



City Council Minutes
December 18, 2007 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, December 18, 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 (arrived at 5:05)
Mike Jenkins (excused at 6:10pm), Leslie Feilner, Pete Hallgren
JW Musgrove, Pablo Martinez (arrived at 5:08)

City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Public Works Supervisor Butch Ellis
City Clerk Pat White

Six members from the community were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leith-Dowling reported one item, Sale of Property (Lot 3 of Block 31), would be added to *New Business*. Feilner moved to approve the December 18, 2007 agenda as amended; Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Feilner moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2007 regular meeting as presented; Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

Al Edgren stated forty youth (ages 9 to 13) from Delta and twenty-four from Tok played hockey on December 14 and 15. Because of a High School basketball tournament "there was no room at the inn" so the girls stayed in the small conference room at City Hall. He thanked Council for being able to accommodate the out-of-town girls. Edgren said eighty-seven hockey players and thirty-five figure skaters occupy the Liewer-Olmstead ice arena Monday through Fridays, plus weekends for games, and multiple local residents attend Open Skate on Sundays. He said on any given weekend there are one hundred kids skating and over three hundred during a tournament.

Margie Mullins asked Council to purchase a machine to duplicate recordings of City Council meetings.

White stated 90-minute cassette tapes are no longer used to record meetings and recordings are now saved on CDs. She said she would discuss the topic with Mullins more thoroughly outside the regular Council meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

Hallgren asked to discuss the letter from Ken Farrow, Director of Alpha Omega that was received on December 17. He moved to accept Alpha Omega's request to waive fees for use of the Community Center on December 8, 2007 for the Children's Christmas Party; Heinbockel seconded. Hallgren said he would vote against his motion because most all events held at the Community Center are worthwhile public services, whether they are non-profit or not. He explained the policy of charging and waiving fees and how it has changed in recent years. He said under the old regime most all fees were appealed to the City Council, except for weddings, and rarely was anyone denied. Hallgren said the facility is a benefit to the community but it is expensive to operate and it is doubtful that user fees cover the fuel oil used in any given event, especially in the winter. The Community Center was ideal for distributing food during Project Christmas but even they opt to use the Presbyterian Church instead of paying the reduced (half price) non-profit rate. Hallgren said there is no way of differentiating worthy causes, whether it's Boy Scouts, Christmas packages, or a blood bank. Renting the facilities is "mighty cheap anyhow."

Feilner stated she felt it necessary to be consistent and stand behind the existing policy to be fair to everyone.

Motion failed on a roll call vote with 5 (Feilner, Musgrove, Hallgren, Martinez, Leith-Dowling) voting against waiving the rental fees and 2 (Jenkins, Heinbockel) voting in favor.

REPORTS

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported:

- She and Levi McLaren completed an EMT II course on December 15.
- She registered and pre-paid to reserve a place in the upcoming Firefighter II course, February 1 through February 28.
- A HAZWOPER refresher course is scheduled on January 26.
- A great amount of water has been delivered to the ice rink.

City Clerk – Pat White asked to close City Hall on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve so that staff can have a four-day weekend, stating the employees opted to take those two Mondays off as personal leave. She said business is very slow during the holidays.

Discussion followed regarding holidays established in the Personnel Policy, "floating" holidays, and posting appropriate notices with contact information in case the public requires assistance.

White reported she received CMC (Certified Municipal Clerk) designation on November 28 from IIMC (International Institute of Municipal Clerks) and will now use that acronym title.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported:

- He participated in the Community Erosion Survey telephonically with Christy Miller on December 10. Miller is the project manager for Tetra Tech, who is under contract with Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a baseline erosion assessment for the Delta area and 160 other communities. Tvenge said a CD of photos from the May 2004 flood was sent to Miller.
- Zimmerman created a purchase order for the Delta Junction Motocross (DJMX) fence through Dimond Fence Company. It will be built next summer.
- He is working with Chugach/Alutiiq J.V. on some scenarios that will protect the City from losses. He referred to a spreadsheet of projected solid wastes for 2008 and said Ft. Greely averages eighty tons per month. Tvenge explained the calculations over the past 3 years and said opening the landfill Monday through Friday, 12:00 to 3:00pm may not be reasonable, considering the costs to operate the landfill for those additional hours. He said it costs over \$90/hour to operate the equipment. Tvenge said he and Zimmerman recommended Options 1 or 2 and he asked for Council input.

Discussion followed regarding extending landfill hours versus the amount of garbage volume, charging Ft. Greely the same as the local public, the current operation and how it is presently run, and putting income from extra tonnage into the sinking fund.

Tvenge said adding Ft. Greely's volume would allow money for the sinking fund.

Discussion followed regarding the \$125/ton rate and increased fuel costs.

Martinez said nothing stays the same. The contract should hold through maybe September of next year.

Tvenge said the contract would run through September 30, 2008 and then it would be re-evaluated.

Hallgren questioned if the potential break-even status of the current landfill operation is because of the unforeseen increase of dredge off Taylor Highway.

Heinbockel moved to offer Ft. Greely a contract through September 30, 2008 with Option #1 and Option #2; Martinez seconded.

Discussion followed regarding current public hours (Tuesday, 11:00 to 6:00pm, Friday, 11:00 to 3:00, and Saturday, 9:00 to 3:00pm), being open minimal days for Delta Sanitation, and extending to 6 days/week with the proposed contract.

Heinbockel said enough business would reduce the rates for everyone.

Hallgren said the private trash hauler delivers two-thirds of the community garbage. If the price per ton is reduced they may not be able to rebate it to their customers.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 7 voting.

School Liaison – Mike Jenkins reported the school district is currently in the second round of appeals over renovating the high school, which was incorrectly listed as a new structure. He said Representative John Harris will be in Delta Junction on January 7 and 8, 2008.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the Chamber Gingerbread House, essay, and coloring contests are on display at the library.

Personnel – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Violeta Vorobyov resigned from the scale house operator position to take another job that offered more hours. Advertisement has been posted to fill the temporary part-time position.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported a walk-through of the Zamboni addition is scheduled for 10:00am on December 19, 2007. He invited Council members to participate in the inspection and to go over a punch list of remaining items.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported major streets were recently plowed because of the heavy snow.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Carter and Burgess, promoters of the North Richardson Highway Scenic Byway project, would be at the Community Center on January 9, 2008 between 5:30 and 7:30pm and they would appreciate public input on the important points along the last 125 miles of the Richardson between Ft. Greely and Fairbanks.

Additional Reports by Council – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Representative John Harris is scheduled to be in Delta Junction on January 7, 2008 and will be able to meet with City Council members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Requests for Impact Funds (on December 4, 2007)

Tvenge stated he received a fax requesting extension of existing bike trails on Nistler and Jack Warren roads. He said it is more of a paving issue and that there were not enough impact funds available.

Discussion followed regarding the current condition of the asphalt trails and repairs.

Tvenge referenced the Deltana Fair Association request, which was explained in detail in a letter received on December 17, and said it does not meet criteria under impact funding even though it is a community recreation. He said opportunity to apply for funding for individual interests was in the spring of 2003 when Social Service Grants were advertised. Many groups benefited by receiving \$770,000. He said funding for fairground improvements would be discussed under the Legislative List in *New Business*.

Leith-Dowling stated remaining funds upon completion of the recreation center are obligated to the landfill sinking fund.

Hallgren said all impact funds have been allocated except for about \$20,000, which will be used to complete the project. He said the landfill operation is a service the government must provide. It was built with impact funds and putting the remaining money into the sinking fund benefits the entire community.

Jenkins excused himself at 6:10pm.

Tvenge said the park goal posts are somewhat abandoned, that the Little League baseball and football teams do not need them. There are no visible nets though.

Leith-Dowling stated there appears to be no objection in giving the posts to the soccer team as requested on December 4, 2007. She said they have until spring to locate funding to purchase nets.

NEW BUSINESS

Sale of Property – Lot 3 of Block 31, Delta Junction Townsite, North Addition

Heinbockel moved to approve the sale of Lot 3 of Block 31 to Clifford Dunkle and Patricia LaDuke in the amount of \$4,972.00 (\$4,700 property, \$250 title fee, and \$22 recording fee); Feilner seconded.

Heinbockel said the property adjoins what they already own.

Discussion followed regarding title search and the need for Council to approve individual land sales.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Gaming Renewals

Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #35, Delta Clearwater Moose Lodge 911, and Nenana Ice Classics

Heinbockel moved to show no opposition of gaming renewals as requested by the Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #35, Delta Clearwater Moose Lodge 911, and Nenana Ice Classics; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Entrance Canopies for Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena

Tvenge explained the need for canopies at the two entrances on the east side of the rink facility next to the parking lot and said they were options on the original bid and already budgeted into the project. He said City Attorney Jim DeWitt stated the change order, in which the design was modified, could be issued to either of the two primary rink contractors, Alcan Builders or Heritage General. The work would be completed by June 15, 2008 and it has been authorized by Grant Administrator Jo Grove.

Heinbockel moved to enter into a contract with Heritage General Contracting to construct canopies as a change order not to exceed \$43,150.00; Martinez seconded.

Discussion followed regarding the difference in bids.

Hallgren asked that contractors be required to provide final as-built drawings because a lot of money has been spent to bring the facility up to code and he felt it necessary to be able to prove it with a full set of plans of what was actually built.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with six voting.

2008 Legislative Capital Projects Priority List

Tvenge said the Council, staff, Chamber of Commerce, and Rescue Squad compiled the Legislative Wish List. It would be reviewed by Senator Gene Therriault and Representative John Harris in early January and submitted by February 1, 2008. He asked for Council input.

Hallgren said last year's request was zeroed out by the Governor and that included funding for paving. He asked to change the priority of the list and explained his reasoning. Paving of the arterial streets remains the most important priority, including paving of the island where the end of the Alaska Highway meets the Richardson. He suggested paving it with asphalt or concrete and leaving several small areas to grow flowers. He suggested moving the Recreation Center to #7 and forgiveness of the prison loan to #8. He suggested putting the highway arch at #6. He said the clean up at the triangle is complete and development of the area is now possible. He suggested combining the motorized gurney, ambulance, Life Paks, and six AEDs (Automatic Electronic Device) as #4. He asked to add a mausoleum and said it was on the legislative list for a number of years, and it provides a service for the entire community, especially during winter months. Hallgren said he opted to scratch funding for fairground upgrades for fear that it would eliminate any hope of getting funding for paving.

Discussion followed regarding cemetery issues and construction of a mausoleum, removing Jarvis Creek Bridge improvements from the draft list, and the prison debt.

Heinbockel said he felt the prison debt was a scam with the Knowles administration, the debt was assumed by the City because of default from the State of Alaska. The State was the prime mover on the prison and the City should not be spending \$50,000/year to cover that debt.

Hallgren said he agreed with Heinbockel.

Musgrove agreed the prison debt should be at the top of the list because it needs to be taken care of.

Heinbockel asked that the prison debt be #3 in priority.

Tvenge said five priority roads were narrowed to three.

Discussion followed regarding revenue sharing, transmission and air shock repairs needed for Medic III or replacing it altogether, combining purchase of a new one with the other medical-related items on the legislative list, current use of ambulances and gurneys, the Commemorative Arch to promote tourism, and eliminating fairground improvements.

Leith-Dowling asked to add cemetery improvements to the request for a mausoleum because a watering system is needed to replace the above ground hoses.

Tvenge said Jarvis Creek Bridge is in design but there is no money for construction.

Leith-Dowling recapped the list of items and asked that the Jarvis Bridge be mentioned in the letter, stating the Council is hopeful the legislature will provide the Department of Transportation with funding to make the necessary improvements. She said the Legislative Priority List would be reviewed again on January 2, 2008.

Discussion followed regarding possible cutting of Federal PILT funding, which is the City's biggest source of income.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY LIST – DRAFT 2

1. Downtown arterial and school bus route paving, including island paving	\$1,950,000
2. End of the Alaska Highway Arch (Commemorative Arch)	\$475,000
3. Forgive 2004 State Prison settlement loan balance	\$1,050,000
4. Rescue Squad "Stryker" motorized gurney	\$12,000
two Medtronic Life Pak 12's and six AEDs	\$75,000
New ambulance	-----
5. Mausoleum and Deltana area cemetery improvements	\$275,000
6. Recreation Center/Multi-Use Facility renovation and construction	\$2,100,000

Jarvis Creek Bridge and Richardson Highway construction repairs

Purchase Orders

PO#012245 to ACS in the amount of \$2,153.66 for Dec '07 phone services

PO#012246 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$812.11 for Dec '07 911 phones and power

PO#012247 to Bank of America in the amount of \$3,200.28 for credit card services (Council and staff lodging for AML Conference in November, anti-virus renewal for library, City Hall Christmas cards, and various library books)

PO#012248 to Buffalo Center Auto Parts in the amount of \$1,180.84 for equipment parts (battery for Fire Department engine, antifreeze for landfill dozer, towels/absorbent for equipment shop, and oil/grease for grader)

PO#012249 to Eric Deeter in the amount of \$2,630.00 for portrait of Alaska Poet John Haines

PO#012250 to Delta Concrete in the amount of \$1,300.00 for concrete to be used for Delta Sportsman's facility upgrades

PO#012251 to Crowley Petroleum Distribution in the amount of \$3,867.99 for Nov '07 heating oil

PO#012252 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,111.29 for library storage building lumber and window replacement of old (1984) Case tractor

PO#012253 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$3,582.89 for roofing materials for Delta Sportsman's facility upgrades

PO#012254 to Delta Industrial Services in the amount of \$618.75 for 82.5 yards of sand for city streets

PO#012255 to Delta Lock & Key in the amount of \$1,198.16 for landfill gate security system

PO#012256 to Delta Sportsman's Association in the amount of \$4,517.22 for reimbursement for materials to upgrade facilities
PO#012257 to Jan R. Dick in the amount of \$2,372.50 for Rescue Squad ETT/EMT training
PO#012258 to GVEA in the amount of \$3,098.98 for Nov '07 electricity
PO#012259 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$1,630.31 for legal services (annual audit inquiry request and review ice arena changes)
PO#012260 to Heritage General Contracting in the amount of \$206,162.92 for Dec '07 Zamboni progress invoice
PO#012261 to Home Depot in the amount of \$8,175.03 for building materials for Delta Sportsman's facility upgrades
PO#012262 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$19,730.00 for Nov '07 management of ice arena upgrades
PO#012263 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$7,600.00 for roads survey and design
PO#012264 to Tok Area EMS in the amount of \$5,048.00 for Rescue Squad EMT II training
PO#012265 to Carin Bear in the amount of \$743.00 for Firefighter II training reimbursement
Feilner moved to approve purchase orders 012245 through 012265 as presented; Martinez seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 6 voting.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Al Edgren thanked Council for approving the long over-due canopies because of the safety issues the entrances present. He said, as a biker, he would prefer widening Nistler and Jack Warren roads instead of creating a paved four-wheeler path in the ditch. He explained near misses he has experienced while riding along the 2-foot widths and he no longer rides *with* traffic but now faces it.

Feilner said bike paths are easiest to do during road construction.

Edgren said there have been derogatory comments in the local newspaper and wanted to reiterate that on any given night there are eighty-seven hockey players and thirty-five figure skaters using the rink facility all winter long. Those numbers triple on weekends and during tournaments. Edgren said the rink is the only facility that provides an avenue of recreation during the wintertime. He said he has heard comments of throwing the money away or wasting it on one group but "it is the one group that brings a lot of kids together." The Delta Skating Association provides adult supervision and youth are taught good sportsmanship.

Heinbockel said initial plans were to build the rink on the Deltana Fairgrounds.

Edgren said that was so it could be used year-round instead of mid-November through the first of April.

Leith-Dowling said the number of parked vehicles proves activity at the rink on weekends.

Heinbockel said, from a parent's perspective and as a former educator, he appreciated the skating program and has always felt it offered a certain group of students what was not offered elsewhere in education. He asked about the count from the October/November cow moose hunt.

Tvenge said the topic (closing city limits to hunting) would be reviewed at the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) meetings. He said an Open House at the Liewer-Olmstead Arena is scheduled on January 4 and 5 to showcase the upgrades to the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Feilner moved to adjourn at 7:21pm; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, CMC

Approved: January 2, 2008