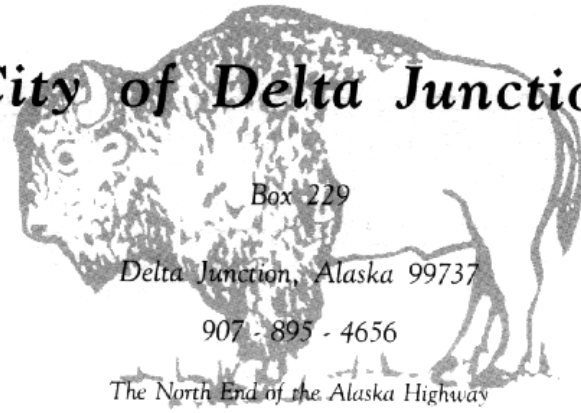


City of Delta Junction



City Council Minutes
October 4, 2006 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Wednesday, October 4, 2006 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Lou Heinbockel, Mike Jenkins
Mike Tvenge, Leslie Feilner, JW Musgrove, Pablo Martinez (arrived at 6:06pm)
City employees present: Dave Zimmerman, Letha Burcham, Pat White
Also present were 8 members from the community and out-of-town guest, Representative John Harris.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Feilner moved to approve the agenda as presented; Tvenge seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Tvenge asked to clarify the Waldo house payment under the City Administrator's report on page 2 of the September 19 minutes. He said the approximate \$7,000 total "net" should be worded as total "cost."

Heinbockel asked to revise wording about the City Hall carpet "...coming in under budget" to better explain that the replacement of City Hall kitchen and restroom flooring would be paid with leftover carpet funds.

Feilner moved to approve the September 19, 2006 minutes as amended; Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Leith-Dowling called for public comments.

Al Edgren stated he wished to comment on the most recent article in the local newspaper regarding hockey versus BMX racetrack. He said the Delta-Greely Skating Association is not against motocross activities. They simply want to move forward in making upgrades to the rink facility. Seventy-five youth used the rink on a daily basis during last year's skating season. The Association does not want money siphoned away before improvements can be made to upgrade the rink.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Leith-Dowling stated she also wished to comment on the write-up regarding the Council voting against contributing toward the reward for community vandalism at the September 19 meeting. She explained that she voted against the motion because it was setting a bad precedent. She said, "Good citizens ought to provide information for the betterment and protection of their community. Information should not need to be bought."

Heinbockel said he agreed in not rewarding people for bad behavior.

Feilner stated she felt the Chamber of Commerce needed support in stopping the vandalism. Heinbockel said he agreed also and would donate the first \$100 of his own. He asked others to match that to come up with the \$1,000 requested by the Chamber.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Leith-Dowling referenced the Certificate of Election that reported results of the City Municipal Election. 57 ballots were cast. All four incumbents ran unopposed with only six votes cast for write-ins.

Heinbockel moved to certify the October 3, 2006 election results as presented; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with six (Heinbockel, Feilner, Tvenge, Jenkins, Musgrove, Leith-Dowling) voting.

White administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Council member Mary Leith-Dowling and newly elected members Mike Jenkins and JW Musgrove. (Jenkins was previously appointed on January 17, 2006 and Musgrove was on August 15, 2006. Leith-Dowling and Jenkins would serve through 2009 and Musgrove through 2007.)

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM

Leith-Dowling called for nominations from the floor.

Tvenge nominated Mary Leith-Dowling for Mayor.

Heinbockel moved to close nominations.

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

Heinbockel clarified that Leith-Dowling would serve as Mayor throughout the length of her 3-year term.

Jenkins nominated Lou Heinbockel for Mayor Pro tem.

Discussion followed regarding Heinbockel serving as Mayor Pro tem for the duration of his 2-year term through October 2008.

Jenkins moved to close nominations.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Sale of Landfill House

Leith-Dowling referenced a September 26, 2006 memo from Pete Hallgren regarding the Waldo house.

Zimmerman explained that Fairbanks Title closed the property sale on September 26 and the net proceeds of \$120,174.49 were transferred into the Mt. McKinley one-year CD account.

Discussion followed regarding the one-year account versus the previously approved 6-month CD.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Traffic Lights and Crossing Guard on Nistler Road

Brenda Lintelman, Alaska Motor Coach Branch Manager, explained concerns that the intersection near the high school is extremely congested while moving 13 buses to the elementary school and another 5 onto Jr. High at Ft. Greely. She stated the legality of stopping traffic at the intersection and said documentation of that, clarifying the rules, was needed. Lintelman said the concern in moving students was greatest during the morning hours.

Leith-Dowling said that she had discussed this situation with DGSD Superintendent P.J. Ford Slack and a possible work session may be scheduled.

Discussion followed regarding traffic traveling over the speed limit in the school zone, crossing guards, parents transporting their children to and from school, and increased busses because of increased student enrollment.

Lintelman said she heard an agency is gathering information about traffic patterns around schools in the State of Alaska.

REPORTS

Fire Department – Fire Chief Carin Bear reported the Fairbanks conference was worthwhile. Fairbanks has postponed their ISO inspection, which will also delay Delta Junction's to possibly June '07.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported he, Jack Morris, Chad Morris, and Dave Boadwine completed installation of ground receivers and signs can be added anytime, even after the ground freezes. He explained reasoning to not take down the power lines at the end of the runway or the pipeline trees at the opposite end. There is quite a bit of distance that offsets the runway from both ends. Buried power lines would be too costly and also unnecessary.

Heinbockel said he has discussed the potential hazard with other pilots who have no problems making the approach to land. He asked Musgrove to offer advice regarding Dr. Andreassen's request in June for property in exchange for services he performed constructing a taxiway. He asked, "What is in the best interest of the City?" He distributed packets of information and asked Council members to review them because it will be a topic of discussion on October 17.

Musgrove said part of the purchase price of airport parcels was access to power and a road. At the time he purchased his parcels the City could not provide the roadwork. He provided the service and was reimbursed his costs but not his labor.

DREDC – Mike Tvenge reported FY07 Social Service Grants are due October 6 and would be reviewed at the DREDC meeting on October 16.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the State Library Regional Coordinators provided online database reference training today to library staff in coordination with local school district staff.

Personnel – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Dave Zimmerman managed City offices very well during staff absences. She said the part-time maintenance position is also still pending.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported the aluminum can problem is under control, graffiti on the van has been painted over, a second registration for figure skating and hockey is scheduled for October 14. The exterior lights at the rink are now on during late hours.

Military Liaison – Mary Leith-Dowling reminded Council of the tour of Ft. Greely on October 5.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported Dave Boadwine planned to grade streets to take advantage of the wetness. He said priority must be to the major connecting roads, Emmaus, South Clearwater, and North Clearwater. There are now 6 Alaska State Troopers (AST) stationed in Delta and he asked for their presence on the school road (Nistler) every morning between 8:00am and 8:45am. He explained recent scenarios that cause him concern and said it happens on a regular basis.

Musgrove suggested the Council correspond with the local AST.

Charter Commission – Lou Heinbockel said there was no further update regarding the progress of the Local Boundary Commission (LBC) providing a public hearing regarding local borough formation.

Pete Fellman, Legislative Aide, reported nothing has changed since providing an e.mail a month ago.

Additional Reports by Council – Mike Tvenge reported Candidate for Governor Sarah Palin visited the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena during a recent visit to Delta Junction.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Draft Recreation Center Design Contract

Leith-Dowling referenced the October 3 e.mail packet from Guess & Rudd Attorney Aisha Tinker Bray.

Tvenge said he has too many questions to make a confident decision.

Heinbockel stated he wanted someone with legal knowledge to advise what is in the City's best interest.

Heinbockel moved to table approval of the draft recreation design contract until October 17; Tvenge seconded. Motion carried.

Purchase Orders

PO#011194 to Mt. McKinley Bank in the amount of \$120,174.49 for CD (Waldo house proceeds)

PO#011195 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$7,273.73 for October '06 health insurance
PO#011196 to Construction Machinery in the amount of \$516.60 for landfill loader bolts
PO#011197 to Delta Youth Court in the amount of \$4,500.00 for June – Aug Social Services
PO#011198 to Delta Sanitation in the amount of \$562.28 for Sept '06 dumpster service
PO#011199 to Jill Longnecker in the amount of \$585.00 for Rescue Squad training reimbursement
PO#011200 to Sue Miller in the amount of \$1,318.97 for Rescue Squad training reimbursement
PO#011201 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$625.14 for Sept '06 diesel fuel
Heinbockel moved to approve purchase orders 011194 through 011201 as presented; Feilner seconded.
Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Al Edgren stated because of personal experience he would no longer allow State aircraft to use the City airstrip. On another issue he said it was appropriate for Council to approach the State as to the possibility of swapping the burn-pit-gravel-area to make a potential run-out area.

Musgrove explained the airport length is limited because of the Richardson Highway and the Alyeska Pipeline. It is not designed to be an aero-commander runway. If the airstrip could be extended a 747 might attempt to land. Musgrove said the land swap had been considered.

Representative John Harris asked Council to prepare a list of capital project priorities for the upcoming year. He said it benefits the newly elected administration, no matter who actually gets elected. It is easier to sustain a project already in the budget than it is to add later. He asked to not overlook the mausoleum at the cemetery. The State budget will be in place by December 1. He asked Council to have the list to the State Legislative Administration no later than January 1. Legislative session starts the second week in January.

Harris and Fellman excused themselves.

Heinbockel stated he would have liked for them to stay longer to discuss high-energy costs. The Murkowski administration had assisted certain communities with the high costs in the past but it is not something to count on. Heinbockel said he felt the State of Alaska should get back into revenue sharing with local communities because of making windfall profits in the billions off the high price of oil. It should be spread to the common man like the Venezuelan who offered millions to rural residents who needed to heat their homes.

Heinbockel asked Council to endorse the idea of contributing toward the Chamber's vandalism reward, donations coming from the public and not from City funds.

Leith-Dowling said she is against the reward system and felt a neighborhood watch should be organized. Discussion followed regarding the recent acts of vandalism and ways to stop the destruction.

Feilner said that vandalism is one of the worst types of cowardice and she was in support of the Chamber's efforts because it was an attempt to stop it.

Martinez arrived at 6:06pm. He explained the Chamber's reasoning in offering the reward and said he felt the request was within the City's functions. The reward would be paid only in the case of a conviction.

Musgrove suggested a plan to match contributions. He said perhaps the City could match a certain percentage of money within a certain time period.

White administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilman Pablo Martinez. (Martinez was previously appointed on November 15, 2005. He serves through 2008.)

ADJOURNMENT

Tvenge moved to adjourn at 6:15pm; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

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

Date of approval: October 17, 2006