



City Council Minutes
June 5, 2007 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:03PM.

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

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

Five members from the community were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Leith-Dowling reported four purchase orders to add to *New Business*:

- ✓ PO 011769 - Delta Skating Association - \$6,699.20
- ✓ PO 011770 - GEOAPPS, Inc. - \$662.75
- ✓ PO 011771 - M2C1 Construction & Engineering - \$1,642.40
- ✓ PO 011772 - M2C1 Construction & Engineering - \$40,847.61

White stated Margie Mullins would be unable to present her topic under *Request to Speak*.

Martinez moved to approve the June 5, 2007 agenda as amended; Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel asked to correct wording on page 3 of the May 15, 2007 minutes. He referenced the comment regarding a grizzly *sighted* near school grounds. "Sited" was incorrect.

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2007 regular meeting as amended; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2007 special meeting as presented; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Matthew Joslin, introduced himself and said he was a Life Scout with Troop 56. He explained a shelter at the cemetery for graveside services and proposed it for his Eagle Scout Project, which must be a project that benefits the entire community. Joslin referred to his diagrams and explained four

possible locations. He stated the shelter would be 16' x 10 1/2' and it would protect people from the rain and the sun, but probably not the wind. He explained the financial structure, that he could not contribute financially to the project and must get support from local businesses and the benefiting organization. He asked Council for permission to proceed with his plans, to give input on the size and location of the shelter, to provide any possible financial assistance, and to allow him to raise funds for the project.

Heinbockel said he preferred option #2, which is located near the birch trees because it is close to the circular paved drive-through and to newer gravesites. He said he liked the proposal.

Hallgren said donations could be tax deductible if the City of Delta Junction received them and issued receipts.

Leith-Dowling asked to visit the cemetery to envision the actual project in its location.

Council members voiced their support and asked Joslin several questions.

Joslin said the project focuses on opportunity for leadership, not necessarily skills. It requires him to recruit support, adults, and expertise. He said the diagrams were drawn by M2C1 and the timeframe to complete the project would depend upon materials and the volunteers lined out to help.

Heinbockel asked Joslin to research what local businesses are willing to contribute and bring it back to Council; that the whole Council was in favor on a conceptual basis.

Margie Mullins – to speak about “recent petitions for reconsideration and responsibilities of City Council to the community.” – called and cancelled prior to meeting

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Pablo Martinez introduced Lisa Shivel as interim Squad Chief. A meeting later tonight will determine whether she will retain that title. He said he was sad that Sue Miller and Jill Longnecker resigned from the Delta Rescue Squad and he asked White to make arrangements to recognize both EMTs for their many years of service to this community. Resignations were because of personal reasons. Martinez reported Medic III is back in service after having air bags repaired. The Borough DOT fabricated a replacement part to stop the leaking check valve. (The compressors would constantly cycle because the system could not hold air.) Sue Miller says the compressors need to be moved to a side compartment so they are not exposed to the elements because of being located under the ambulance. It will cost \$1,700 plus 10 hours (x \$65/hour) of labor to alter the system and it will need to be done within the next year.

Heinbockel asked how the volunteer squad members are now staffed with the recent resignations.

Shivel said they are fortunate that every call has had response. There are currently twelve EMTs on the roster but she would prefer more.

City Clerk – Pat White reported a letter was received from Marion Benham, Secretary of the Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club of Fairbanks (VLNAACF), requesting permission to rent the Community Center on August 17, 18, and 19. Depending on attendance (20-30) they may opt to rent the City Hall conference room. They will have 10-12 antique cars and would like permission to have quiet car games in the City Hall parking lot. Games consist of exhibiting skills to maneuver older model vehicles around cones.

Council members showed no opposition to allowing the antique club to use the City Hall parking lot.

White said she appreciated attending the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) Conference in New Orleans. She reported events, courses, and experiences relating to the May 21-26 week.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported:

- The landfill rock sale expired on June 1, 2007. He said rocks might be valuable but they are not selling like hotcakes; they are selling like rocks. He recommended keeping the 5-cents-per-pound sale for 6 months, if not through the end of the FY08 budget year (June 30, 2008).

Heinbockel moved to extend the rock sale through June 30, 2008; Feilner seconded.

Discussion followed regarding cost of handling rocks and the potential of an outfit wanting them.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

- Bid opening for the Donnelly Tower is scheduled for 5:00PM on June 13, 2007 and the bid opening for the Rink is at 5:00PM on June 15, 2007. The rink was listed as 2:00PM but an addendum will be issued on June 6, 2007 to correct it.
- A new front walkway will be replaced, beginning June 6, and the City Hall exterior will be repainted. Force accounting will pay for the projects.

Finance – Dave Zimmerman reported Draft #4 of the FY08 budget would be reviewed under *New Business, Ordinance 2008-01*.

School Liaison – Mike Jenkins reported he is working with school band members and a Ft. Greely Drill Sergeant to create a marching band for this year's Deltana Fair parade.

DREDC – Mike Tvenge reported DREDC has not met for several months but members are willing to hold their positions until more is on the agenda. Many are receptive to the End of the Alaska Highway Arch (Commemorative Arch), but the project is not moving forward.

Leith-Dowling stated the arch project was developed a long time ago and will require many people to become involved.

Hallgren said cleanup is expected finished by the end of July 2007. The City applied for a site assessment with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) last fall. Test results indicated there was no pollution, specifically petroleum-contaminated soil, on the north side of the highway. (People feared contamination working its way to area wells.) Hallgren said there was some pollution on the south side of the highway in a pit that had been excavated a number of years ago. DEC funded digging and removing up to 500 cubic yards and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) funded filling in the hole. Ft. Greely accepted the removed soil for remediation. He said the State of Alaska owns the property and once the cleanup is to their satisfaction they will deed it to the City. Permanent structures, including the End of the Alaska Arch and Farmer's Market buildings that are not on skids, cannot be constructed until then. Hallgren explained how contaminated soils are treated with heat and/or bugs. He said efforts from Ft. Greely, DEC, and DNR are all worthy of praise.

Discussion followed regarding contamination from military lease-for-use permit in the 1950/60s and efforts to clean them in the 1980s.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported she and Library Director Joyce McCombs researched user fees at the library in order to raise revenue. She referred the topic to McCombs.

McCombs referenced a 3-page document she drafted, explaining Alaska Statutes and providing information about public libraries, grants, and possibilities of raising revenue. She said they spoke with the State Library Developmental Coordinator and Grant Coordinator regarding enforcing user fees. If done the library could no longer be considered a public library. Services must be free. Requiring user fees also causes the library to be ineligible for any state or federal grants. It also affects the interlibrary loan service. McCombs explained funding received through different grants and numerous opportunities that are exclusive to public libraries. She explained different circumstances and asked how to decipher who pays and what determines "library use." McCombs said approximately \$4,000 is collected by donations for Internet use and copies. She said they would attempt to increase that amount by 50% and request \$5 for each half-hour of Internet use. They will also begin charging overdue fines. She explained concerns about implementing it.

Leith-Dowling said more signage would promote patrons contributing toward library service. She gave an example: "Free rent - Donate to your library."

McCombs said patrons value the library. Some donate more than others. She said support is there, but the staff will need to be more specific. The Library Association may schedule another fundraiser or event also. McCombs answered questions from the Council. She said donations are fine but user fees are discriminatory. A Delta resident must pay \$40 to use the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FSNB)

library because that amount is equivalent to what a borough resident pays in taxes to support their library. It is higher in other areas. Fees can be charged for copying service and for overdue books but they cannot be charged for general access to Freedom of Information.

Heinbockel said Alaska Statute states, "... free of charge to the residents of the municipality or community." He said the municipality is the City of Delta Junction, the area within city limits.

McCombs said that when the library incorporated they specifically said "community" meant inside and outside of the city limits. It is written into the Library By-Laws. The library is not the Delta Public Library. It is the Delta Community Library, serving all of the Delta-Greely community.

Discussion followed regarding fees comparable to private businesses and not undercutting them, borough taxes used to support library operations, and use of grant monies.

Hallgren said the library would attempt to raise miscellaneous income from \$6,000 to \$10,000 per discussion at the budget work session on May 30. The history of Delta Junction has been to pay 90 to 95% of operational costs for the library but funding is not required of the City. At one point in the past the library was open only one day a week because of lack of funding.

Heinbockel said he felt fees should be charged for library services or possibly medical, fire, and cemetery services should be free also.

Discussion followed regarding the size of the library and having space for summer readers, books and materials.

Park – Leslie Feilner reported the graffiti on park playground equipment has been removed.

Hallgren said the electrical situation at the pavilion is safe and John Lunn repaired fence posts near the playground area.

Discussion followed regarding a pile of sod in the middle of the ball fields, available firewood from downed trees, and repairing ruts left by a track vehicle.

Personnel – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Butch Ellis is in Seattle for medical treatment. Meanwhile a couple part-time, on-call employees were hired to work on streets and roads. Interviews for filling the part-time maintenance position are scheduled this week.

Hallgren reported the pre-employment drug testing was instituted.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported Hanni Marchuk (895-4018) is coordinating the Adult Softball League and there are 4-5 men's teams and 6 co-ed teams, but umpires are still needed. Cost is \$25/player or \$40 if playing on both men's and co-ed. Marchuk said the ball diamonds are the best she's ever seen.

Heinbockel said kudos to Morley Electric's crew for their excellent work.

Public Health & Safety – Pablo Martinez reported Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is still working to develop an emergency action plan. They met on June 4 with several Council members and City staff to discuss management during a crisis.

Leith-Dowling said she had hardship with creating an emergency plan for the entire community.

Heinbockel stated more volunteers are needed to donate time to this community.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported he spoke with Butch Ellis long distance and would drive the roads to identify which ones to prioritize. New employees Kurt Ueek and Stan Musgrove spent 3 days with the compactor after recent rains and attempted to hit all the high traffic / high maintenance roads. Roads without fine gravel will be watered and graded, but not compacted. Heinbockel asked for a very short Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss personalities. He wanted to talk about himself but not in public forum.

Council members shared comments on the "fantastic, such a pleasure, very fine" roadwork.

Heinbockel said he and Hallgren would meet with Ft. Greely personnel on June 6 to discuss the landfill operation. He hoped to encourage them to utilize the landfill, which would increase volume and cut rates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Lot Sales

Leith-Dowling referenced a spreadsheet showing dates of sale, lot numbers and sizes, and sale prices of city lots sold between April 5, 2001 and May 17, 2006. Prices increased in July 2003 by 200% of the last appraised value and nothing has sold since May 2006.

Feilner asked to not lower the prices because she feels the lots are assessed fairly compared to other land in the Delta area.

Tvenge said people are purchasing 2 to 6 lots, which indicates the price is not a problem.

Heinbockel said several parcels were sold to businesses and one business in particular, caused the City to spend \$8,000 to repair roads that were destroyed. He said he found it upsetting that they had no qualms to respond to inquiries. He said he feels land that does not sell has no value whereas money in the permanent fund does. Un-saleable rocks have no value. South Clearwater lots are not prime property.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2008-01, An Ordinance for the City of Delta Junction, Alaska Providing for the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2008

Leith-Dowling referenced the #4 FY08 draft budget and City Administrator memo, dated June 1, 2007, that resulted from a budget work session on May 30.

Feilner moved to introduce Ordinance 2008-01, An Ordinance for the City of Delta Junction, Alaska Providing for the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2008, and set the public hearing date for June 19, 2007; Tvenge seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with six voting. (Musgrove momentarily stepped out of room.)

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2008-02, An Ordinance Prohibiting the Hunting of Big Game Within City Limits

Heinbockel asked to increase the violation penalty, as listed under 3.07.040, from \$100 to \$350 because the general fine for violators who take moose out of season is to forfeit the meat and pay \$350. He said he did not want the City to be in competition for giving a lesser fine for the same crime.

Heinbockel moved to introduce Ordinance 2008-02, An Ordinance Prohibiting the Hunting of Big Game Within City Limits, to include requested penalty changes, and set the public hearing date for June 19, 2007; Feilner seconded.

Hallgren said the Ordinance does not make it illegal to shoot a gun or bow within city limits. It states one cannot take bison, moose, caribou, and bear within city limits.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel said Ordinance does not stop the State hunt, which is scheduled in October and November, but the ordinance is a direct response to the State opening cow moose hunting in highly densely populated areas. He would like to hear public opinions during the public hearing on June 19.

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2008-03, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3.21, Sanitary Landfill, Section 3.21.100, Fees, Authorizing Increasing Landfill Rates from \$105.00/Ton to \$125.00/Ton

Heinbockel moved to introduce Ordinance 2008-03, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3.21, Sanitary Landfill, Section 3.21.100, Fees, Authorizing Increasing Landfill Rates from \$105.00/Ton to \$125.00/Ton and set the public hearing date for June 19, 2007; Tvenge seconded.

Heinbockel asked to change wording "...fees may be reduced at *anytime* by motion..." *Anytime* replaces *anyone*.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Feilner said she was thankful the \$5.00 minimum rate was not increased.

Bid to Repair Library Doors

Leith-Dowling explained the support system on the library's heavy doors does not function or close properly. New doors would cost \$25,000 but re-rigging the existing doors would cost \$1,600.

Discussion followed regarding the door problem and past attempts to repair them.

McCombs said the problem with the lock on the new doors was not evident until colder temperatures arrived. Over two hundred people enter the library every day.

Musgrove excused himself at 6:45PM.

Purchase Orders

PO#011765 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$6,821.60 for June '07 group health insurance

PO#011766 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for June '07 warm storage rent

PO#011767 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$708.81 for May '07 vehicle fuel

PO#011768 to State of Alaska Department of Administration in the amount of \$9,641.38 for employee

Letha Burcham to change from PERS defined benefits to defined contribution retirement system

PO#011769 to Delta Skating Association in the amount of \$6,699.20 for final payment on Social Services Grant

PO#011770 to GEOAPPS, Inc. in the amount of \$662.75 for 911 mapping book progress

PO#011771 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$1,642.40 for May '07 engineering service on Donnelly Dome Tower bid package

PO#011772 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$40,847.61 for May '07 engineering service on Ice Arena bid package

Tvenge moved to approve purchase orders 011765 through 011772 as presented; Feilner seconded.

Tvenge asked to re-clarify 011768.

Zimmerman said Letha Burcham changed from the Tier III (Defined Benefit) Retirement system to the new Tier IV, which is a contribution plan. The request must come from the employee and the change was approved at the March 20, 2007 meeting. Upon approval the City is required to pay the contribution requirement in advance.

Hallgren said the move would get rid of liability in the retirement plan. The City would pay 10% toward the Tier IV plan, instead of 18% in Tier III. He said Burcham will end up with no pension but will take out a higher cash amount when she quits. All employees have the option to switch but it must be before the 5-year date in which they vest.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with six voting. (Musgrove no longer present.)

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel stated there is a huge concern about the future of this community, yet so little interest or attendance at Council meetings.

Hallgren said the first meeting in July would be on the 3rd. The 4th of July is a Wednesday. He asked if the July Council meetings should be rescheduled.

Discussion followed regarding lack of attendance at the July 3 meeting and it was decided to postpone both meetings (from July 3 and 17) to July 10 and July 24.

Tvenge reported the Governor's picnic is scheduled in Fairbanks at the Pioneer's Park from 4:30 to 7:00PM on June 6, 2007.

Hallgren stated Representative Harris' district received less money than any other district, excluding that of the forgiveness of the prison-loan debt. If Governor Palin vetoes it, it would save the State \$50,000 per year, equivalent to the annual repayment. Hallgren said \$50,000 spent out of the general fund could be used for operations.

Leith-Dowling said would love governor to visit Delta again.

Discussion followed regarding a visit.

Feilner stated she objected to the method of voting in the August borough election. She felt it should be conducted at a polling place instead of by mail-in ballots. She said she appreciated Michael Paschall's editorial in the May 24, 2007 local paper, in which he raised questions about voting by mail.

Council took a break at 6:59PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Heinbockel moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:06PM for confidential discussion about personalities of public officials; Feilner seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Present during the Executive Session were Leith-Dowling, Heinbockel, Jenkins, Feilner, Martinez, Tvenge, Hallgren, and White.

Heinbockel moved to end the Executive Session at 7:15PM; Feilner seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 7:23PM; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, City Clerk

Date of approval: June 19, 2007