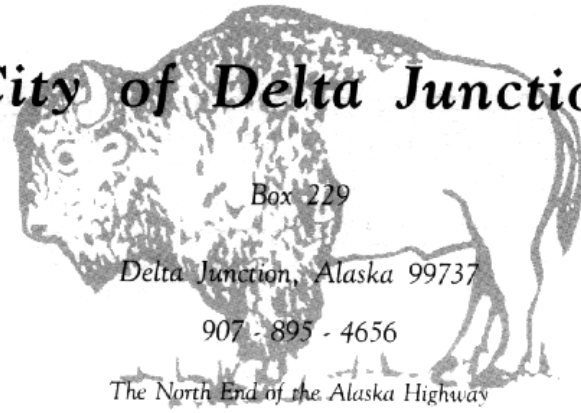


# City of Delta Junction



**City Council Minutes**  
**August 15, 2006 ~ 5:00PM**

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

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2006 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mike Jenkins, Mike Tvenge, Pablo Martinez  
Council members excused: Mayor Pro tem Lou Heinbockel, Leslie Feilner  
City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Butch Ellis (6:30PM), Pat White  
Eighteen members from the community were also present.

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

Leith-Dowling reported one addition to *New Business*:

- ✓ One-Year Extension of 911 Dispatch Service

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

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

Zimmerman referenced *Additional Public Comments* in the August 1, 2006 minutes in which it was commented that monies that were returned to the State Homeland Security could have paid for renovations at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or EMT training. He said impact funds paid for the renovations at the old fire hall. EMT training came after grant funding allocated for it was already closed out. However, \$20,000 was in fact returned to the State for non use.

Jenkins moved to approve the August 1, 2006 minutes as amended; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

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

Leith-Dowling called for public and Council comments on non-agenda items with none being offered.

## **APPOINTMENT OF NEW COUNCILMAN TO FILL SEAT B**

Hallgren said two people applied for appointment of the recent Council seat vacancy, one volunteer qualifies but the other did not because of not residing within city limits.

Martinez moved to appoint JW Musgrove to fill the Seat B vacancy on City Council; Jenkins seconded.

Hallgren said appointment would carry until the next municipal election on October 3.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with four members (quorum) voting.

White administered the Oath of Office and Musgrove joined the four members present to serve as the newly appointed City Council member.

**CORRESPONDENCE – Appreciation Letter to Mayor Roy Gilbertson**

Leith-Dowling explained receipt of a letter from Major General Charles Jacoby, Jr. who expressed his appreciation toward past-mayor Roy Gilbertson. She said she agreed with Jacoby's comments. (He was grateful for "Mayor Gilbertson's leadership and civic mindedness in dealing with the U.S. Army Alaska mission to provide trained Soldiers for the Global War on Terror." Jacoby stated Gilbertson's leadership during the development of the Battle Area Complex, to be built in the local training area, helped design a superior project while forging strong positive bonds with the local community.)

**REQUEST TO SPEAK**

Mayor Leith-Dowling introduced Dr. PJ Ford-Slack, Delta/Greely School District's new superintendent. Ford-Slack stated her #1 agenda item was to emphasize herself as an educational leader for Delta's wonderful school district but also interested in partnering with the City Council to work together on challenges. She will represent goals and missions of the district's elected School Board. Ford-Slack said she was raised in a farming community in Pennsylvania and one of her greatest lessons from her grandmother was to listen. She asked Council, parents, grandparents, family and community members, students and DGSD staff two questions: 1) If you were the DGSD leader for the day, what one thing in your school or this district would you never change? and 2) If you were the DGSD leader for the day what two things would you like to change or improve in your school or the district as a whole? She distributed hard copies and said the questions were also available online. She hoped for public participation in providing history and good ideas. Ford-Slack said the responses would remain anonymous.

Hallgren said the newly elected mayor is also a newly hired employee of the school district. He asked if she would be granted time off if or when her mayoral responsibilities called.

Ford-Slack said it was an example of forging a strong relationship and that communication can be nothing but terrific. They were thrilled to have the Mayor back on staff.

Leith-Dowling agreed that the communication would be a true benefit and she was grateful to be employed after a 3-year break.

Council members welcomed Ford-Slack to the Delta community.

**REPORTS**

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported absentee ballot applications will be available to the public who are unable to vote at the Municipal Election polls on October 3. The actual absentee ballots will be available for voting on September 18. White stated four seats would be on this year's ballot. Filing for those seats will be between August 24 and September 8, 2006. Council Seat A (held by Mary Leith-Dowling) and Seat E (Michael Jenkins) are three-year terms ending in 2009, Seat B (JW Musgrove) is a one-year term ending in 2007, and Seat F (Pablo Martinez) is a two-year term ending in 2008. Leslie Feilner, Seat D, and Mike Tvenge, Seat G, serve through 2007 and Lou Heinbockel, Seat C, serves through 2008. White stated Sunday, September 3 is the last day to register (via fax or postmarked prior to) to be eligible to vote in the Municipal Election. Applications can also be used to update current voter information.

**City Administrator** – Pete Hallgren reported:

- The Waldo property auction was held on August 7. The house and property, appraised at \$109,000, sold to the highest bidder, Thomas and Gay Bowley, for \$128,000.
- Carpeting at City Hall is in progress and accomplished in sections because of moving office furnishings.
- The Congressional van is scheduled to be at the post office on August 16. Staffers of Senator Stevens, Representative Don Young and Senator Lisa Murkowski will be available.

- The Chamber of Commerce luncheon is planned for August 10. Following, from 2-3:00pm, Representative John Harris will meet with Mayor Leith-Dowling and himself at City Hall.
- The Ft. Greely cohort lunch is scheduled for August 23.
- An Allen Army Airfield Joint-Use work session is scheduled for August 29.
- A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting is scheduled at the Community Center on August 30 at 6:00pm.

Musgrove asked about the joint-use meeting with Allen Army Airfield.

Hallgren said he would need to obtain an invite for Council members to attend. He clarified that if joint-use with Allen Army Airfield becomes a possibility the Council has expressed no interest in changing or shutting down the city airstrip.

**Finance** – Dave Zimmerman reported receipt of the \$76,469 Energy Assistance Grant from the State.

**School Liaison** – Mike Jenkins reported the 2006-2007 school season begins on August 22.

**DREDC** – Mike Tvenge reported DREDC met on August 14. They presented a plaque to Paul Knopp in appreciation for his services since 1998. Knopp stepped down from serving as DREDC President. Tvenge said Social Service Grant reports are due September 16 for existing grantees and they will be the only recipients of this year's (remaining \$75,000) grant because no new applications will be accepted. DREDC set a timeline to review those proposals and Tvenge would provide Council with a report in early November.

**Library** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the community library continues to be very busy.

**Park** – Mike Jenkins reported arrangements are under way to winterize the park pavilion. He said he was pleased to see the busy park activities throughout the summer.

**Recreation** – Mike Tvenge reported the board election for the Delta-Greely Skating Association is scheduled in September but the date is not set. He asked if the string trimmer could be used around the outside of the rink facility.

Hallgren said he would check with John Lunn.

**Public Works** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported:

- Dave Boadwine was closing out the old landfill and scheduled to seed on August 16.
- Thirteen landfill boulders (30,980 pounds) were sold for \$1,549.
- Two new loader tires were ordered and cost \$7,250 each.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Policy to Accept Refrigerators, Freezers and Air Conditioners

Hallgren referenced a draft policy and requested it be reviewed. He explained the plan of accepting refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and other items that contain pressurized refrigerant. For ultimate disposal, all appliances require a State-certified tag showing they were inspected and refrigerant was removed. David Hendry provides that service in Delta. Hallgren said a place to store appliances and a decision for a disposal fee is needed. Hendry would charge \$10 per unit for his services and has agreed to provide inspections at the landfill twice a year. Appliances would be accepted at the landfill all year but temperatures need to be in the +50° range during inspection. He explained details and asked to consider dealing with appliances that have the guts already removed.

Discussion followed regarding charges, designating an area for collecting appliances, requiring customers to unload their own appliances and the normal process of delivering garbage to the landfill.

Martinez suggested charging a \$25 fee to dispose of and pay for the certification but weight would be charged separately. All appliances require inspection, new or old, with or without all their parts. Customers will pay less by paying the \$25 fee than if Hendry were to make a house call.

Hallgren said the objective is to provide a service to the public without losing money doing it.

Martinez moved to adopt the policy as presented and charge a flat \$25 fee to accept appliances (plus weight fee) that require inspection; Jenkins seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

**Delta Junction Moto-Cross (DJMX) Club Racetrack**

Hallgren referenced an e.mail dated August 3 that was issued to Scottie Brown, President of the Delta Junction Moto-Cross Club. It stated both the State and DOD authorized the City to spend \$10,000 of Impact Grant monies to help the DJMX Central Racing Lions construct a public racetrack at the Deltana Fairgrounds. Those impact monies would be used from the recreation center fund, which is slightly over \$2 million.

Tvenge said there is no contract for the rink yet so it is unknown what the upgrades will cost.

Hallgren said the City would not enter into a contract that is more than \$2 million. It is also known that \$2 million is not enough to complete all the amenities that are hoped for.

Jenkins asked if there was not an additional \$60,000 leftover after all the other construction projects (library, fire station, landfill) were signed off.

Hallgren said that final amount is not known. The Donnelly Dome TV transmitters and the Social Service Grant are the biggest pending projects. Hallgren said he estimated \$100,000 leftover from the transmitters project. It was included in his rough figuring. There will also be approximately \$100,000 leftover from the Social Service Grant. Additionally the income from the Waldo house sale is to go toward the recreation fund because, as part of the landfill property, it was initially purchased with impact funds. Land sales normally are deposited into the permanent fund. Granting the \$10,000 request to DJMX would reduce the \$2 million that is available in the recreation fund.

Tvenge said face value of \$10,000 does not seem like a lot of money but consider the \$8,500 it cost to install flooring into 2 locker rooms several years ago. He said he was reluctant to take any money out of the rec funds until it is known what remodeling of the rink will cost. \$10,000 could punch a well. It won't plumb the building or pay to install restrooms or showers. Access to water would eliminate depending on the fire department to flood the rink every fall. Tvenge said he supported the motocross idea because it was for adults as well as kids. He asked what DJMX planned for the \$10,000.

Hallgren said he understood the requested money would enable them to actually build a minimal and functional motocross course this summer once funding became available.

Tonia Smith asked about a one or two-year plan for what is to be a recreation center and not just a skating rink, when would cost overruns from other projects be known, where the rink upgrades were on the priority list, and if an engineer assessment was completed.

Jenkins asked if the skating rink were to be a rec center, what other recreational facilities would it provide.

Smith said it was thought the rec center would have a zamboni room, restrooms and running water and those amenities would be accomplished this year. Still there is no progress. She asked what the engineer was asked to do.

Hallgren said all the mentioned amenities are in the plan and it has been discussed and debated in public meetings over the past several years. A "bake-off" between two different design professionals was held [at the March 21, 2006 meeting] and the Council chose the concept that appears to be more risky monetarily because it provides more amenities (insulating the building, running water, zamboni room, heated observation area and more locker rooms). It should be fully designed and out for public bid by December for construction next year. He explained the contract process and said the present design is to make the existing rink more functional. If everything people want were to be built the cost would be in excess of \$4 million.

Dawn Grossmann said if there is a plan for \$2 million, what is the reason in waiting to put it out for bid?

Hallgren said City Attorney Jim DeWitt was working out a contract with the design engineer.

Grossmann said evidently the \$2 million is susceptible to be drained as a whole new season passes.

Hallgren said that was theoretically correct, the elected Council body decides where money is spent. Council based the decision to upgrade the skating rink from meetings with the public and community organizations several years ago. This elected body, with permission of Missile Defense, could change its mind.

Leith-Dowling said motocross is another form of recreation.

Grossmann said she did not understand how the whole bid process could continue if money is not earmarked because there may not be enough left next May.

Hallgren said money is not spent without the vote of this Council. The two million figure is not being spent and is not diminishing.

Tvenge said the community members met at the Community Center in 2002 and at that meeting it was determined that recreation was a priority, specifically titled "recreation / skating rink." It was above construction of the library and landfill. The Council voted to earmark remaining funds to be used at the rink. Putting the motocross ahead of the rink project is wrong. Whittling away at the recreation fund will increase the risk of coming up short.

Musgrove asked if the rink building would deteriorate if it is not maintained or upgraded.

Tvenge said it would because of temperature fluctuations. One of the main impetuses is to insulate the structure to slow down the freeze-thaw cycle. It affects the boards, condensation, rust and sheetrock around the concession area.

Rob Warren said diverting money for one recreational sport would only open up for another. There are thousands of square miles in Alaska's interior to ride motorbikes but skating opportunities are limited.

Rose Edgren, Skating Association Treasurer, stated she was a strong advocate for improvements at the rink. Last year there were 122 registered hockey and figure skaters. Between the participants and the public that are drawn into the facility, it is time to have restroom accessibility. Students that grew up in the Delta hockey program are now coaching a whole new generation of kids. Athletes are being built and half the team is presently involved in the football program. There is no paid staff except for the zamboni operator and the referees. Coaches, board members and parents are all volunteers who maintain the rink and organize tournaments. The Association easily spends \$32,000 annually on the skating program. Three teams of hockey players from Delta took championship last season and that reflected on the coaching staff and ability to use the indoor rink. Edgren said she wished to discourage spending recreation funds anywhere else but for the improvements that are needed at the rink.

Martinez said there are youth that are not hockey players. Consolidating four-wheelers and dirt bikes into one general area will make it easier to respond when someone gets hurt. Martinez moved to award the Delta Junction Moto-Cross Club \$10,000.00 to construct a racetrack at the Deltana Fairgrounds; Jenkins seconded.

Jenkins said balance is needed. There are no summer activities for youth and adults. The rink is dead during those months.

Tvenge said the rink building could be utilized in many ways if it was finished off and had heat and plumbing. It could be used to host the Buffalo Wallow, in-line hockey, a boys-girls club, a running track, etc. Activities are open to the imagination.

Leith-Dowling asked about the income difference between the appraised value (\$109,000) and actual sale (\$128,000) of the Waldo house. She said she was concerned for the motorbikes screaming up and down the roads where they do not belong. The Moto-Cross Club would provide instruction of proper riding skills.

Tvenge asked to get the rink contract out before any money is released. Outdoor activities are coming to a close soon. Money can be earmarked for the racetrack next spring. He asked not to whittle away the available funds by putting the motocross track ahead of the rink project.

Hallgren said he was confident the \$2 million would cover design, construction and inspection of rink upgrades. Waldo income is additional funds. The City operations are not charged to the two million the City has other funds with which to operate including \$75,000 from the legislature will provide assistance for heating of city-owned facilities. Several hundred thousand dollars of unrestricted Pogo PILT money will be spent this year. That PILT will allow the City offices to function financially until 2010.

Tvenge asked if the DJMX funding could come from another source.

Hallgren said he would argue strongly against it.

Grossmann said, due to her knowledge as a Deltana Fair Board member, clearing for a racetrack would not start until after August 22 so use of a dirt track will not happen this year.

Leith-Dowling said it would have been a benefit had a DMJX representative been present to answer questions.

Motion failed on a roll call vote with three (Tvenge, Musgrove, Leith-Dowling) voting against and two (Martinez, Jenkins) voting in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Purchase of Weed Spray for Park**

Hallgren referenced a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) about the Milestone Herbicide and expressed his concern that using chemicals near a playground is a highly emotional issue. He said Jay Frazier, Park Maintenance Contractor, volunteered to spread the herbicide if the City would purchase it. He recommended purchasing one quart for \$96. 4 ounces mixed with water was enough to cover one acre.

Discussion followed regarding whether one application in the fall would be enough, posting notices for the public, consulting the Cooperative Extension Service, and using another equivalent chemical.

Hallgren said he would contact the local Cooperative Extension and ask their recommendation.

Tvenge said the weeds are out of control and need to be managed. The Coop may recommend other products and may also provide the service of spreading the chemical.

Tvenge moved to approve purchase of Milestone Herbicide or an equivalent chemical to destroy invasive weed growth at the City Park upon clearance from the Cooperative Extension; Martinez seconded.

Discussion followed regarding how the chemical would be mixed before being spread.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 5 members voting.

### **Reeve Road Plat Approval - Kosmin and Kosmin 2 Subdivisions**

Hallgren said more information from GVEA is still pending but both plats appear to meet requirements per City Code.

Musgrove said GVEA would want to make sure all parcels have access to power. Lots 5 and 6 do not have power but the drawing indicates there is access to power. The lots would likely not be subdivided in the near future.

Tvenge asked to table discussion until the next meeting on September 5.

Reeve Road plat tabled.

### **Letter of Agreement – Delta/Greely Area Safe Schools Interagency Team**

Hallgren explained the purpose of the Delta/Greely Area Safe Schools Interagency Team Letter of Agreement by reading an excerpt from the document, "...to prevent at-risk children and families from falling through the cracks. The Safe Schools Interagency Team is technical and advisory in nature. In no way is the team intended to undermine the authority and/or responsibilities of individual agencies...."

Hallgren said if there is not enough information exchange between, as an example, the school system and juvenile authorities, major problems do not show up on a warning screen. He asked and answered, "Why is the City involved when we have no formal duties as do other agencies? Because we are the only local government and could be useful if we become a borough with our own jurisdiction." He said the City would actively work with members of the team to "reduce risk factors and increase protective factors in the lives of individual at-risk children." It does not mean confidential information will be shared. Participation would include attending regularly scheduled meetings and supporting community activities designed to facilitate healthy lifestyles, basically helping facilitate those that actually do the work.

Leith-Dowling said the City is in a position to provide space for dances and activities focused on kids.

Jenkins moved to approve the Delta/Greely Area Safe Schools Interagency Team Letter of Agreement as presented; Martinez seconded.

Discussion followed regarding other participants who represent other agencies involved and the role of the team.

**Motion carried by unanimous consent.**

### **One-Year Extension of 911 Dispatch Service**

Hallgren said the Dispatch Service Agreement is for one year but subject to two. He recommended approving the agreement for the price quoted, saying it is inexpensive compared to what it would cost to provide the 24-hour dispatch service in Delta. For many years North Pole handled Delta's dispatch. Two years ago North Pole contracted with the City of Fairbanks. Hallgren said the price is excellent for the necessary service. He said that this is a budgeted item.

Mike Paschall stated all services have consolidated except for the University of Alaska's fire district.

Zimmerman said the cost for 911 services is budgeted.

Martinez moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement approving extension of 911 dispatch services with the City of Fairbanks in the amount of \$9,602.66, effective July 1, 2006; Jenkins seconded.

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

### **Purchase Order**

PO#011055 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$7,273.73 for Aug '06 group health insurance

PO#011056 to Airport Equipment Rental in the amount of \$651.00 for backhoe and trailer rent, needed for cemetery burial and old landfill closure

PO#011057 to AT&T in the amount of \$808.81 for Aug '06 911 phones and power

PO#011058 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,884.49 for credit card purchases (Rescue Squad laptop, DR string trimmer, park toilet paper dispensers, zinc bolts for landfill dozer)

PO#011059 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Aug '06 equipment storage

PO#011060 to Delta Fuel in the amount of \$632.75 for landfill equipment fuel

PO#011061 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$3,196.96 for July '06 vehicle fuel used by Rescue Squad, brush cutter, old landfill closure, and street maintenance

PO#011062 to Green Grass of Alaska in the amount of \$1,433.34 for Aug '06 park lawn contract

PO#011063 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$595.21 for legal services (review of EDZ ROD, voting rules procedures, M2C1 draft contract)

PO#011064 to IBS in the amount of \$888.95 for building materials (Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) renovations, wasp spray and

faucet key at library, rood caulking for park outhouse roofs)

PO#011065 to Joslin Enterprises in the amount of \$2,609.34 for Aug '06 cemetery lawn contract

PO#011066 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$3,350.00 for July '06 engineering services on street assessments

PO#011067 to NC Machinery Co in the amount of \$1,253.09 for landfill dozer blade edges

PO#011068 to State of Alaska Dept. of Transportation & PF in the amount of \$24,000.00 for paving repairs to Nistler Road

PO#011069 to Willis of Alaska, Inc. in the amount of \$7,425.00 for renewal of airport liability insurance

Tvenge moved to approve purchase orders 011055 through 011069 as presented; Martinez seconded.

Hallgren said the airport liability insurance is due. In previous years the Pilots' Association have paid half but this year Council will ask for reimbursement of the full amount.

Musgrove asked if any City officials made contact with the Delta Pilots' Advisory Committee regarding paying the airport insurance. He said he and Jack Morris are essentially the only two members that remain and the amount of money they collect from the pilots and mechanics will not pay for insurance premium.

Discussion followed regarding responsibility of the airstrip.

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

Hallgren suggested scheduling a work session upon receiving the insurance premium bill.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Leith-Dowling called for additional public and Council comments with none being offered.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Tvenge moved to adjourn at 6:59pm; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

\*Pat White, City Clerk  
By Letha Burcham, Acting City Clerk

Date of approval: Sept. 5, 2006