

# City of Delta Junction



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**City Council Minutes**  
**March 6, 2007 ~ 5:00PM**

**Regular Meeting**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**  
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The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Lou Heinbockel, Leslie Feilner  
Mike Tvenge, Pablo Martinez, JW Musgrove

Council member excused: Mike Jenkins

City employees present: Dave Zimmerman, Pat White

Five members from the community were present.

## **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Leith-Dowling reported one item to add to *New Business*:

✓ PO#011574 to Bank of America

Martinez moved to approve the March 6, 2007 agenda as amended; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Tvenge asked to correct wording in the *Recreation Report* (page 3 of the February 20, 2007 minutes) that referenced 3 to 5 year olds. He said correct discussion was 3:00 to 5:00 hockey activity was eliminated in order to have Sunday Open Skate from 1:00 to 5:00pm.

Tvenge moved to approve the February 20, 2007 minutes as amended; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Lea Ann McKenzie, representing Heart Fur Animals, asked to use the Community Center for spay and neuter clinics. McKenzie said they have had the clinics since October 2005 but have yet to locate a facility that is large enough with adequate parking space. She said City Administrator Pete Hallgren had previously denied the request on two occasions, citing lack of water accommodations and serving food in the same building. McKenzie said water was not an issue because little to no water was needed for a surgical procedure. She said concern for sanitation reasons was unfounded also. They use precautions with tarps and visqueen coverings and sanitize when cleaning. McKenzie said spay and neuter clinics are needed in Delta Junction to control the population of unwanted pets. It is low-cost and at times, free. They see up to 40 animals per day, performing up to 35 surgeries, give immunizations or a simple pet check. In the past they have held animal clinics in churches, garages, homes, and the Big D fire station. They use numerous vets who are willing to provide their service. A regular facility would be helpful because they hope to schedule a clinic one day every other month.

Tvenge asked if a facility could be located, would clinics be held more often?

McKenzie said they would like to have clinics more frequently to reduce the number of pets seen each time. Also Heart Fur Animals has a policy to spay or neuter pets before advertising them for adoption.

Discussion followed regarding a facility that would meet the needs of a vet clinic, serving food at the Community Center in the same building that conducts surgical procedures on animals, and the old fire station not being in competition for use unless there is a major disaster.

Zimmerman said two empty bays at the old fire hall are presently available as long as the snowplow truck is not housed there.

Heinbockel said it is a heated facility and there is plenty of parking and water available. He suggested providing the old fire station as a public service without charge but to be cautious to not be too competitive with the local veterinarian service by providing cut-rate services.

McKenzie said they advertise by posting flyers. They did perform one surgery by removing a tumor from a pet whose owner could not afford to pay for the service. Their main purpose is to educate against unwanted pets.

Zimmerman stated he would give McKenzie a tour of the facility.

Musgrove stated the local vet should be consulted.

Discussion followed regarding vets holding licenses to perform surgeries, contacting the local vet, and circumstances when a vet is not available.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

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

### **REPORTS**

**Rescue Squad** – Fire Chief Carin Bear reported Rescue Squad Chief Jill Longnecker was recovering well from her recent back surgery. A squad meeting was scheduled at her home on March 8.

**Fire Department** – Carin Bear reported:

- Equipment Operator Dave Boadwine fell off a ladder in the new fire station and broke two ribs and fractured one on March 2. She said she wished him well in his recovery.
- The air-fill system is partially completed.
- Bear attended Insurance Services Office (ISO) training in Fairbanks and said the knowledge will be useful to inspect and prepare a good working plan.

**Finance** – Dave Zimmerman reported he met with a State of Alaska PERS representative and discussed retirement plans under Tier III and the new Tier IV. The City currently pays a 14.4% rate but it could increase to 16.8% on July 1, 2007. The legislature is presently floating a bill that would annualize the whole state to pay 18% to make up for the 8 billion dollar shortfall. Presently each municipality / district has its own rate. The City of Fairbanks' contribution is 129% but they are unable to pay it.

**DREDC** – Mike Tvenge reported the next DREDC meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2007.

**Library** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the Delta Library Board and Alpha Omega were sponsoring Fairbanks Folksinger Susan Grace who is scheduled to perform an adult concert on March 9 at the Community Center and a children's concert on March 10 at the public library. Leith-Dowling reported Joyce McCombs and Mike Matiatos felt the State Library Conference in Juneau was very valuable.

Heinbockel asked if the storage facility for the library, that which the Career Advancement Center plans to build, would be stand-alone.

Leith-Dowling said it would.

Heinbockel asked if a program was in place for patrons to purchase membership to use the library.

Leith-Dowling stated the Library Association has a system in place and those funds pay to host different events throughout the year. Donations are also accepted from Internet users that are not members.

**Personnel** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Councilman Mike Jenkins is still in Seattle and will know more about his progress and return home after seeing his doctors tomorrow.

Heinbockel stated Public Works employee, Dave Boadwine is now out-of-work due to an injury that he was performing that should have been done by a maintenance person. Public Works should be restricted to street and road maintenance and the landfill. He said it has been close to 2 years finishing work on the fire hall and competent contractors could have been hired to finish the job.

Discussion followed regarding current issues, Boadwine's recovery time, lack of road maintenance due to equipment repairs this past winter, hiring a handyman, and operating equipment during cold temperatures.

Heinbockel stated he would discuss the maintenance position with Hallgren when he returns from OSHA training in Anchorage.

**Recreation** – Mike Tvenge reported March is usually the end of the skating season. A Skate-a-thon, figure skating program, and Squirt Bush League Tournament are upcoming events. Tvenge said to watch the Delta Wind and the display sign in the rink parking lot for posted notices.

**Military Liaison** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Hallgren and Council members attended the Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) luncheon at Bolio on February 27.

**Public Works** – Lou Heinbockel reported NC Machinery performed an ultrasound on the landfill dozer, looking for cracks near the idlers, tracks and drive train. They found none and there was no charge for the service. The grader will require up to 2 weeks to repair. The engine will be rebuilt, not replaced, and it will come with a 3-year warranty. Heinbockel asked if the City pays for subdivision street signs. He stated the cost of installing signs, including equipment rental, was approximately \$300 each.

Discussion followed regarding responsibility and cost of posting street signs, maintaining subdivision streets as City-maintained streets, establishing a policy, and being careful not to duplicate street names.

Heinbockel referenced past minutes that discussed not maintaining subdivision streets. He said revenue is allocated for street maintenance but not all streets are maintained because of where they are as a priority.

Leith-Dowling asked to table discussion to a later date.

**Charter Commission** – Lou Heinbockel reported copies of the Final Report from the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (DCCED) are at City Hall and the Library. He said he hoped residents took the opportunity to review it to be able to make an informed decision about the Deltana Borough Proposal and prepare for the Public Hearing and Decisional Meeting on March 16.

**Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison** – Mary Leith-Dowling stated she wanted to contact Department of Transportation (DOT) about moving the 35mph speed limit further toward Fairbanks, beyond Deborah Street, possibly near the airstrip.

Heinbockel said at least near Rapids Street.

Tvenge suggested as far out as Forestry.

Heinbockel asked to suggest DOT clean out intersections and road entrances and approach them about the speed limit past the bus barn, specifically moving it outside the city limits, as far down the Alaska Highway as the Trophy Lodge. He also asked that DOT consider increasing the speed limit between Glennallen and Valdez and part of the way between Glennallen and Anchorage.

Feilner asked to inquire about lowering the 65mph speed limit to 55 between Delta Junction and the Tanana Bridge.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – none

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2007 Lawn Maintenance Contracts**

White reported John Lunn would be available May 28 through September 1 to maintain the City Hall, Community Center and library lawns. Jay Frazier of Alaska Alpine Flora is interested in continuing with the park contract and (Debbie) Joslin Enterprises is interested in continuing with the cemetery contract. [The one-year contracts state they “may be extended on an annual basis for up to 2 additional years at an annual 3% cost increase without bidding if both the City and the contractor are in agreement.”]

Tvenge asked if the park contract could increase lawn cuttings to once a week like the other contracts. Discussion followed regarding weed killer spread last fall and whether ten days or one week was sufficient between grass cuttings.

Debbie Joslin suggested considering more frequent cuttings in the middle of the summer around Solstice. She said grass is more difficult to cut if it is neglected for 2 weeks or more. In some respects,

it is less work to mow more often. Joslin stated the cemetery contract has a clause that states, "Additional cuttings shall be priced at a percentage of the original contract."

Leith-Dowling asked to finalize the park contract at the March 20 meeting after consulting Frazier.

**Martinez moved** to approve continuing lawn contracts with John Lunn and Joslin Enterprises, to include a 3% increase; Feilner seconded.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **Request for Delta-Greely School Board to Approve ASLS 2005-12 (Tracts A, B, C, D)**

Leith-Dowling referenced City Administrator Pete Hallgren's draft letter to Superintendent P.J. Ford Slack, regarding the State of Alaska deeding titles to the school and the City. Leith-Dowling stated it was an interim step to settle property, to be able to resolve traffic challenges with the school district later. Approval of the draft plat is necessary to proceed. She said the connector street and the corner section near the rink are much busier than in the past.

Tana Wood stated it was a good idea to remove the State and let the locals settle the road issues.

White stated Sebastian Saarloos of Delta Surveys requested a copy of the letter be sent to Joe Kemmerer in the plotting office (for unorganized boroughs) in Anchorage.

**Heinbockel moved** to approve sending the draft plat letter; Martinez seconded.

**Motion passed** by unanimous consent.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#011570 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$7,273.73 for March '07 group health insurance

PO#011571 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for March '07 warm storage rent

PO#011572 to Goldbelt Hotel in the amount of \$872.00 for McCombs and Matiatos accommodations at Juneau Library Conference

PO#011573 to L.N. Curtis & Sons in the amount of \$8,740.08 for Fire Department coats and pants

PO#011574 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,385.44 for credit card charges (CB radio and hand-free holder for loader, late fees and interest)

**Feilner moved** to approve purchase orders 011570 through 011573 as presented with 011574 as an add-on; Heinbockel seconded.

Martinez asked about (011574) the CB radio.

Zimmerman stated the radio was placed in the truck for communication with the operator in the loader.

Musgrove asked about late fees and interest (also 011574).

Zimmerman stated the fees were an accumulation of 7 months that he refused to pay. He explained the late fees and interest charged when the prior month balance was not paid in full. Monthly charges average \$900 to \$2,000. Zimmerman stated he lost the argument.

Discussion followed regarding resolving the issue, online billing, and a normal billing cycle.

Musgrove asked about Fire Department turnout gear (011573).

Bear stated she purchased 8 full sets of firefighting gear, made of the most durable materials, and said she hoped they would last a long time.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tana Wood stated there might be audit reasons in receiving bill notification online but it might also be helpful.

Carin Bear asked Council to consult with the local veterinarian regarding Heart Fur Animals using the old fire station on a regular basis. She said she previously denied use of the new fire station because she felt it did not provide sanitary conditions necessary for performing surgeries.

### **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Feilner moved to adjourn at 6:32pm; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, City Clerk

Date of approval: March 20, 2007