



City Council Minutes
February 20, 2007 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:07pm, upon establishing a quorum.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Leslie Feilner, Mike Tvenge, Pablo Martinez
Council members excused: Mike Jenkins, JW Musgrove, Mayor Pro tem Lou Heinbockel
City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Dave Zimmerman, Pat White
Five members from the community were present.

FLAG PRESENTATION FROM ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD SPC ROSALIO VELASCO

Mayor Leith-Dowling welcomed and introduced Rosalio Velasco, who was home on break from a National Guard tour in Northern Kuwait / Southern Iraq.

Rosalio Velasco presented an American flag, which he had dedicated to Mayor Leith-Dowling and City Council members. He quoted the certificate, "This flag of the United States of America is presented with pride to the City of Delta Junction so it shall be known by all that this flag was flown over Headquarters, Camp Navistar, Kuwait on the 17th day of January, 2007 in honor of your service to deployed soldiers during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The American flag, a proud symbol of freedom to the entire world, has been earned by the precious blood of service members throughout history, those brave men and women to whom the ideals and honor of this nation have been dearer than life itself." The certificate was signed by James D. Bartolacci, Lieutenant Colonel, Quartermaster, Camp Commander. Velasco stated he has volunteered for many community activities and more recently assisted in Florida after Hurricane Katrina. He then enlisted in the Alaska National Guard for 6 years. Then-Governor Frank Murkowski and Senator Lisa Murkowski spoke at his graduation from boot camp 2 years ago in Mississippi. Velasco displayed and explained photos of his tour in Kuwait. He explained his duties and said he will return to Kuwait through possibly September.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Martinez moved to approve the February 20, 2007 agenda as presented; Tvenge seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Feilner moved to approve the February 6, 2007 minutes as presented; 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.

REPORTS

Fire Department – Carin Bear modeled full uniform of the new fire gear that arrived and said firefighters were pleased with them. She reported:

- The top-fill water system would be complete today or tomorrow.
- Volunteer firefighter / electrician Ed Wilburn will hook up the compressor to electricity.
- Firefighter training would be finished on February 23.
- The LEPC tabletop exercise was held on February 13 and players and their parts were identified during a make-believe wildland fire scenario on Spengler Road / Old Richardson. The after-action review is scheduled tonight at the Clearwater Fire Station and there would be clarification of the actual exercise as it was played out. She explained some problem areas that were presented during the exercise.

City Clerk – Pat White reported passport applications are now taking up to 8 weeks to process and expedited applications that drop it to a 2-week process, make up 25% of those being submitted.

White stated the American Cancer Society *Relay for Life of Delta Junction 2007* is scheduled May 11 and 12 at the DGSD High School track. She asked if Council members, City staff, and their families could participate as the City Slickers team again this year.

Discussion followed regarding how proceeds are used to benefit local communities and statewide agencies, experiences from last year's event, and suggestions for participation this year.

White said she would collect \$10 from each participant to make up the \$250 team registration, which is normally paid by a team sponsor. She also asked for help in assembling auction items and a banner, setting up a tent or lean-to, and scheduling hostesses for the City's station.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported:

- He attended the Supplemental EIS meeting at the Community Center on February 14. He said Fort Richardson and the Donnelly Training Area of Fort Richardson are both being considered to station the 5th Stryker Brigade. He explained the federal court lawsuit that directed looking beyond Hawaii to meet the terms of the Environmental Protection Act. The City of Delta Junction entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) on May 16, 2006 regarding placement and training of the current Stryker Brigade because of concerns about "burning the town down." City Attorney Jim DeWitt requested the public hearing. Hallgren and DeWitt telephonically met with USARAK attorneys from DeWitt's office in Fairbanks on February 26, 2007. General Jacoby assured them that the MOA was still in effect and would be honored. Another meeting will be scheduled next month regarding summer construction.
- M2C1 Engineering provided drawings for the Donnelly Dome translator station, in preparation for putting the construction contract out for bid. They were also working on getting the permit from BLM.
- City officials met with M2C1 to review 90% drawings of the rec center. The final decision is due in 2 weeks. Hallgren explained his concerns with the recommendation of putting out a number of bids, not just one, for contractors and having M2C1 or the City act as the prime contractor. M2C1 feels it would cost less by acting as the general contractor.
- The State of Alaska Local Boundary Commission (LBC) will host a public hearing regarding borough formation on March 16, 2007 starting at 5:30pm in the large gymnasium of the Delta High School. Hallgren recommended City Attorney Jim DeWitt and City Consultant Lamar Cotten be available for the meeting.

Feilner asked what their function would be.

Hallgren stated the Charter Commission will schedule a meeting to prepare their presentation as the Petitioner for the March 16 meeting and he felt DeWitt and Cotten should be part of the that preparation meeting and the public hearing. He said they would both be resources in answering public questions. Their services would be paid from general funds.

Leith-Dowling said DeWitt and Cotten were involved in negotiations of the charter draft.

- Senator Gene Therriault plans to visit Delta Junction in the next 2 months. Hallgren stated he would make City facilities available for Therriault to hold a meeting for the public.
- The next Missile Defense Roundtable will be scheduled in May. Status of the Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) was discussed at today's meeting. Not all decisions have yet been finalized.

DREDC – Mike Tvenge reported the next DREDC meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2007.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Joyce McCombs and Michael Matiatos would be attending the Library Conference in Juneau February 22 through 25. The Career Advancement Center will be constructing a storage facility to keep miscellaneous library supplies that are not used on a regular basis. \$10,000 of the Rasmuson grant will cover the cost of materials and the cement foundation. Leith-Dowling presented current library statistics: 2,745 patrons visited in December and 2,941 in January. There were 14 new patrons in December and 23 in January. 1,765 materials were circulated in December and 2,122 in January. Approximately 1,000 Internet users were counted during both December and January.

Tvenge stated there was a recent letter in the local paper expressing appreciation for the quality of the local library. He said he had first-hand knowledge of the work Nancy King provides for the children's reading program.

Park – Leslie Feilner reported she enjoyed the Festival of Lights fireworks display and considered it a treat because Alaska is too light to have them on the 4th of July.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported the rink project was progressing. He recently operated the Zamboni due to the operator's absence and said use of the overhead electrical doors is going to be a wonderful benefit. Tvenge reported the Delta Skating Association (DSA) has eliminated 3:00 to 5:00pm hockey activity to have Sunday Open Skate from 1:00 to 5:00pm. Two weeks ago the crowd count was at least 80 and last week there were 56. The DSA is considering opening the rink Saturday evenings because it is such a popular activity for adults and entire families.

Personnel – Pat White reported Squad Chief Jill Longnecker is recovering from surgery. Matthew Payne and Sue Miller would fill in as Acting Squad Chiefs during her absence. She said Equipment Operator Butch Ellis would be back to work on February 23, having fully recovered from his surgery, and Councilman Mike Jenkins was undergoing treatment in Seattle.

Public Works – Dave Zimmerman reported NC Machinery originally estimated new motor repairs for the grader would be \$13,000 to \$17,000 but some additional items increased it to \$29,000. Equipment Operator Dave Boadwine was to meet with the sales manager and the shop foreman to discuss it. Zimmerman reported the left hydraulic bar on the Ford truck snowplow would be repaired in two days.

Hallgren explained the unexpected expense would be taken from the landfill sinking fund or from unencumbered Pogo PILT monies.

Charter Commission – Pat White stated copies of the LBC Staff's Final Report regarding the Deltana Borough Proposal would be available to distribute to the public this week. Copies will be at City Hall and the library.

See *City Administrator Report*.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Draft Purchase Policy

Draft Minimum Lot Size Policy

Hallgren stated both the Purchase Policy and Minimum Lot Size Policy would be topics of the March 20, 2007 meeting.

Tvenge said he researched lot sizes in other communities and found that existing homes were outselling newer homes because of buffer zones that larger lot sizes offered. He said he wished to encourage smarter growth because of the buffer theory. He said locals are buying property around themselves for the added space. Tvenge said the smaller the lots become, the less they will be in demand in the future.

NEW BUSINESS**Liquor License Renewal – Jack’s Liquor**

Martinez moved to show no opposition to liquor license renewal of Jack’s Liquor; Feilner seconded.
Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Purchase Orders

PO#011528 to ACS in the amount of \$3,770.66 for Feb ’07 phone services

PO#011529 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$803.54 for Feb ’07 911 phone and power

PO#011530 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,437.94 for Jan ’07 credit card charges

(City Hall office supplies - 2 HP printer ink cartridges, W-2 envelopes, stapler and diskettes, freight to return Rescue Squad backboard from Anchorage, pipe for water system at Fire Department, McCombs’ library workshop in Anchorage, and materials for children’s library program)

PO#011531 to Buffalo Center Auto Parts in the amount of \$1,401.77 for equipment maintenance

PO#011532 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$10,504.96 for Jan ’07 heating fuel oil

PO#011533 to Delta Skating Association in the amount of \$3,000.00 for Nov/Dec ’06 heat and electricity for the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena

PO#011534 to Delta Sanitation in the amount of \$567.14 for Feb ’07 dumpster services

PO#011535 to Delta Wind in the amount of \$528.50 for Jan ’07 advertisements

PO#011536 to GVEA in the amount of \$3,363.81 for Jan ’07 electricity

PO#011537 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$1,014.04 for legal services (Jan ’07 Army Range Expansion)

PO#011538 to L.N. Curtis & Sons in the amount of \$1,778.50 for 2 ½” hoses and fire boots

PO#011539 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$25,621.45 for Jan ’07 rink design

PO#011540 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$3,247.54 for Jan ’07 tower design

PO#011541 to Rural Alaska Mitigation Planning in the amount of \$1,376.00 for LEPC Wildland Tabletop Exercise

PO#011542 to Solid Waste Association of North America in the amount of \$882.00 for landfill operations certification training for Butch Ellis

PO#011543 to Truckwell of Alaska in the amount of \$544.39 for replacement of broken snowplow arm

Feilner moved to approve purchase orders 011528 through 011543 as presented; Martinez seconded.

Martinez stated it would be a relief for a break in the weather because of the cost of heating.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Feilner moved to adjourn at 6:11pm; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, City Clerk

Date of approval: March 6, 2007