in a small covered pickup like he drives now, he crams it full and it is barely ten bucks. If we are losing money at the landfill, it is not a big deal to charge \$12 a pickup load, which would probably be the equivalent of 5-6 cents per pound. The City needs to be paying close attention to what we have in the red. Everybody seems to think we should get something for free. If it supports itself, then that is the logical thing for the City to spend money on. If it is not supported, then maybe it shouldn't have been put in in the first place. There should be a slush fund so that if something breaks, like the compactor, there's money to fix it. He proposed that the dumping fee be raised to at least 5 cents per pound.

Gilbertson said that the comment he hears all the time when people come and talk to him is they can't believe how cheap it is. He has never heard anyone say that it is too high. So maybe there is possibly room for that. He thanked Probert for his comments.

Tvenge asked that an amendment to the motion be made to add that someone swing by the rink and pick up their yellow bags, too on that day.

Gilbertson said that it was a given.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#010737 to Alaska Municipal League in the amount of \$500.00 for auto risk claim

PO#010738 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$6,633.30 for Apr '06 group health insurance

PO#010739 to Delta Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$10,000.00 for FY06 1st quarter

Social Services Grant payment

PO#010740 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$854.27 for Mar '06 gasoline

PO#010741 to Delta Youth Court in the amount of \$4,500.00 for FY06 1st quarter Social

Services Grant payment

PO#010742 to Delta Skating Association in the amount of \$9,169.82 for FY06 1st quarter Social

Services Grant payment

PO#010743 to Lamar Cotten in the amount of \$950.00 for March '06 consultant services

**Leith-Dowling moved** to approve purchase orders 010737 through 010743 as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Janet Boyer asked Hallgren what kind of understanding the City hopes to come to with USARAK.

Hallgren said it would be nice to sit down with reasonable folks and see what we can work out.

Boyer then asked if anything reasonable could be worked out so that Eddy Drop Zone would be an agreed upon site.

Hallgren said that it certainly was not the instruction of this council at this point. He said he could not tell what the military might suggest in the give and take. There might be some ideas for potentially better fire protection; better flood protection or it may be that we could convince them to take a real hard look at the Donnelly Drop Zone.

Boyer then asked if the garbage is not being covered at this time due to the broken compactor, if it is a permit violation.

Hallgren said he didn't know it wasn't being covered.

Heinbockel said the only thing not being covered was the construction material, as it would not blow away.

Hallgren said the construction material is only required to be covered once a week.

Heinbockel said the garbage is being covered and the birds really have to dig for it.

Boyer then asked for clarification on the portion of Nistler Road to be repaired.

Leith-Dowling said it would entail approximately 800' of road beginning at Salcha St. and going towards the school.

Hallgren said we would get rid of the city's only speed bump.

Nick Herman asked if anyone knew why there was a bump there. Was there something underneath the road?

Gilbertson answered that he knew because of building a couple of houses in that area that there is a spring, which runs continuously about 10' to 12' under the road. Even after the repair, it will eventually happen again.

Bill Smith said that the Hockey Association intended on bringing some of the kids and the trophies they earned at the tournaments. They appreciate all the support they had been given. He had been coaching

the PeeWee's this year and they had a great year. They played 46 games; last year they only played 36 games. The teams had 3 hours practice every week and improvement of the kids was really tremendous. Several alumni worked with these kids this year, which was another bonus. That is what we are seeing a lot more of. Kids that have been through the program are stepping up and picking up the slack for some of the long time coaches. They have the talent.

Gilbertson said it is fun to see so much involvement on all the teams. Delta really does offer a lot for the kids between hockey, basketball, volleyball and everything else they offer. There is a lot for them to do but it is still so important to get volunteers and parents involved.

Heinbockel asked Smith if the number of games in the schedule have a detrimental effect on their grades.

Smith said no. Only a couple had a problem. Parents and the Hockey Association pretty much agree on that. The parents do a good job of policing. It is a good incentive to keep up the grades in order to continue to play.

Tvenge commented that on average it is shown that kids involved in sports do better in school.

Gus Probert added that it is a big commitment between coaches and parents. The Skating Association representatives are here today is to let the Council know that the efforts towards improvement at the hockey rink are appreciated. There is a debate on what is most important. But the Association can work with Council on what's to be done first at the rink. He said they would like to take part in the decision-making because it helps our kids be more successful. The ability of our kids to host a tournament in Delta successfully increases with a better facility. It is important to have other teams come to Delta to play. Our teams can showcase themselves, and be proud of who they are.

Smith added an anecdote regarding one of the very remote teams coming to the President's Day Tournament. They just got a new indoor rink in the past year. They did very well and have a tremendous program, which only goes to show in one year what a difference an improved facility can make. He said he knows it is a few years away but it will be great once it is accomplished. He said Al Edgren is working with some of the alumni kids to be able to put on some clinics here, which would also be a big help to our kids and those from nearby communities.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Leith-Dowling moved to adjourn at 6:09 PM; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

Letha Burcham  
Acting City Clerk

Date of approval: April 18, 2006