



City Council Minutes
July 10, 2007 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Lou Heinbockel
Mike Jenkins, Leslie Feilner, JW Musgrove, Pablo Martinez
City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Mike Tvenge, Dave Zimmerman, Butch Ellis, Pat White
Ten members from the community and one out of town guest were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Leith-Dowling reported an Executive Session would be added prior to *New Business* topic, *Rec Center Options* and City Attorney Jim DeWitt would be present telephonically.

Martinez asked to move *Recognition Awards* to the next item of business.

Martinez moved to approve the June 19, 2007 agenda as amended; Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION AWARDS TO VOLUNTEER EMTS

Martinez presented plaques of appreciation to Debra Darland, Sue Miller, and Jill Longnecker for their service to the Delta Junction community as volunteer EMTs. He said Darland volunteered for 10 years and served as Delta Rescue Squad Chief for 2 of them, Longnecker volunteered for 3 years, serving as Squad Chief for half of that time, and Miller served for 13 years, with one year as Squad Chief. Martinez read each plaque as he presented them and said they were a small token of appreciation for dedication to the community from both the volunteers and their families.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel referenced page 5 of the June 19, 2007 minutes and asked to change the spelling of Roads Creek to "Rhoads" and to delete the next sentence regarding high-powered rifles. He referred to page 7, discussion about installation of fiber optic cable and said it was for Cable TV.

White referred to revisions made on page 4 under discussion regarding Hallgren's June 1, 2007 memo. She clarified draft minutes with Hallgren, who provided restructured wording to read, "...the City would not be able to continue operating at the current level of service without more income. Employees and/or services will need to be dropped. Staff was increased because of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC 1995-2002) and Missile Defense (MD) transition. Construction projects and MD funding are near completion and the Pogo PILT to the City ends July 1, 2007. The City cannot keep current service levels beyond 2010 if a borough is not formed."

Martinez moved to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2007 regular meeting as amended; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Al Edgren reported his family spent 3 hours cleaning the connex at the rink parking lot. Six bags of bottles were separated from the aluminum cans and delivered to the City Hall dumpster.

Bethany Mitchell, representing Delta Sanitation, asked not to be charged the new tipping fees until Ft. Greely's involvement is known. The new increase will require Delta Sanitation to raise their customer rates and then reduce them again if Ft. Greely participates in the landfill operation.

Hallgren reported he recommended authorizing Delta Sanitation (DS) to be excused from the rate increase through the end of this month. He referenced June 29 correspondence in which he explained communication with Delta Sanitation and their complaint about receiving late notice of the rate increase. Hallgren said DS is the largest customer, disposing 67% of the overall community garbage, and because they were not given proper notice before the ordinance passed (at the June 19, 2007 Council meeting), he would like them to have forgiveness until August 1, 2007. He said he hoped to have heard from Ft. Greely the last week in June but now it won't be known until sometime in August. If they do participate, it will not be until the start of the federal fiscal year, October 1. Hallgren reported \$2,000 to \$2,500 per month would be lost revenue by excusing DS from the increased rate. A maximum of \$7,000 would be lost if DS is excused until October, if and when Ft. Greely agrees to use the landfill. He said a full recommendation would be presented at the next meeting on July 24. The volumes Ft. Greely disposes on a daily basis will increase garbage at the landfill by approximately one-third of the current load, equivalent to half of what DS delivers. At \$90/ton it would increase income but also expenses, possibly \$20,000/year. If Ft. Greely does participate at those levels, the Council could reduce the current \$125/ton to as low as \$105 or \$107/ton, to last year's rates. It would cover operating costs only, not the sinking fund, in which \$50,000 was drawn from the Pogo PILT for the FY08 budget.

Heinbockel said if Delta Sanitation is given a break from paying \$125/ton, the rest of the community should be given the same break. Individuals should not be penalized.

Discussion followed regarding types of garbage and requirements for daily or weekly cover, summer months having increased construction debris, reverting back to \$105/ton, and making the landfill self-supporting.

Zimmerman stated last year's gross revenue was \$164,000, based upon 1,569 tons, but the landfill operation had a \$28,000 deficit.

Hallgren said the loss was the reason for the rate increase from \$105/ton to \$125/ton, which is an increase of a penny per pound.

Martinez moved to charge the general public the same landfill rates (\$105/ton or 5 1/4¢ per pound) as charged to Delta Sanitation through July 31, 2007; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Hallgren stated the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) landfill offers free service to its taxpayers. Commercial businesses pay \$59/ton and those living outside FNSB are charged \$118/ton with a maximum of 25 tons per carrier each month. Special permits are required for tonnage over that.

Joseph Jenkins said he was organizing a softball tournament, hoping for 14-16 teams, with ten coming from outside the city. He asked to use the park ball fields for the weekend of July 27/29 and also to allow tents and camping, alcohol, and a food concession.

Leith-Dowling reported Deltana Fair Manager Judy Sowell issued a letter of support, stating the softball tournament would "compliment" this year's fair.

Hallgren said existing ordinance is against drinking in the park unless a special permit is granted from the Council. He suggested restricting the alcohol be dispensed by an alcohol vendor who is licensed by the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board for the special event. Tents are not allowed in the park also. However, those rules were waived for 2 years in a row for AIDS bikers.

J. Jenkins said they plan to tie softball activities into those with the beer tent at the fair, hoping everyone migrates to the fairgrounds after the games. He said he planned to provide additional portable units because available restrooms cannot accommodate the numbers expected.

Hallgren said vehicles are prohibited inside the park gates because of the ruts they create and he advised giving the local troopers proper notification of the event.

J. Jenkins said the gates would be kept locked and a group of volunteers has already been established to clean up, if necessary.

Heinbockel moved to grant permission for an alcohol vendor to serve beer and to allow camping in the park; M. Jenkins seconded.

Discussion followed regarding preparation of the High School field for a skills competition, possibly needing another dumpster, the length of the tournament, and requirements for food vendors.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Heinbockel encouraged bringing back tournaments as they were in the past.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Lisa Shivel asked to attend the EMS EXPO in Orlando, Florida October 9-13 with other EMTs, Levi McLaren and Mike Diachenko. Cost to attend will be \$340 for Shivel and \$85 each for the men, who qualify for military discounts. Shivel explained travel and accommodations costs and said rates are good through August 27.

Leith-Dowling stated training funds are available and to be used however the Rescue Squad decides.

Shivel reported the squad has responded to 130 runs since the first of the year, she was grateful for the community support during the highway accident on July 1, and she planned to recruit more EMS members. Shivel said she found a 2004 agreement between USARAK, Ft. Greely and Delta EMS.

Hallgren said the agreement was not signed so it was never in effect.

Shivel reported emergency lighting does not illuminate when electrical power is lost at the Squad building, Medic II is back from (heater coil) repairs but Medic III has a transmission problem, and she asked about per diem to cover mileage from the EMT's home to the necessary destination. She said it was stated in previous minutes, "A \$500 stipend is not illegal. It is just problematic."

Hallgren said the topic was discussed last October through December when the City Attorney researched it again. It is not simple because of volunteers and personal liabilities.

Discussion followed regarding insurance coverage and rulings from Alaska Statutes.

Shivel said the volunteers did not get the answers they needed because the answers were too vague.

Hallgren said the Attorney Jim DeWitt recommended not giving volunteers benefits because it jeopardizes their immunities. The question keeps coming up and each time it costs attorney fees to resolve it.

Cemetery – Mary Leith-Dowling reported some repairs are needed at the cemetery.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported Mike Tvenge has taken over the City Administrator position. Mike Tvenge reported:

- The roof leak at the new fire hall is substantial and he would like to inspect it.
- A wireless router for Internet access is in place at the Rescue Squad.
- KATN (Channel 13) was notified of the Donnelly Tower contract award to replace the existing tower. They will need to install a down-feed dish to connect to the new tower because their tower will be taken down also. Tvenge, Hallgren, Stephen Hammond (M2C1), and two representatives from Alcan Builders met with Guess & Rudd attorneys on June 28 to discuss the

original rink bid, which exceeded the available funding. M2C1 prepared a reduced scope of work and the Alcan's revised bid again exceeded funding so no contract has been awarded.

- Tvenge visited city-owned buildings with Hallgren to familiarize himself with furnaces and current conditions of the buildings.
- Tvenge spoke with DGSD Superintendent P.J. Ford Slack about the Zamboni situation. She stated housing it in the school is not a problem and the existing agreement is still an option. Feilner asked to have the agreement in writing.
- A roundtable is scheduled for July 17 to discuss issues with community representatives.
- A meeting is scheduled with USARAK attorneys on July 18 regarding aviation and access issues.
- A meeting is scheduled with Ted Hawley, MACTEC Engineering, and the Alaska Chapter of SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America) on July 20 to discuss the landfill operation.
- The part-time, permanent equipment operator position has been advertised. It will takeover the workload at the landfill and on streets and roads.
- Pete Hickman, GEOAPPS, Inc. owner, who also assists Letha Burcham in mapping, submitted a quote of \$496 for 8 E-911 map binders. The black and white versions will be put to use by emergency responders who will provide suggestions for revisions. The final versions will then be made in color.
- Tvenge, Hallgren, and Leith-Dowling met with the Director of Installation Management Command of the Pacific Region, Deborah Zedalis, and Lt. Col. McClinton on July 10. They visited the library and discussed other projects that were federally funded.
- DEC inspected the landfill in a surprise visit on July 2, shortly after Ellis returned from medical treatment in Seattle. The written report for the annual inspection was received today with a score of 85%. It is not as high as preferred but will be better next year.

Discussion followed regarding Internet access at the Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and LEPC.

Finance – Dave Zimmerman reported the \$500,000 Pogo PILT was received.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the summer reading program is full of happy, involved kids who have read more than 130 books. New part-time employees are Melinda Hammerly and Kelly Shoemaker who have filled Mike Matiatos' position. Leith-Dowling reported the library took in \$4,975 over the past 12 months (through June 30, 2007) and plans to increase that amount to reach the \$10,000 goal for the next year.

Hallgren reported Leith-Dowling spoke with federal officials about library funding. Ft. Greely is looking into a military program, which allows them to offer operations funding for private public libraries located off-post if one is not available on base.

Park – Leslie Feilner reported the park is looking very nice and she is pleased with the mowing.

Hallgren said his son, Theo, is presently using the limb-loppers to trim the alders that are growing into the ball field fence.

Heinbockel asked to have the edges around the fences burned next spring as they have in the past. He said he has never seen as much standing water left at the park as after the most recent rains. He discussed possible reasons for changed topography.

White stated the Slow Pitch Home Run Derby on June 28 was a success and another one will be scheduled. She asked if permission to use the ball fields is necessary.

Council approved Sarah Jo Seymore using the ball fields.

Joseph Jenkins suggested the events be scheduled on the Adult League game nights for better turnout.

Public Health & Safety – Lou Heinbockel stated his concerns about the 65mph speed limit on the Richardson Highway between Delta Junction and Fairbanks. He compared it to the 55mph speed limit on the Richardson to Valdez and the highway to Anchorage.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel stated the weeds and grass on the airstrip need to be cut.

Butch Ellis reported he was surprised with the 85% test scores from DEC. Test samples of the septic waste were turned in today and results will be back in time for the visit from SWANA on July 20, when the upper pond will be drained.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison – Mary Leith-Dowling reported she spoke with Mike Coffey about paying State employees to use their equipment to mow some street edges. Coffey understood the safety issue related to school buses having to drive the middle of the road. A list of streets and a description of work is needed. They will quote a fee after that and the mowing would not begin until mid-August when their work is complete.

Ellis said he would speak with Alaska Motor Coaches for a list of priority streets.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Advertisement for New Council Member

White reported the next highest vote getter in the 2005 election declined to take the vacated City Council seat, which was left open when Mike Tvenge was hired as the new City Administrator. White stated letters of interest for Seat G will be accepted through August 3 and appointment will be made at the August 7 Council meeting. The person appointed will serve until the October 2 election and until a successor is elected. White stated there have been no letters of interest yet and none of the 14 candidates running for borough assembly, except the 4 City Council members, qualify for the Council seat because they do not live within city limits.

Discussion of Brushing Roadsides

See *DOT Liaison Report*

Heinbockel asked for the public to provide input on what streets they would like brushed. He said the roadsides along the Richardson Highway near Birch Lake are maintained by David McCombs who is a former Delta student. He said the area is exceptionally well maintained.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Heinbockel moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters of immediate knowledge, which could harm municipal finances; Martinez seconded.

Hallgren asked to allow State of Alaska DEC Ruth St. Amour to be present during the meeting. The Council broke at 6:29pm and reconvened at 6:50pm after difficulty setting up the phone system. Present during the Executive Session were Mary Leith-Dowling, Lou Heinbockel, Mike Jenkins, JW Musgrove, Leslie Feilner, Pablo Martinez, Pete Hallgren, Mike Tvenge, Ruth St. Amour, and Jim DeWitt (telephonically).

Heinbockel moved to end the Executive Session at 7:55pm and reconvene the regular meeting; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion of Rec Center Options

Heinbockel moved to authorize City administration and M2C1 Engineering to approach Alcan Builders with a scope of work and a proposal agreement; Feilner seconded.

Hallgren said the purpose is to bring Alcan Builder's proposal closer to the available money with the intent of accomplishing something this year. The information would not be made public because of the

negotiation process with Alcan.

Musgrove asked what construction would be accomplished this year.

Hallgren said the zamboni room would be moved outside into a stand-alone building and the remainder of the facility would be brought up to code.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Purchase Orders

PO#011846 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,087.01 for paint, tape, and thinner for exterior of City Hall facility

PO#011847 to Delta Concrete in the amount of \$3,218.00 for concrete for City Hall sidewalk

PO#011848 to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$716.15 for June '07 vehicle fuel

PO#011849 to Delta Youth Court in the amount of \$4,750.00 for final Social Services Grant payment, March through May '07

PO#011850 to Gabe's Truck & Auto Repair in the amount of \$590.00 to tow Medic II to Fairbanks

PO#011851 to Sable Development in the amount of \$885.00 for rented equipment for City Hall sidewalk and painting

PO#011852 to CMI in the amount of \$4,246.66 for Volvo loader transmission repairs

Feilner moved to approve purchase orders 011846 through 011852 as presented; Jenkins seconded.

Heinbockel asked what the total cost was for the front entrance walkway.

Zimmerman said the sidewalk and painting of City Hall cost \$17,400. The sidewalk was approximately \$14,000.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Feilner moved to adjourn at 8:03pm; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: July 24, 2007
