



**City Council Minutes**  
**April 18, 2006 ~ 5:00PM**

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

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Thomas “Roy” Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

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

Council member excused: Lou Heinbockel

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

Six members from the community were also present.

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

- ✓ Proclamation for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life
  - ✓ PO #010784 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$9,860.00 for City Hall Carpeting
- 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 April 4, 2006 minutes as presented; Feilner 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 that she finally received the FEMA money with which to pay the university for the Fire Fighter I training. The problems with the communications have been worked out. The plan is to have everyone on the new Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) system this week. She said she would be requesting money for new turnout gear.

**Airport** – Leslie Feilner said Jack Morris (Pilot’s Association) has paid GVEA electric a year ahead and the City the remaining balance on their insurance. Two weeks ago the FAA were here in Delta for a safety meeting. Approximately 30 pilots attended. Two new phone numbers are to be added to the fee sign near the tie-down area. The sign advertises that 10 days are free to incoming pilots, after that there is a \$30 long-term monthly charge. Around May 1, the City will be placing 12 new signs on or near Rapids Street and on the north access road. The Pilot’s Association has 8 new signs going up. It is hoped that the signage will curb the ongoing problem of motorists crossing the taxiway. Troopers say they can help once signs are posted. Pilots will come to Council soon and request the City to dig a 2 ft.

ditch running from Golden Eagle Outfitters to the tie-down area, parallel to Rapids Street. This will be another effort to try to keep the four wheelers and snow machines off of the taxiway.

**City Administrator** – Pete Hallgren said that we are moving ahead on the City Hall carpet. The carpet has been picked and the prices look good.

- He said copies of the new Waldo property subdivision are in your boxes. He said he would contact Mt. Hayes Realty to update the opinion of property values so that we can set the sale date. When Council passed the ordinance authority was given to set the date so it will not have to come back to Council again.
- He said that a number of things are going on regarding the Eddy Drop Zone and there is progress. The City hydrologist will be flying over the area and photographing the Eddy Drop Zone area within the next several days.
- The Partners for Progress Consortium are applying to the Rasmussen Foundation for an additional grant, which includes funding for a standby generator for the community that would be housed at the Career Advancement Building. They are requesting \$41,000.00 for that. Rasmussen has asked them to prioritize the items requested and told them they would have a better chance of being awarded the grant if they put in a local match. The Consortium is asking how committed we are in wanting the generator and are we willing to come up with \$17,000 toward the cost of the generator.

Leith-Dowling asked if we had the GVEA generator when they first applied for the grant.

Hallgren replied that the grant application was submitted in January and the John Brown generator went in last fall. He told the Consortium today that the GVEA generator is supposed to handle the entire area. The school would be a legitimate place to house people if we had a big emergency, but the school doesn't have a back-up generator. If the emergency happens in the winter you cannot house the community in the school with no heat.

Leith-Dowling said that if the GVEA generator can handle the whole community we might not need the one at the school.

Hallgren said he would add it to the agenda for the May 2, 2006 meeting for further discussion.

- A NO BOROUGH notice has been tacked up around town. It has 5 statements on it, most of which are totally incorrect. 1). The city is not bankrupt. We've got one debt and that is a \$50,000.00 a year no interest payment to the State of Alaska. We can afford to pay that and we do not have to use our permanent fund to do it. Without the POGO PILT you could not keep the City staff at present level. We have hundreds of thousands of dollars to the good in the bank plus the Permanent Fund. 2). It says taxes on gas, electric and fuel oil will not solve the problem. The borough petition sets out a 3-year performa of borough operating expenses and potential income. Unless that is wrong, the proposed taxes would operate the borough building a surplus over the years. 3). There will not be a 14-mil property tax. The borough proposal is set up for no property tax. The funding performa shows the borough can operate for a good number of years on the proposed income without property taxes. Under the Borough Charter there will be no property tax unless the voters voted in favor of one. 4). 4-mils for school. That is correct but it is an equivalent of 4-mils. There will be no property tax. We will have to contribute to the School District the equivalent of four tenths of one percent of the value of the taxable property inside the borough. That is where the POGO PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) comes in. 5). 10 mills for city to pay city employees upkeep and heat for all City buildings. That is completely and utterly false. The POGO PILT will be paying approximately a 10-mil equivalent on the POGO value. There would be no property tax. That is what a Payment in Lieu of Taxes is. He said if people understood things, they clearly would not post these notices.

Feilner said people should call with questions instead of posting false statements. They can call the Council and or the Charter Commission or they can see the information on the City website.

**Finance** – Mary Leith-Dowling asked when would work on the budget be starting. She said she would like to start having work sessions.

Hallgren said that he was working with Dave Zimmerman on the budget. He said he talked with the health care provider (Aetna) to get a reduced benefit/reduced cost plan. So far they have not provided one. Aetna told him he would have a quote May 1. We have planned for a possible increase in costs but we would rather see a plan that would cut the costs.

Leith-Dowling said we need to have a vision of where we are going and if we need to cut back or adjust. We need to spend more time on this than we have in the last couple of years.

Hallgren said that he and Zimmerman are working on the budget. We are currently looking at employee raises of 2 to 3 % for those who didn't get raises outside of the normal cycle. Our increase of PERS is not going to be as near as much as most communities. Even so, our benefit package is costing 40% of salaries right now. He told the health insurance carrier that we need a lower cost plan at least offered or we will most likely go elsewhere in 2007. He introduced Steve Millea, Risk Manager, of Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association (AMLJIA), who is here to help with OSHA inspection next month.

Millea says he wanted to congratulate Delta on completing the playground. They are happy that Delta Junction has done everything AMLJIA has asked them to do. He said Delta is a great partner and he has been working with Dave Boadwine and Letha Burcham. OSHA consultation has invited themselves in to Delta so he is here to help get ready for their visit. We are trying to correct any hazards that they may identify when they do the inspection. Boadwine showed him around the new facilities today and OSHA will have a hard time finding any code violations.

Hallgren said one of the other things we are getting from AMLJIA is a new program where they have monthly safety meetings that they handle by teleconference. Burcham is handling this for us and this should qualify us for about a 5% discount on our rates.

**DREDC** – Mike Tvenge said the DREDC would hold elections for officers at the June 19 meeting. There are currently three Board seats open (School District, Farm Bureau & Public Relations/Marketing). People should call Paul Knopp or Letha Burcham for more information. There is a new fair manager, Mike Paschal. The Chamber luncheon is on 4/20 and you should RSVP to Brenda Peterson. He asked for clarification on who is on the Scenic Byways Board.

Leith-Dowling replied that she and Hallgren have both been involved in the Highway issues. But that she worked mostly on the Alaska Highway and Hallgren on Richardson Highway.

Tvenge said the Recreation Assessment Survey was approved for distribution. He said that someone at the meeting said that Aurora Aviation may be able to help with a helicopter to get the KUAC equipment up to the Donnelly Dome site.

Hallgren said he has offered to take them on snow machines and they told him they would discuss it with their management.

**Library** – Mary Leith-Dowling reminded everyone that Micki & Julie Collins, the Trap Line Twins, will be at the Library on Friday, April 21 at 7PM. The annual Library Open House & Basket Auction will be on Saturday, April 29 from 10-4PM. Judy Dewar's slide show presentation on Africa was very well attended and much enjoyed

**Park** – Leslie Feilner reported that they had a request from Softball Association President, Dave Becker, that we do something regarding bathroom facilities. She said that last year we provided porta-potties, which proved to be very costly to the City. We need to make a decision on what can be done to make facilities available and ready for the public.

Leith-Dowling said it has been suggested to have bathrooms with coin slots so people can "pay as they go."

Feilner said that Eileen Herman came several meetings ago to ask the Council about new bleachers. Someone suggested at that time that we use the existing bleachers at the hockey rink and refurbish them. The season is about to start and decisions need to be made.

Tvenge said the Skating Association might want the bleachers out of the rink for the summer anyway.

Gilbertson asked which restrooms are being asked about.

Feilner said the mid-field ones.

Gilbertson asked Boadwine if we could enlarge the current facilities since they already have water.

Hallgren said it would not be good for the playground because of all the little children. He said that Bob Morley has asked the State Parks people how they modify their port-a-lets to be safe for small children. He doesn't believe that anything besides outhouses will be feasible since they would also need electricity to run pumps for water.

Boadwine suggested running a shallow water line from existing water in the concession building.

Hallgren said we would need drain fields.

Gilbertson said a drain field is easy. It would be good to have water near the barbeque area also. Let's do some thinking on that.

Hallgren said that we did have some major vandalism at the pavilion last fall where somebody took an axe or something heavy and beat the doorknob off of the main door into the snack bar. They didn't find anything inside, but caused several hundred dollars worth of damage.

**Recreation** – Mike Tvenge said the rink is shut down for the season. He opened doors a bit today for ventilation. He said he is working to get the moisture out.

**Public Health & Safety** – Pablo Martinez said that the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is looking at setting up a table at Frontier Days and at the Fair for passing out information on the group to the public. They are busy getting some Delta/Greely bylaws established.

**Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison** – Mary Leith-Dowling said that when she talked to Mike Coffey he was going to contact the City with final paperwork on the Nistler Road repair.

Feilner asked when the Richardson Road (Jarvis bridge, etc.) would be starting.

Hallgren said it is not on the current STIP. So it is not set for the next year or two. We sent a letter requesting that it be put on the 2006 STIP but it is not on yet as far as we know. Passing lanes have been designed but he doesn't know where in the process that project lies.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **City Hall Carpet**

Hallgren said he doesn't know how many yards are needed. He roughly calculated 370 yards.

Gilbertson said he ordered 683 yards.

Zimmerman said Bob Morley ran a tape from every corner of the building to come up with 683 yards.

Gilbertson said whatever is not needed the City will be refunded in full. The City is not obligated to pay for any carpet not used.

Hallgren asked what the total cost is.

Zimmerman said the purchase order is for \$9, 800.00.

Hallgren said we would get plenty of carpet. He said we have two options in how to lay the carpet. One is to remove the old and glue down the new. The other simply stretches the new carpet over the existing carpet.

Gilbertson said that Behr Carpet recommends stretching the carpeting.

Hallgren said we would hire someone by force accounting to lay the carpet.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Proclamation for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life**

Burcham explained that Doris Fales faxed the proclamation and the explanatory note to her when she was in a meeting. It has already been sent to the Delta Wind and Fales hopes the Council will approve it at tonight's meeting. We have time to put it on the City letterhead and in the proper form.

Leith-Dowling said it must be dated tonight.

Hallgren says that a proclamation does not need to be voted on. He has read it over and it looks as if it is written appropriately for signature.

### **Community Center Fee Waiver Request – Cub Scout Pack 76**

Leith-Dowling said we need to stop giving free use. There will be 60 people at the event and we're talking wear and tear on the building, running the lights, and fuel oil. People need to start paying their way; this event would cost less than \$2 per person. She is not going to vote to waiver anymore.

Tvenge agreed saying that electricity costs a lot, as well as the heat. Soon the vinyl will have to be replaced as well as the sinks and countertops. Where will that money come from?

Gilbertson wanted to know if the new janitor had any complaints on how the building was being left after being used so much. It could be that she may be such a hard worker that she is just cleaning it and not saying anything. We need to check it out.

Hallgren said we would have to ask. Basically we have a fee structure and we tell everybody we have no discretion at City Hall that they have to come to the Council if they want a reduction.

Leith-Dowling said that now groups don't even come to the meetings and give a little pep talk. They just send in the paperwork and expect it every time.

Feilner said perhaps we should charge only half of the fee to at least offset costs.

Discussion continued regarding the fee schedule for the community center and the smaller conference rooms as well as the profit versus non-profit status of users.

Janet Boyer suggested that changes could be put off until May 1 to give the public some notice.

Feilner moved to waive the fee for the Community Center fee for the Cub Scouts for April 21, 2006.

Martinez seconded. Motion passed with 5 (Feilner, Martinez, Tvenge, Jenkins & Gilbertson) for and 1 (Leith-Dowling) against.

Tvenge asked about a new fee schedule.

Hallgren said he would be doing a proposal for a new fee schedule and have it ready for the next Council meeting. He also said that on April 26, Commissioner of Commerce, Bill Noll, would be here with several other folks from the Commerce Department to do a presentation on the gas line. The Chamber will be advertising it although it is not necessarily a Chamber function. Hallgren said he assumed they could have the room for free, but if that is not the case they need to be notified.

Gilbertson said the change would not take place until May 1.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#010748 to Alaska Communications Systems (ACS) in the amount of \$1,319.06 for April phone services

PO#010749 to Alaska Industrial Hardware in the amount of \$933.16 for fuel safety storage cabinet

PO#010750 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$811.45 for April phone & power

PO#010751 to Bank of America in the amount of \$604.76 for annual card fee, Anchorage hotel for Resource Development Council meeting, and Juneau hotel for Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) conference

PO#010752 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for April warm storage

PO#010753 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$7,155.24 for March heating oil

PO#010754 to Golden Valley Electric in the amount of \$3,219.61 for March electricity

PO#010755 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$8,556.94 for Eddy Drop Zone legal fees

PO#010756 to Ikon Financial Services in the amount of \$1,104.70 for copier rental & extra copies

PO#010757 to NC Machinery Co. in the amount of \$1,779.71 for landfill dozer parts

PO#010758 to Overhead Door Co. of Fairbanks in the amount of \$582.50 for installation of door transmitters

PO#010759 to Geospatial Applications Made Easy in the amount of \$523.05 for mapping training

PO#010784 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$9,860.00 for City Hall Carpet

Feilner moved to approve purchase orders 010748 through 010759 and 010784 as presented; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote on purchase orders 010748 through 010759; Gilbertson abstained from voting on purchase order 010784.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Boyer asked how many do actually pay to use the facility.

Zimmerman said as of June 30, 2005 the conference room rental income was \$295.00; this year to date is \$380. The Community Center rental last June 30 was \$5,976 and this year to date \$4,270. Of that \$4,270 the Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department Bingo has paid approximately \$1,100.

Boyer asked if that covered the cost of operation.

Zimmerman said it doesn't even cover the insurance. He will have the cost numbers for the next meeting.

Boyer asked when the hockey rink plan was expected from Stephen Hammond.

Hallgren said we have a first draft of an agreement that he is having the attorney look over and he spoke to Hammond today about it. We are moving toward a second draft.

Boyer asked if the Pilot's Association were opposed to the Eddy Drop Zone because of the air space issue.

Feilner said nothing had been mentioned to her at this time.

Boyer asked if the City could confirm that the City has agreed not to oppose the site selection of Eddy Drop Zone if there is a quarter mile fire break constructed as well as a berm to prevent flooding.

Hallgren said that the City has not agreed to anything. We are proceeding with comments, which are consistent to those he read at the public meeting.

Boyer asked if they had a meeting.

Hallgren said that the meeting that was asked for would be one with the commanding general. That has not happened yet nor has it been scheduled. There are high hopes that a meeting will be scheduled. He said he didn't know if it took place whether it would be a public one or not.

Boyer asked if he could confirm that those are two options that the City is considering.

Hallgren said no he could not.

Tana Wood said that the City really needs to decide what the City wants the Community Center for. Is it to be a "cash cow" or serve the community?

Gilbertson agreed. He said he feels he would be more comfortable getting more input from the community. The facility should be open to the public whether we charge or not. Churches are limited to 3 months continuous use and then they are required to find another meeting place. It is the only thing Delta has to offer as a meeting place. It would be nice to get more public input.

Leith-Dowling said other places have taxes to support these types of things, but she feels that the town has to change its mindset of always expecting things for free.

Boadwine reported that the dozer was back in working order. The snow is going away slowly enough that it has not become a drainage problem. He hopes he is finished with snow removal for the year. The tractor has about 4-5 days of work left to be done before it will be running.

**ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Tvenge asked Boadwine about manpower on cleanup day.

Boadwine said he is planning ahead and things should work out okay.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Feilner moved to adjourn at 6:17 PM; Leith-Dowling seconded. Motion carried.

Letha Burcham  
Acting City Clerk

Date of approval: May 2, 2006