



City Council Minutes
November 13, 2007 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, November 13, 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, Pablo Martinez
Mike Jenkins, Leslie Feilner, JW Musgrove (telephonically)

Council member excused: Pete Hallgren

City employees present: Mike Tvenge, Dave Zimmerman, Pat White

Approximately thirty members from the community and three out-of-town guests were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Martinez moved to approve the November 13, 2007 agenda as presented; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Martinez moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2007 regular meeting as presented; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Leith-Dowling called for public comments on non-agenda items.

Le Ann McKenzie, representing Heart Fur Animals, asked to clarify whether they had permission to use the old fire station and if a \$25 fee is associated with using the facility. She said tentative plans are to have a spay/neuter clinic on December 31. (Topic was discussed at previous Council meetings on March 6, March 20, and April 3, 2007.)

Discussion followed regarding rent, cleaning the *old* fire station, which is presently being used for storage, and making the building available by the December.

Heinbockel said he was against charging fees during initial discussions and he still felt the same. He asked to allow Heart Fur Animals to use the facility without charge, but with a caveat that it is left clean or cleaner than when they arrive.

McKenzie said she would like to arrange a tour of the facility with Dave Zimmerman. They have not had a spay/neuter clinic since last December and have yet to view the facility. She said a three-day clinic is scheduled in December at the Goldstream Community Center in Fairbanks.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

REQUEST TO SPEAK**Final Plat Approval of H&L Subdivision**

Ralph Mathews, Registered Land Surveyor, Mathews Land Surveying, Inc., said there are minor changes to the H & L (Harold and Lucille) Stock Subdivision that were previously presented at the July 24, 2007 City Council meeting. He explained the changes in the lot area of Lot 1 and the line change between Lots 2 and 3, which are differences of about 50 feet.

Martinez moved to approve the final plat of H&L Stock Subdivision as presented; Heinbockel seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Well and Fencing for Delta Junction Motocross (DJMX) Track**Cement Pad and Skate Park / BMX Equipment**

Arron Adams, Delta Junction Motocross (DJMX) Secretary, spoke on behalf of President Scottie Brown. He referenced Brown's November 2, 2007 e-mail that presented ideas and price quotes for numerous items for the motocross track, which is at the Deltana Fairgrounds, near Bergstad's Trailer Park. A boundary fence would allow more control of activities as well as limit access from non-members. Signs and events are posted but they do not stop people from using the tracks. Adams said a well, pump, hoses, and connections would be helpful to keep the track wet for safer riding conditions.

Heinbockel asked if Sunshine Services was asked to provide a quote for the well and he questioned the need for the high output well and 3-phase electrical power.

Discussion followed regarding extending electrical power, the need for electrical poles, the nearest source of power and water (the horse corral), membership (25 as of last spring), DJMX affiliation with the Delta Lions Club, locating the skateboard park at the rink (rec center) and whether or not it should be movable or on solid ground, and if the well could be drilled at this time of the year.

Heinbockel said a decision would not be made tonight and he asked Adams to explore more details.

Feilner said she inquired with a park representative at the AML conference about serious, not minor, skateboard injuries and he informed that there are 7 or 8 reported annually. She said she felt one was too many.

Heinbockel said there are risks involved in any sport, whether it is skating, skateboarding, or playing basketball.

Delta Sportsman's Association / Impact Funds

Mike Bender introduced himself as the President of Delta Sportsman's Association and Coach of the High School Rifle Team. He asked to consider using some of the remaining impact funds to finance improvements at the sportsman's range and educational facility. He explained the association as a non-profit corporation that was founded twenty-five years ago to foster appreciation of indoor and outdoor sporting activities and to provide a facility for the promotion of safe and responsible use of firearms. As of September 2007 the Delta Sportsman's Association's had 193 paid members and of that, 49% either lived or worked at Ft. Greely. Bender listed numerous organizations and individuals that use the facilities free of charge, such as the High School Rifle Team, Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Alaska State Defense Force, and the general public. He explained activities that are open to members of the association and non-members, such as sighting-in rifles, firearm safety and marksmanship courses, training rifle coaches from other Alaskan communities, Ladies Night, sponsoring an annual High School scholarship, and hosted community fundraisers to support maintenance of the facilities and to send local shooters to the National Junior Olympics. He explained recent improvements over the past two years that included installing a four-point backstop in the indoor range, replacing part of the roof, building a concrete firing line, installing retractable target carriers, moving and re-ducting the heating system, and upgrading the range, clubroom, and kitchen. Bender said approximately \$13,000 and 2,000 hours of volunteer labor have been invested in the past year. He explained marksmanship excellence in Delta and how it has become a tradition since the mid 1980s, when Delta athletes started setting State records and, more recently, earning national recognition. Bender explained challenges the association faces in

maintaining the indoor and outdoor shooting ranges and how they propose to better them. He asked Council to consider supporting their efforts of installing a heat exchange unit, increase insulation, replace roofing on the west end of the building, install an indoor backstop extension, and re-roof the outdoor 100-yard rifle range. Bender said the \$39,786.43 budget covers materials and installation of the heat exchange unit (\$15,200), but otherwise all labor is from volunteers.

Tvenge said he would discuss the request with Jo Grove of the Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development (DCCED). However, she is out of town for the Thanksgiving holiday. Discussion followed regarding the requested impact funds.

Bender stated a health inspector described the Delta Sportsman's Association facility as one of the cleanest in the State.

Emergency Shelter Trailer

John Lewis, representing the American Red Cross, asked to discuss funding for the emergency shelter trailer that was discussed at the October 16, 2007 Council meeting. He introduced Greg Williams, Tanana Valley District Emergency Services Manager, and Neva Baker, TVD Development Manager.

Neva Baker reported Boeing funds (\$12,500) have been approved toward purchase of an emergency shelter (disaster) trailer for Delta Junction. She said the total cost is roughly \$17,000 and reoccurring costs average \$2,000 annually. Disaster trailers have been in Alaska for 3 years and the ones in Fairbanks and Anchorage have been used ten to fifteen times each year. She said the larger the population base, the bigger the need for a shelter. Baker explained Delta would be the third community to receive a trailer. Fairbanks Red Cross has responded numerous times to the Delta area because of fire and flooding. She explained an incident in which flooding in Salcha prohibited response to the Delta area and at the same time the disaster trailer in Anchorage also covered the Kenai Peninsula. Baker said a trailer in Delta could be deployed to other interior communities Glennallen, Tok, and Eagle, coastal communities of Valdez Haines, and communities in Canada. She said the Delta Chamber of Commerce approved contributing \$2,125 toward the purchase and she asked Council to support the remaining amount. She explained the Penny Campaign, a student driven fundraiser held each February, that raises the sustainable amount (\$2,000 yearly) to replace expendable items (blankets and comfort/hygiene kits).

Heinbockel asked if impact funds would be used for the matching amount.

Tvenge said if approved, it would be paid out of the general fund.

Baker said the project would not be stopped if the City Council did not support it. Boeing has provided more than 80% but she would prefer the community "buy-in" to support it.

Discussion followed regarding heated facilities to store the mobile trailer unit (old fire station bays or Community Center garage) and labeling the trailer with City, Chamber, and DGSD School logos.

Baker said she hoped to have the trailer in Delta in time for the Penny Campaign and the Festival of Lights parade.

Heinbockel moved to approve spending \$2,500 from the general fund to support purchase of the emergency shelter trailer; Martinez seconded.

Musgrove asked about maintenance.

Baker said maintenance is built into the sustainability. Also the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) can solicit funding. The Red Cross cannot receive funding from Homeland Security because of where their funding comes from and because of how the Red Cross Congressional Charter is written. The trailer should be assessed after each time it is used and items should then be replaced. Baker said 4 radios are included in the disaster trailer and the two-way radios have built-in GPS. She stated the stackable chairs presently stored at the fire station are perfect for the unit.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Discussion followed regarding contact with Deltana Community Corporation (DCC), Whitestone, and the local mine, who may be interested in obtaining an emergency shelter trailer, and businesses in Fairbanks who are considering supplying in-kind items to outfit shelter trailers.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Pat White reported squad members were being tested on their EMT I training tonight and on November 15.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Carin Bear reported firefighters were among the team that tested EMT I candidates, EMT II testing is scheduled for December 15, and a HAZWOPER refresher course will be held in January. She invited the landfill operators to join them.

Tvenge said landfill operators planned to test online but if not, they could join the firefighters.

Airport – JW Musgrove stated there is little snow and minimal flying activity at the airstrip.

City Clerk – Pat White reported she attended the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC) and the Alaska Municipal League (AML) conferences in Fairbanks November 4 through 8. She said municipalities across the state all share in the same problem, getting the public involved in local government. White said it is beneficial to hear how other communities deal with issues.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported:

- Rita St. Louis, Interior Advisory Coordinator to the State Board of Game (BOG), confirmed that the Regulation Proposal was accepted and will be a topic at the regional BOG meeting in March 2008. Tvenge stated he attended the Fish & Game Advisory meeting on October 31 in which the City Code Ordinance 2008-04, dated September 4, 2007, was discussed.

Heinbockel asked if there was any local support to regulate big game hunting inside the city limits.

Bender said there was heartburn about the initial ordinance because it was “anti-hunting” but few were against the ordinance dealing with public safety. He said the majority of the public that opposed the ordinance were against closing the cow season in an area that they felt was overpopulated and the cause for increased motor vehicle accidents.

Heinbockel said the ordinance had nothing to do with no-hunting; it dealt with no discharge of center-fire cartridges in the taking of big game. He said he hoped that the local advisory committee would recognize that they supported action that undid thirty years of tradition and some of it addressed safety. It was the reason there was a closed area that started at Clearwater Lake and expanded over the years as the biologists wanted. The City Council wanted cooperation from the local advisory committee to show local support before taking the proposal to the BOG.

Tvenge said Rita St. Louis suggested sending a representative to the meeting in Fairbanks. He would provide information about the time and date of the meeting when it becomes available.

Bill Dunham asked about the firing range across the Richardson Highway, if it was still open.

Heinbockel said it is open but it is not supported by the City nor is use of it encouraged. It was once a safe place to shoot. A much bigger backstop was constructed using volunteer labor and City equipment about five years ago to prevent four-wheelers from accessing the range. He said he would like for the range to disappear.

Dunham said the Delta Sportsman's Association appreciated the offer to use the old landfill on Tanana Loop Extension for a rifle range but they could not make it safe because of distance capabilities of center-fire cartridges. Instead they have applied with the State of Alaska for a 600+ acre piece of land on the Alaska Highway. He said there are very few places that allow a community range that will still be safe thirty or forty years from now. The application was submitted in August but it has not yet been accepted.

- Elder Barrett and Elder Breinholt, two missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints are credited for many hours of volunteer labor, including that at the old fire hall. Tvenge said the two young men are very willing and able to help wherever they can and he wished to acknowledge them.

- Correspondence was received from Chugach/Alutiiq J.V. regarding use of the landfill. They requested a response within 120 days. The 50-page document will be forwarded to City Attorney Jim DeWitt.

School Liaison – Mike Jenkins presented dates of upcoming School Board work sessions and business meetings. He said holiday programs and a picture card contest would be advertised in the Delta Wind. Principal Appreciation Day, as designated by Governor Sarah Palin, is scheduled on November 16.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported:

- Winter programs, pre-school story hour and lap-time story hour, are well attended.
- Construction of the library storage building is near completion.
- Cold climate housing research building was a topic of discussion and tour during the Mayor's

Conference. Leith-Dowling said she planned to research air recycling for the library.

Personnel – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Butch Ellis is coping very well with his treatments in Seattle. White said City Hall would be closed on November 22 for Thanksgiving and on November 23 when staff all chose to take a personal day.

Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported ice is being made at the rink. He said he was impressed with the physical size of the Zamboni addition. It's much larger than what it appears from the outside. He asked for a work session to discuss the requests for recreational funding (under *Request to Speak*).

Discussion followed and a date (5:00pm, Tuesday, November 20, 2007) was set.

Tvenge said the Zamboni addition is 50% complete.

Public Health & Safety – Pablo Martinez reported the Mass Dispensing Clinic on October 25 was a great success. He thanked the volunteers who put the exercise together and said he appreciated the wonderful participation from the community (480 residents).

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported the D6 dozer was repaired and back in Delta. He said streets are well done and he appreciates use of the sander by Equipment Operator Stephen Selfe. Heinbockel asked about the brushing project because of concerns with some particular problem streets.

Tvenge said brushing is still possible this year, but it could possibly be linked to the road-paving contract next spring.

Heinbockel asked for a status report on the Channel 13 saga.

Tvenge said the decision was made to stop pursuing the dish set up until next spring because the cost is prohibitive at this point. He apologized for not being able to provide the service but will continue to secure licensing and find a way to bring FOX and CBS channels to Delta.

Heinbockel said putting the antenna back was not the answer and he regretted the reluctance from KATN.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison – Mary Leith-Dowling reported she attended a meeting on November 7, 2007 with DOT at the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FSNB) mayor's office to discuss the Richardson Highway. Capital projects not being funded by the State was the main topic of discussion. Federal funding pays for most all highway projects and a resolution would be drafted to request the State put more funding toward work on the Richardson. She explained the need for a wayside in the Paxson area that would accommodate tour buses. Leith-Dowling said roads, PRS/TRS, and revenue sharing were hot topics at the AML conference in Fairbanks November 5-9.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Change Order – Front Door Canopy of Ice Arena

Tvenge said canopies for the Ice Arena entrances were part of the original scope of work for the building upgrades but were omitted during early negotiations. He asked that they be reconsidered now that funding is still available. Heritage General Contracting has quoted \$50,726.32 to construct the two canopies for the main entrances on the east side of the building. The canopies were designed by M2C1, they would be similar to covered walkway on the elementary school, and they can be completed this year under the recreation grant. Tvenge said he would like to see the canopies accomplished.

Heinbockel asked to address it at the November 20 work session.

Purchase Orders

PO#012136 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$6,909.73 for Nov '07 group health insurance

PO#012137 to Alcan Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$81,552.29 for Ice Arena, Progress #4

PO#012138 to Amazon.com in the amount of \$1,190.88 for library books, CDs, and tapes

PO#012139 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$875.08 for Sept/Oct '07 vehicle fuel

PO#012140 to Delta Wind in the amount of \$1,095.75 for Oct '07 advertisements

PO#012141 to T & J Gilbertson in the amount of \$2,500.00 for Nov '07 warm storage rent

PO#012142 to Heritage General Contracting in the amount of \$185,737.50 for Zamboni building, Progress #3

PO#012143 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$8,230.00 for city roads survey

PO#012144 to Mikunda, Cottrell & Company in the amount of \$12,500.00 for 6-30-07-audit progress invoice

PO#012145 to Santa's Stitches in the amount of \$1,320.16 for Rescue Squad (10) jackets and vests

PO#012146 to Jay White in the amount of \$1,575.00 for septic service

PO#012147 to M2C1 Construction and Engineering in the amount of \$18,896.32 for Oct '07 Ice Arena construction management

PO#012148 to Rainer Equipment Transport, Inc. in the amount of \$900.00 to haul dozer to Fairbanks for repairs

Feilner moved to approve purchase orders 012136 through 012148 as presented; Martinez seconded.

Tvenge referenced 012143 and said the roads survey is complete and M2C1 is now working on design for the 3 roads (Emmaus, South Clearwater, and Rapids per August 21, 2007 meeting) that were earmarked for paving in order to have a bid packet out by spring.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Kevin Jenkins, Delta Skating Association President, thanked Council on behalf of the public and DSA for the efforts made to upgrade the Liewer/Olmstead Ice Arena.

Rose Edgren said she was equally appreciative, especially for the restrooms. She said DSA hoped the elementary classes would continue skating classes and she urged the public to use the building for other forms of entertainment, community events, and private parties. Edgren said DSA was considering a Saturday evening skate.

Tvenge said an Open House / ribbon-cutting party is in the planning stages and Ron Liewer will attend. (Liewer was instrumental in starting hockey in Delta Junction prior to his being hired as a fifth-grade teacher in 1979. He worked in Mentasta for 6 years and Dot Lake for 2. Liewer supported the skating programs while he was employed with DGSD and continued to maintain ice after his retirement in 1990 until he moved to Nebraska in 1999. He has supported the program financially since then.)

Leith-Dowling called for additional Council comments.

Heinbockel asked to consider preparing the Legislative Wish List, noting that Governor Palin turned everything down last year. (Legislative sessions are now 90 days instead of 120. The next session starts January 15, 2008.) Heinbockel said he felt the State should bail out our community for what they helped create (prison debt), that the City should not have to continue spending money for that debt when it can be better spent elsewhere. The State required the City to act as the "pass-through" agency and when Council supported the community in not wanting the prison, it resulted in a \$1 million debt.

Leith-Dowling suggested inviting legislators to join in discussion.

Feilner reported she attended an interesting workshop on global warming at the AML conference. Discussion followed regarding polar research.

ADJOURNMENT

Martinez moved to adjourn at 6:58pm; Jenkins and Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: November 27, 2007