

City of Delta Junction



City Council Minutes
September 5, 2006 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, September 5, 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, JW Musgrove, Leslie Feilner

Council members excused: Mayor Pro tem Lou Heinbockel

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

Additionally seven members from the community and City Attorney Jim DeWitt were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Feilner moved to approve the agenda; Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Feilner moved to approve the August 15, 2006 minutes; Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Al Edgren, Delta Area Forrester, presented City of Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department Chief, Carin Bear with a Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Grant in the amount of \$6,247.00. He explained that this grant must be matched 50/50 by the Fire Department and can be used to purchase firefighting equipment for structural as well as wildland fires.

REPORTS

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported that they will have an Insurance Services Office (ISO) inspection. Insurance is to change from our present rating of 8B. Demands are too far above what we can accomplish. We will be judged together with Rural Deltana. She also stated that she would not be able to attend the entire fire fighters conference this year, but will attend as much as possible. She also said that she had the letter that Heinbockel requested while she was away from her duties. It tells what she can and cannot do.

Airport – Feilner said she was glad to have JW Musgrove on board, as he is the gentleman she goes to for the information she passes on. They will work as a team. She explained that there had been lots of activity in and out of the airstrip due to hunting season. She said she spoke once again with Dave Boadwine regarding the signs that need to get posted before the ground freezes.

Musgrove added that he and Jack Morris were at the airstrip to meet with Boadwine, but that Boadwine had gotten held up in Fairbanks and didn't make it.

Feilner added that she wanted the public to be aware of the vandalism. First someone shot inside one of the planes in a hanger and now another incident. That makes two in the last two years. The equipment is very expensive and she is hoping the public will respect the planes and help protect them.

Musgrove reported that close to dusk on Sept. 3 an airplane with an engine failure did not make it to the runway.

City Clerk – Letha Burcham, Acting City Clerk, reported that three Declaration of Candidacy packets have been received. All three are from the incumbents who currently serve. She stated there were three days left in the filing period for the 2006 Council election, which ends on September 8. She went on to explain that the first City Council meeting in October will be postponed to Wednesday, October 4 due to Municipal Elections on Tuesday, October 3. She said to be sure to vote absentee if there is a chance of not being able to vote at the polls. Code says, “The Council shall meet at the **next scheduled meeting on the second Tuesday of the month** in public session to receive the report of the Election Canvass Board.” In the past Certification of the Election Results has been on the Wednesday following the City Council election because of cut-and-dry results. White asked if there was any objection to having the meeting the day after the election. Otherwise it rightfully should be scheduled on October 3 but White needs to prepare and oversee ballot counting immediately following the polls closing at 8:00pm. Burcham admitted that she did not know a lot about the election process and will rely heavily on White's notes and advice.

Hallgren clarified that on races that were not close, to certify those seats at the next opportunity, which would be the day after the election. But if a race is too close to call, then we would wait until the rest of the absentee ballots come in and seat the winner at the next regularly scheduled council meeting. The plan is to do it this way unless the Council has any objections.

Leith-Dowling asked if that had happened in the past.

Hallgren said not often, but it had on occasion.

Leith-Dowling asked if anyone had any objections with none being offered.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported that the City Hall carpeting was finished and everything just had to be put back in place. The job came in under budget. So far just a little over \$20,000.00 has been spent on the carpet and installation. Since it is under budget he explained that they are looking at replacing the flooring in the kitchen and restrooms with either new vinyl or ceramic tile. This will be installed through force accounting with Wayne Burns and still stay within budget. He continued:

- We want to replace the front sidewalk in the next month with force accounts. Boadwine can take the sidewalk out and then Wayne Burns has the expertise to put in the new one. It will be just the front section and not those along the parking lot.

Tvenge asked if the new sidewalk would be wider.

Hallgren replied no; he had talked it over with Boadwine and it will be the same width, but made 6” thick instead of 4” because of the weight of the equipment and trucks that come up to the door on occasion.

- The park electrical problems are being fixed. We didn't even know there were any problems until someone got a good shock.
- The Bowley's, purchasers of the Waldo house, are in the final throes of getting their financing. They called to ask for a little more time because their lending agency wants to test the water. They evidently want to use the well on the property. Hallgren recommended that the Council give them another two weeks, until the next meeting, to close. He added that they are not dragging their feet and had moved expeditiously in putting some money into repairs required by the lending agency.

No objections were made.

- Several applications have been received for the part time maintenance position and they would be reviewed soon.

- The emergency operations office at the old fire station, the Homeland Security Office, is now finished and usable.
- The plan is to have the new septic pits cleaned out before the next Council meeting. So haulers move to the new system. He said that we need to use them prior to Oct. 1 to make sure they are tested before this winter. So far, they have appeared to be draining fine.
- The school bus company has talked to us about cutting back some trees on several streets where it is not a problem for most vehicles, but the trees overhang at a point that the forces bus drivers to drive down the middle of the street. It has been discussed with Boadwine and he is looking into doing it in-house. But, one of the three grants received for the streets would be usable for the cutting. We notionally got that money for paving, but this would be worthwhile for the Council to consider.
- He reported that he attended a Joint Use of Allen Army Airfield meeting not long ago and that project is not moving rapidly but still showing potential.
- He also met with Bill Sharrow, District Director for Congressman Young's office, to discuss several issues of interest to the City.

Finance – Dave Zimmerman reported that we received \$20,600.00 from Homeland Security for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Emergency Operations Grant.

Hallgren added that the Council had already approved hiring the contractor to re-do the Emergency Operations Plan subject to money being received from the grant. That money is here in sufficient amount to pay for that and will go ahead unless Council directs not to.

Feilner asked if with the recent security happenings in England and the heightening of the security level here, that financially trickle down to the municipalities eventually making the City more secure.

Al Edgren replied that what he has seen is that after 9/11 we had a peak, and now we are on a downhill slide. As long as there is not a major terrorist attack in Alaska, we will continue to see the downslide. The good news is that a lot of things in the City and Deltana were fixed with the money received and we should be in good shape for a while.

Park – Leslie Feilner said that she had been gone for a month, but had received the memo regarding the winterization at the park. The bleachers have been moved back to the High School and she hopes the public has enjoyed the improvements that have been made and added that she hopes more improvements can be made next spring and summer.

Hallgren asked what dates should be used to screw the doors on the outhouses shut.

Feilner replied that the restrooms should be left open for a while, as the weather is still nice enough for people to use the playground.

Dawn Grossmann commented that at the end of the school year there are several groups that use the playground and other facilities and not having the outhouses opened by that date was a problem. She would like them to be opened earlier in the spring.

Hallgren explained that the outhouses were being modified to ensure children could not fall in and that one had had a new roof put on. Next spring they can be opened earlier.

Tvenge asked if the park had been sprayed for weeds.

Hallgren replied that it had. A product recommended by the Cooperative Extension was used and the park maintenance contractor was given written instructions on how to properly apply it.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge said that at the last meeting he had requested that John Lunn do some weed trimming at the rink and two days later it was done. He wished to thank Mr. Lunn very much. He reported that the School Zone sign was down and laying in front of the rink on Nistler Road. He couldn't find the place where he should put it. He also announced that the Skating Association board member elections would be held Sept. 23 from noon until 6 pm at the rink. In addition to the elections several other events would be going on. There will be a skate and equipment swap, registration for the upcoming season as well as a barbecue.

Military Liaison – Mary Leith-Dowling stated that the Ft. Greely RAB (Restoration Advisory Board) met last week and that she and Hallgren both attended.

Hallgren explained that RAB deals with environmental issues and that the people on the board have a fair amount of expertise in that field.

Public Health & Safety – Pablo Martinez reported that the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) grant monies had all been expended except \$29.00. He thanked Dave Zimmerman, Elizabeth Garramone and Wayne Santos for all the hard work stating that our organization did very well due to the efforts of these three people.

Public Works – Pete Hallgren reported that a DR String Trimmer had been purchased and that he offered to loan it to any Chamber member who wished to beautify the section of road in front of their businesses.

Charter Commission – Pete Hallgren stated that a notification memo was received from the LBC (Local Boundary Commission) announcing that their staff expected to have a major synthesis of the Borough Charter out sometime around the end of September.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Reeve Road Plat Approval - Kosmin and Kosmin 2 Subdivisions

Hallgren said he had reviewed the plat and it appears that all the city code requirements have been met and he recommended approval.

Feilner moved to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the final plat including all the notes from Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA); Jenkins seconded. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2007-02, A Resolution Requesting FY07 Payment in Lieu of Taxes Funding from the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development

Feilner moved to approve Resolution 2007-02; Tvenge seconded.

Hallgren stated that the PILT funding is the largest single source of income for the City.

Zimmerman said it amounts to approximately \$480,000.00 this year.

Hallgren added that the amount depends on the Congressional allocation, so it could go up or down or disappear all together.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Proclamation for Youth Football Day-Sept. 9, 2006

Leith-Dowling read the proclamation aloud and then said it is a great thing to have one more activity for the kids to be involved in.

Martha Kimball thanked the Council, said she appreciated their support and invited all to come and watch.

Purchase Orders

PO#011115 to Aetna in the amount of \$7, 273.73 for Sept. 06 group health insurance

PO#011116 to Alaska Communications Systems in the amount of \$1,319.51 for Aug. phone lines

PO#011117 to Delta Sanitation in the amount of \$715.96 for Aug. dumpster services

PO#011118 to Emergency Medical Products, Inc. in the amount of \$760.48 for Rescue Squad Supplies

PO#011119 to ESRI in the amount of \$5,521.97 for Mapping Upgrade software

PO#011120 to City of Fairbanks in the amount of \$4,801.33 for 911 dispatch services

PO#011121 to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital in the amount of \$902.30 for re-stock of ambulance medicine

PO#011122 to Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) in the amount of \$2,015.16 for July electricity

PO#011123 to Kathrein, Inc. in the amount of \$16,407.49 for replacement TV transmit antennae

PO#011124 to Amazon.com in the amount of \$621.24 for library books and materials

PO#011125 to Brodart Co. in the amount of \$768.80 for annual lease renewal and library books
PO#011126 to Buffalo Center Auto Parts in the amount of \$977.69 for ambulance, landfill and streets supplies
PO#011127 to Buffalo Fuel in the amount of \$888.46 for D-6 fuel to close old landfill
PO#011128 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1884.84 for City Hall carpet installation supplies
PO#011129 to Delta Industrial Services in the amount of \$500.00 to move D-6 to and from old landfill
PO#011130 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$1323.81 for August gas & oil
PO#011131 to Follet Software Co. in the amount of \$1156.53 for renewal of library software
PO#011132 to OCLC, Inc. in the amount of \$811.20 for library online cataloging software
Feilner moved to approve PO#'s 011115 through 011132 as presented; Martinez seconded.
Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Tvenge asked Hallgren if we were waiting for the new tower before putting up the new TV antennae.
Hallgren explained that he has to contact Tom Ferry and get prices. The City is still waiting for the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) permit. He met with them and they indicated that if we need to make emergency fixes they would probably not be angry. He said he does not know yet whether we will put up the new antennae on the old towers or build new towers. The new antennae would be damaged or destroyed if the old towers were blown down in the wind. But we need to know the cost in order to proceed. We must also use a bucket truck, as any other method would be too dangerous in the windy conditions on top of the dome.

Leith-Dowling asked if there were any guarantees regarding squirrels.

Hallgren said he had been at the site several weeks ago and there was no evidence of squirrels entering the building at that point.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Discussion of Recreation Center Contract with Attorney

Feilner moved to enter into Executive Session at 5:47 pm to discuss the Recreation Center; Martinez seconded. **Motion passed** by unanimous consent.

Present during the Executive Session were Mary Leith-Dowling, Leslie Fielner, Mike Tvenge, Mike Jenkins, Pablo Martinez, JW Musgrove, Pete Hallgren and City Attorney Jim DeWitt.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Letha J. Burcham, Acting City Clerk

Date of approval: September 19, 2006