



City Council Minutes
September 19, 2006 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, September 19, 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, Mayor Pro tem Lou Heinbockel, Mike Jenkins, Mike Tvenge, Pablo Martinez, Leslie Feilner
Council member absent: JW Musgrove
City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Letha Burcham
Additionally 6 members from the community were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leith-Dowling reported additional purchase orders (011169 through 011173) to add to *New Business*. Jenkins moved to approve the agenda as amended; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Martinez moved to approve the September 5, 2006 minutes as presented; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Heinbockel asked to add to the October 4, 2006 agenda the request Dr. Andreassen presented to the Council on June 6, 2006.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Pete Hallgren reported that the Medic III air shocks failed again.

Heinbockel asked if it could function without the air shocks.

Paschall explained how such a system functions.

Discussion followed.

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported still having problems with the Fire hall building. The leak over the window has not been fixed and no insulation has come as promised by the contractor. Bear said she would be able to participate in the Interior Fall Conference and also attend ISO training.

Heinbockel stated he had concerns regarding high electrical costs at the old (EMT / LEPC) and new fire stations.

Bear reported that they are careful but did not know the cause for high costs unless the facility allows more light than is necessary.

Cemetery – Mary Leith-Dowling reported that Dick Sourhada turned off the water at the cemetery for the winter and that there is fence damage that appears not caused by moose but by humans.

City Clerk – Acting City Clerk Letha Burcham reported 4 qualified Declaration of Candidacy packets for the Municipal Election in October were received prior to the September 8 deadline. All are from the incumbents currently serving and they would each run unopposed for their perspective seats. She identified 9 election officials who would oversee the polls, ballot counting and recounting. Burcham asked Council members to contact her regarding the November Alaska Municipal League (AML) Conference and Newly Elected Officials Training in Juneau because reservations must be made by October 12 to qualify for special room rates.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported:

- Status of City staff: The City Clerk was recovering from a recent auto accident, Administrative Assistant / Acting City Clerk Letha Burcham was traveling out-of-state due to a family medical emergency and Hallgren would be gone on a previously planned vacation. Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman would manage City Hall offices alone for 4 days. Passport applicants will need to apply in Fairbanks unless they can wait until the end of the month. Applications for addresses would be accepted but processing would wait until Burcham returns. Local businesses could provide notary services until city employees returned.
- Closing of the Waldo house sale to Bowley's was delayed to September 22. Hallgren asked to finalize the sale at the October 4 Council meeting. He planned to attend the closing in Fairbanks.

Heinbockel moved to show no objection in extending the Waldo house transaction; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 6 members voting.

- Council previously voted to put proceeds of the Waldo house sale into impact projects instead of normal procedure, which is putting it into the Permanent Fund, because the Waldo house and property for the landfill were initially purchased with impact funds. Hallgren asked to open a 6-month CD at Mt. McKinley Bank to avoid co-mingling the net-proceed funds with other impact grant funds that are in the Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool (AMLIP). The purchase price of \$128,000 minus the cost of sale and maintenance since the original purchase brings the total cost to approximately \$7,000. The special account will be used for the final impact project.

Martinez asked to abstain from voting per his affiliation with Mt. McKinley Bank. No objections were called.

Heinbockel moved to establish a separate account at Mt. McKinley for the net proceeds from the sale of the Waldo house; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with five (Heinbockel, Feilner, Tvenge, Jenkins, Leith-Dowling) voting in favor and one (Martinez) abstaining.

- A letter from the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was received on September 18 stating they would issue an RFP to assess the pollution leftover from the Army at the triangle and north of the Alaska Highway. They would then transfer the land to the City at no cost. The End-of-the-Alaska-Highway Arch may be located there, next to the triangle where the Visitor's Center, Sullivan Roadhouse and Farmer's Market are located.
- Since the new City Hall carpeting came in under budget, new flooring for the City Hall kitchen and restrooms was authorized. Ceramic tile will be installed within the next two weeks. He said the sidewalk would be done next spring.
- The septic pit at the new landfill is open and working. The old site is again closed. Figures indicate 270,000 gallons of septic waste was delivered in the first year of operation at the new landfill and that included the 30,000 gallons that were unreported. The figures show the landfill operation for 2006-2007 to be well within the design criteria. He explained the cycle of pits and said the valves and system were working properly.

School Liaison – Mike Jenkins reported legal issues regarding the new elementary school have not yet been resolved.

DREDC – Mike Tvenge reported DREDC met on September 18. Allen White, Mat-Su Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Coordinator, addressed local issues. He would return in November to help coordinate an area conservation plan. Tvenge said the Recreational Assessment would be a topic of discussion also. There is no funding to keep the project current but he would like it to continue. He identified several possible recreational activities.

Hallgren stated City Attorney Jim DeWitt is moving ahead with M2C1 regarding rink upgrades.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling referenced a graph compiled by Librarian Joyce McCombs. It showed increased levels of patrons, circulation and Internet use for 2005 and 2006. She reported:

- Jonathan Kimble's Eagle Scout landscape project is complete with anchored benches and tables.
- A new children's reading program called Laptime Stories was started for children from birth to 3 years of age. Library Aide Nancy King is working with parent volunteer Kathy Swartz and the first program was well attended.
- Folksinger and storyteller Adam Miller will present a free concert on September 26.
- “Amahok the Hunter,” a 5' bronze art sculpture, created by Jacques and Mary Regat and owned by local resident Jeanette Blalock, has been lent to the library for display on a long-term basis.

Hallgren reported that McCombs inquired with the Senior Center about connecting them with wireless.

Personnel – Mary Leith-Dowling reported applications for the maintenance position were still in review.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported skating and USA hockey registration is scheduled for September 23, marking the beginning of the 2006-07 season. He said the Skating Association is re-evaluating collection of aluminum cans and disposing of them. He explained a possible solution in conjunction with Ft. Greely and a recent scenario in which the connex was vandalized again with spray paint.

Discussion followed regarding the downed road sign near the rink and recycling cans.

Military Liaison – Mary Leith-Dowling reported City Council members were invited to tour the post and the missile site on October 5. She said the Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) project is still in process.

Public Health & Safety – Pablo Martinez stated Dave Zimmerman deserved recognition for his work in closing out Homeland Security grants. LEPC members will be required to take computer courses for commitment to the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported he visited the new landfill on September 16 and the old landfill today. 7 or 8 refrigerators have been delivered to date. Heinbockel said he wanted to compliment Butch Ellis for enforcing acceptance of appliances. He said the City landfill is a first class operation. He stated:

- Four-wheelers are creating serious breakdown of pavement on Mill-Tan Road. It may be advisable for Dave Boadwine to cut ditches along the roadside but allow shoulders on both sides.

Feilner explained there are increased four-wheelers and many new paths and ruts.

Hallgren said Troopers were ticketing drivers for operating four-wheelers on roads.

Heinbockel explained how Kenai and Soldotna solved the problem in their communities by taking away snow machines from their owners for the duration of the season.

- Brush overgrowth on streets will need to be contracted next year if it cannot be done this year. It is a serious problem for school bus drivers. Heinbockel said more streets need graded before freeze-up.

Hallgren explained possible funding for brushing.

Charter Commission – The upcoming public hearing regarding borough formation was discussed but a date was not known.

Additional Reports by Council – Mary Leith-Dowling reported \$1,365 was collected in July and August from donations for Internet use at the library.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

Reward for Information on Community Vandalism

Hallgren reported that the Chamber of Commerce is putting together a reward and has asked the City of Delta Junction to contribute. \$1,600 has been collected from local businesses.

Discussion followed regarding recent community vandalism.

Martinez moved to match the Chamber's \$1,000 contribution toward the reward for information; Feilner seconded.

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

Renewal of Liquor Licenses for Buffalo Lodge, Jack's Liquors & Loyal Order of Moose

Heinbockel stated he preferred to address actual applications for liquor license renewals and felt no action was necessary until the application arrives. Applications provide more information necessary for clear decision-making. The received e-mail was notice of upcoming renewals but did not provide information such as ownership.

Approval of Election Ballot for October 3, 2006 Municipal Election

Heinbockel moved to approve the sample Municipal election ballot as presented; Martinez seconded.

Motion carried.

Re-Plat of Sunrise Subdivision

Heinbockel explained property owners in the Sunrise Subdivision and questioned whether all of them would be affected by the re-platting. Local surveyors identify only one property owner.

Hallgren said the main change has to do with the GVEA easement and increasing the size of the lots. It was improperly shown on the original plat.

Martinez moved to approve the re-plat of Sunrise Subdivision and to authorize approval upon receipt of homeowners signing off on the changes; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Clerk or Acting Clerk and Mayor

Hallgren asked that Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman be designated Acting Clerk in the absence of City Clerk Pat White and Administrative Assistant Letha Burcham.

Feilner moved to appoint Zimmerman as Acting Clerk as requested; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

Purchase Orders

PO#011154 to ACS in the amount of \$1,325.64 for September telephone service

PO#011155 to Alaska Farmers Co-op in the amount of \$2,161.30 for old landfill closure grass/fertilizer

PO#011156 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for warm storage rent

PO#011157 to Delta Fuel in the amount of \$3,067.39 for August heating oil/equipment fuel

PO#011158 to Delta Skating Assoc. in the amount of \$1,836.99 for June–Aug. Social Services Grant

PO#011159 to Fund Balance, Inc. in the amount of \$2,474.00 for annual accounting software maintenance

PO#011160 to Geospatial Applications Made Easy in the amount of \$1,632.75 for 1st draft Delta 911 Map Book

PO#011161 to Hope Counseling Center in the amount of \$5,588.11 for June-Aug. Social Services Grant

PO#011162 to Willis of Alaska, Inc. in the amount of \$87,473.00 for annual renewal of liability insurance

PO#011163 to Wingfoot Commercial Tire Systems in the amount of \$15,052.01 for Volvo loader tires

PO#011164 to Audio Editions in the amount of \$530.37 for library audio books

PO#011169 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$808.83 for Sept. 911 power and phones

PO#011170 to Big Brothers Big Sisters in the amount of \$6,282.27 for June–Aug. Social Services Grant

PO#011171 to Golden Valley Electric Assoc. in the amount of \$2,637.23 for Aug. power

PO#011172 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$950.31 for August legal fees

PO#011173 to Medtronic Physio-Control Corp. in the amount of \$615.64 for Rescue Squad supplies

Heinbockel stated he would have voted against paying the \$7,800 airport insurance, which was approved at the August 15 meeting that he missed. He understood that the Council was not going to pay it during this year's budget discussion. The community needs to recognize that one-fourth of the City's operating funds are being spent on insurances. Payment would not be available if it were not for revenue sharing.

Discussion followed regarding fuel costs, projected PERS increase, the problem with the library overheating, and use of the old fire hall.

Feilner moved to approve purchase orders 011154 through 011164 and 011169 through 011173 as presented; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with five (Feilner, Tvenge, Jenkins, Martinez, Leith-Dowling) voting in favor and one (Heinbockel) voting against.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Dawn Grossmann asked for an update on the bid from M2C1.

Hallgren said he does not yet have a contract to sign but would make it available to the public when it is.

Al Edgren stated future subdivisions should have a standard lot size to accommodate individual septic systems and the City may consider setting that minimum standard. Edgren referenced a news article published a few weeks ago referring to competition between hockey and motocross. He said that it is not a win, lose game with the motocross situation. He said, "The rink is a city building that requires city attention. Probably half of the youth involved in motocross are hockey players also. We just want to see commitment to improving the rink. The Skating Association is not against motocross."

Tvenge said the Skating Association provides a service to the community. Some volunteers have children participating in the program and some don't. A new policy this year will require 4 adult volunteers to host Sunday Skate instead of just one, as in the past.

Martinez asked to spread the wealth in order to address four-wheeler problems and said a place is needed to accommodate them also.

Tvenge said rink upgrades have been on hold for many years. He would be happy to support any other projects once cost of the upgrades is defined.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 6:43pm; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

Letha J. Burcham, Acting City Clerk
Pat White, City Clerk

Date of approval: October 4, 2006