



City Council Minutes

November 21, 2006 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting

City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, November 21, 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

Council member excused: Pablo Martinez

City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Pat White

Two members from the community were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leith-Dowling reported items to add to *New Business*:

- ✓ Resolution 2007-03 – Support of Street Dust Control and Paving Improvements
- ✓ Purchase Orders 011325 through 011328

Feilner moved to approve the agenda as amended; Heinbockel seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Musgrove stated he was not present at the November 10, 2006 M2C1 meeting as indicated (page 3 under *Recreation Report*).

Heinbockel moved to approve the November 7, 2006 minutes as amended; Feilner 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.

CORRESPONDENCE

Leith-Dowling referenced advertisement for the Informational Meeting regarding Deltana Borough Incorporation, scheduled for 7:00pm on December 4, 2006 at the Delta High School large gym. No discussion followed.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Pete Hallgren referenced copies distributed to Council members regarding City Attorney Jim DeWitt's recommendation on compensation to emergency crews for responding to ambulance calls. He said he received more information from Rescue Squad Chief Jill Longnecker and has transferred that to DeWitt. Hallgren said Longnecker requested a generator for the squad building in the event of another power outage. (It would be needed to operate the bay doors, 2 ambulance plug-ins, lights and heat. Longnecker said the new addition has a manual chain that opens the bay door for Medic I. The other 2 doors where Medic II and III are located are 250 pounds each and difficult to open by using the chains.) Hallgren said he reviewed the building plans with Dave Boadwine who felt all the doors could be opened manually. They agreed it would be practical to hook up the generator, now housed in the new fire station, to feed both the old (Rescue Squad) and new fire stations. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is now located in the same building, opposite the Rescue Squad. Boadwine is researching hooking up the generator. Why was it not hooked up before? Probably because use of the old fire station was in question, whether it would be a functional building or torn down. Hallgren stated the generator did kick in properly in the new station (during the 2-hour power outage on November 9, 2006). He reported status of heat tapes in City facilities.

Discussion followed regarding heat tapes and risks involved in turning them off.

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported they have waited for 2 1/2" fill since moving into the new facility. Equipment was borrowed from the Steese Fire Department in order for firefighters to complete required hose testing. It will likely take place at Ft. Greely because of the timeframe in returning the equipment. Bear explained the problem in being able to top-fill vehicles at the new fire station, that they are still dependent upon the system at the old station. She reported that protective firefighting equipment is in the process of being made. Municipal Emergency Services of Anchorage won the forestry bid for \$6,247 and that the City's share is \$640. Bear stated she researched maintenance on the air-fill system. No additional maintenance is required except for the oil filter and change. Bobby Curry, supplier in Fairbanks, has agreed to maintain the oil filter for the first two years. Firefighters are about to renew HAZWOPER certificates and Bear said she hoped to combine with Ft. Greely personnel.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported a work session with M2C1 is scheduled for 5:00pm on November 30, 2006 at City Hall. The rink layout will be discussed in detail. He stated M2C1 was given keys to the facility.

Tvenge said he toured the Treadmill Arena in Juneau-Douglas, which is very similar to Delta's rink except they have refrigerated ice. The Zamboni driver explained rink issues and Tvenge questioned what they would change now that the rink has been in operation for a couple years.

DREDC – Mike Tvenge reported Al White, Mat-Su RC&D Coordinator and Catherine Hadley, Natural Resources Conservation Service in Delta, were guest speakers at the Delta Regional Economic Development Council (DREDC) meeting on November 20. Rural Community & Development (RC&D) targets projects in communities. Al White presented a list of projects that were successful in the past. Some examples were ATV bridges over streams, a feasibility study for school districts to burn wood as a source of heat, and waste oil recovery that would be a benefit to our local landfill. DREDC hopes to select a RC&D project by March '07. Tvenge reported the End of the Highway Arch and opportunity for marketing were also discussed.

Heinbockel said longtime resident and past Council member Susie (Kemp) Sandy was a proponent for the arch.

Hallgren referenced a memo, dated October 16, 2006, that dealt with pollution investigation at the "triangle," near the Visitor's Center. One of the reasons the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was interested in contamination was because of the possibility of constructing the Alaska Highway Commemorative Arch. Once the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is satisfied the property is clean they will transfer title to either the City or the Chamber.

Tvenge said all organizations should consider project source of funding through RC&D.

Heinbockel said a speed bump should be built if the arch is not.

Park – Leslie Feilner thanked Pete Hallgren for securing the outhouse doors near the playground.

Personnel – Pete Hallgren reported two good applications are on file for the maintenance position. Plumbing and heating will be contracted into a separate position.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported the November 18 Skating Association Fundraiser was a great success. He said he was very grateful to Delta and Fairbanks for their contributions to the skating program. \$17,500 was raised, which includes \$6,900 in sponsorships and donations. Tvenge reported a 5-on-5 adult hockey tournament is planned for November 24 and 25. High School games were scheduled for November 22 and a Pee Wee team (11 and 12 year olds) was traveling to Anchorage for a Turkey Shoot Tournament.

Heinbockel said it is a sorry state of affairs when the weather is too warm to make ice and then we must rely on Alyeska's Tioga heater to warm the building when it is too cold to skate.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel asked if another piece of equipment was rented while the Volvo loader was being repaired.

Hallgren said Delta Sand & Gravel is charging \$108/hour for actual operating time of a Cat 966 loader.

Heinbockel said they have been good neighbors.

Charter Commission – Lou Heinbockel reported the LBC issued the Preliminary Report, finding that the Deltana Borough Petition met all guidelines. He said whether or not we, as a community, vote in favor of incorporating into a borough or if borough formation is ever forced the groundwork (boundaries) is established that will work for this community.

Leith-Dowling said she verbally invited Senator Gary Wilken and Senator Gene Therriault to the public informational meeting that is scheduled for 7:00pm on December 4, 2006 in the large gym at the school.

Hallgren said the LBC Staff is recommending the LBC move forward in accepting the borough application and to put it before the people for a vote. The LBC could choose not to do that. Hallgren said the model borough boundaries extend to Eagle and LBC admits Delta can form a workable borough within the Delta-Greely School District. The process is run by the LBC, beginning with the public informational meeting on December 4. They have asked City staff to put up notices of the meeting at City Hall, the Library, PO, IGA and Delta Building Supply and to check on a regular basis to ensure the notices stay posted until the meeting. Advertisement is posted on the Delta News Web site (deltanewsweb.com), in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner and the local Delta Wind. Everything is available online at www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/lbc/deltana.htm. Hard copies of the Preliminary Report are available at both City Hall and the Library. More copies will be sent as they are printed. CDs are available at City Hall for those without Internet connection. Hallgren said the LBC staff would provide information at the December 4 meeting. Public comment on the Preliminary Report will be accepted through December 13, 2006. The LBC will issue a final report and recommendation after the public comment period before scheduling a public hearing to accept public testimony. Then LBC will issue a written statement with its decision and if the petition is approved, a State-run election will be scheduled so that every registered, legal voter who lives within the proposed borough is allowed to vote.

Heinbockel said he has always been concerned that this community was created by a vote of the people and now, upon voting for borough formation, everyone in the general area gets to vote to disband this entity. He said that issue should be addressed specifically by the people who live within the boundaries of the City of Delta Junction.

Hallgren said borough formation and dissolving the City of Delta Junction as the local government is one vote. The LBC staff states there is no requirement to have the issues voted separately. If people were concerned they would undoubtedly vote against borough formation. He said the petition establishes a unified Home-Rule Borough, which means there are no municipalities inside the borough. Unified Home-Rule Boroughs are favored by the Constitution.

Heinbockel said he was in favor of a unified borough with “these” boundaries so that we can take control of our schools, to unify EMS services, so everyone has a say and anyone can get elected. In 1960 a group of concerned citizens incorporated into a little second-class city and it has worked successfully for many years. He said he felt those folks should have a say in the whole process so it does not end up in a legal challenge.

Hallgren said the borough proposal not only dissolves the City, but also gives all the assets to the borough. The election will not distinguish how residents vote. Those living within the boundaries of the city and those living outside city limits will be combined.

Heinbockel said the overwhelming opposition to the past prison issue came from those that lived outside of city limits and they do not share in the million-dollar liability that the City was strapped with as a result of their concerns. He said he felt the area-wide community would not support a borough so his concerns are moot anyway.

Hallgren said that after spending close to \$200,000 it is good that LBC agrees that the Deltana Borough Petition is a quality document. Whether or not the people vote for it, it is a good plan, the best for the Delta-Greely School District.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Social Service Sub-Grants

Tvenge reported the Social Service Grants will end June 30, 2007 and the \$75,000 funding must be used within that timeline. DREDC recommends approving the grants as presented. Tvenge said he was concerned for applicants who have yearlong programs.

Hallgren said nearly all applicants have income to sustain their programs.

Jenkins moved to approve the recommendation by DREDC to approve the Social Service Sub-Grants as presented; Feilner seconded.

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

Heinbockel said any money not expended within the fiscal year would be put into the rec center project.

Hallgren said actual deadline is May 31, 2007 because of the final reporting requirement.

Musgrove asked why Hope Counseling’s budget period ends on November 20, 2007.

Hallgren stated it was an error and would need to be corrected.

Resolution 2007-03 Supporting Road Improvements Including Dust Control and Paving in the Delta Junction and Deltana Area

Hallgren explained that Dave Sanchez, Department of Transportation (DOT) Area Planner, planned to request \$2 million from the Denali Commission for road improvements for Delta and required support for his request, in the form of a resolution. The application deadline is November 30. DOT would handle the funding. Sanchez also planned to request the same amounts for both Tok and Tanacross.

Tvenge moved to approve Resolution 2007-03 to support road improvement in the Delta and Deltana areas as presented; Feilner seconded.

Discussion followed regarding the City of Delta Junction and Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) participations in road improvements and TV antennas at the Donnelly Dome site.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Purchase Orders

PO#011299 to ACS in the amount of \$1,318.08 for Nov '06 phone services

PO#011300 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$799.57 for Nov '06 911 phones and power

PO#011301 to Bank of America in the amount of \$2,028.07 for credit card services

(Zimmerman, Tvenge, Martinez, Feilner, Leith-Dowling airfares to AML Conference in Juneau,

Internet software for mapping service, airfare for Library Conference in Juneau, Internet security update for City Hall)

PO#011302 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Nov '06 warm storage

PO#011303 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$5,056.62 for Oct '06 heating oil

PO#011304 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$1,053.00 for ambulance studded tires

PO#011305 to GVEA in the amount of \$2,650.94 for Oct '06 electricity

PO#011306 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$707.88 for Oct '06 legal services (M2C1 contract and audit review)

PO#011307 to Royal Chemical Inc. in the amount of \$1,190.44 for Fire Department supplies

PO#011308 to Sable Development in the amount of \$548.00 for materials used in City Hall floor

PO#011309 to Sunshine Services in the amount of \$1,260.00 for 90 yards of sanding material for streets

PO#011325 to Delta Sanitation, Inc. in the amount of \$579.09 for Nov '06 dumpster services

PO#011326 to Glossarial Applications in the amount of \$753.25 for Oct / Nov '06 mapping training for Letha Burcham

PO#011327 to Mactec Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$2,164.94 for engineering services (review of TV antennas at Donnelly site)

PO#011328 to Morley Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$683.10 for streetlight repairs at Nistler / School Road

Feilner moved to approve purchase orders 011299 through 011309 and 011325 through 011328 as presented; Jenkins seconded.

Tvenge asked what involvement M2C1 has in the TV antennas and what involvement MACTEC had, referencing purchase order 011327.

Hallgren said Council approved MACTEC working on the Donnelly Dome TV project. M2C1 is to present a report on what it will cost to tie down the existing transmit tower (as inexpensive as possible) and identify if there is any possibility of getting a 10-year life out of it, servicing it only from a bucket truck. They are to investigate the cost to build a new tower behind the existing one and closer to the radio shack, serviced by someone who is able to climb onto it. Council will base their decision on the information M2C1 provides. If approval is granted by BLM and it is decided to build, the tower would go out for bid next spring. Hallgren stated PO#011327 was for work done by Keith Nelson in applying for permits from the BLM. MACTEC had never billed for the service.

Heinbockel asked about heating fuel costs.

Discussion followed regarding usage of buildings, the need to keep them heated, and putting locks on fuel tanks.

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

Feilner reported she enjoyed every minute at the AML Conference in Juneau. The City Administrator stayed home and Mayor Leith-Dowling temporarily ended up in Seattle.

Discussion followed regarding snow inhibiting travel, experiences because of it, and what topics were discussed during the conference.

Tvenge said he appreciated the opportunity to attend. As a government official he was able to relate better to the education offered because of his previous service as a Councilman. Council and assembly members from other communities agreed with him. Tvenge said he felt very positive and confident that Council is accountable and doing a good job in our community.

Heinbockel said moving the Capitol to Delta Junction would have been an excellent reuse for Ft. Greely because of better chances of landing at Allen Army Airfield than in Juneau.

Leith-Dowling said Houston is currently dealing with a prison issue.

Discussion followed regarding the gas pipeline, not having a vested interest in the oil pipeline, and what would be to Delta's advantage.

White stated the large gym at the high school holds 300 to 500 people, typical for high school graduation ceremonies. She asked Council to estimate how many would attend the (borough) informational meeting on December 4.

Heinbockel said he expected a lot of people as long as they are given adequate notice.

Hallgren said 200 showed for the Missile Defense Impact meeting in 1999 and that was reportedly the largest turnout for any public meeting.

Tvenge encouraged participation in next year's AML Conference, which will be held in Fairbanks.

Musgrove asked about lawyer fees regarding information on the volunteer stipend issue.

Heinbockel said he had no problem in reimbursing volunteers for what they put out of their own pocket. He is strongly in favor of some form of compensation if there is a legal way of paying it.

Hallgren said there is no question that mileage can be reimbursed. Communities that pay their volunteers take on liability that a local government agency cannot. He explained a federal statute that does not cover instances involving a motor vehicle accident. Heirs could sue if an ambulance transport resulted in the death of a family member. Hallgren said law has become incredibly over-sophisticated and technical and federal liability injunction would not apply.

Discussion followed regarding appreciation for EMS volunteers in this community.

Hallgren said the City provides workers compensation coverage for volunteers and insurance through AML / JIA to cover lawsuits. They are in place to protect the volunteer who could possibly get sued individually. He said options of legal payment would be presented for Council review.

ADJOURNMENT

Feilner moved to adjourn at 6:50pm; Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, City Clerk

Date of approval: December 19, 2006