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**City Council Minutes**  
**January 2, 2008 ~ 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 Wednesday, January 2, 2008 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, Pete Hallgren, JW Musgrove

Council members excused: Pablo Martinez, Leslie Feilner

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

Six members from the community were present.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Leith-Dowling reported purchase orders 012268 through 012274 would be added to *New Business*. Heinbockel moved to approve the January 2, 2008 agenda as amended; Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Heinbockel asked to change wording from *recover it* to *rebate to* in the sentence on page 3 in which Hallgren discussed private haulers and landfill rates. Heinbockel asked to change *legislature* to *governor* in the sentence on page 4 in which Hallgren discussed last year's request for capital projects. Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2007 regular meeting as amended; Hallgren seconded. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**REPORTS**

**Rescue Squad** – Lynn Robertson, Assistant Squad Chief, asked to change the request for *Life Pak 12's* on the Legislative Capital Projects Priority List to *Life Pak 20's*.

Tvenge reported the 30-year-old boiler at the Rescue Squad was replaced. It was cracked and leaking. Heinbockel asked about replacing Medic III and said at the time of its purchase the squad desired it be identical to Medic II.

Robertson said Medic III broke down on its journey up the Alcan, before it arrived in Delta Junction, and has had constant problems. She said Medic II is the primarily used vehicle and it does not have air suspension in the back, as Medic I and III do. They are researching replacing the chassis on Medic III. Discussion followed regarding also possibly replacing the transmission of Medic III and researching purchase of a new ambulance.

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported recording of meetings are saved on CDs since purchasing the new equipment in early 2007. The cost to publish the recorded meetings on the City's website is not justified by the number in attendance at Council meetings and the number of hits of those who read minutes online. She said the City may need to establish a charge to duplicate the recordings but with the new system it is as easy as downloading them onto a thumb drive. White said the current recorder is able to pick up speakers in the audience but a sound system is needed for the audience in the back of the room to pick up conversations at the Council table. She invited the hard-of-hearing to sit in the front row until a sound system is researched and/or purchased.

**City Administrator** – Mike Tvenge reported brush clearing could logically be completed before spring. The snow is not too deep, the temperatures are not too cold, and brush re-growth is delayed. He asked whether the work should be put out to bid again or done in-house and if roads need to be redefined. He said twelve miles of roads and eight feet on each side is what is presently identified. Discussion followed regarding price per acre, definition of an acre related to brush clearing streets, previous quotes, and redefining (anywhere the trees are larger than 6") and prioritizing the list of roads. Hallgren suggested putting the contract out to bid with an award date through July 15, 2008, which would allow the contractor to work at (weather) conditions of his choice.

Leith-Dowling said to prepare bids for the January 15, 2008 meeting.

**DREDC** – Pete Hallgren reported he would coordinate a meeting with a representative of Fairbanks Economic Development to speak with DREDC and he would also invite the Chamber of Commerce.

**Library** – Mike Tvenge reported the library has experienced furnace problems in the last few weeks and an air imbalance is suspected. The boiler failed sometime during the holiday weekend, causing a pipe to freeze and burst in the mechanical room.

Discussion followed regarding whether the vent functions properly and contacting Siemens about the heating system.

**Personnel** – Mike Tvenge reported he was conducting interviews for the landfill scale house position and hoped to make a decision by January 4, 2008.

**Recreation** – Mike Tvenge reported the Zamboni addition has reached substantial completion and an Open House is planned January 4, 5, and 6 at the Liewer/Olmstead Ice Arena. Numerous activities are scheduled and Ron Liewer will arrive from Nebraska for the special occasion.

Leith-Dowling reported a Christmas card and note of appreciation was received from the Delta Sportsman's Association for supporting their request to upgrade the shooting facilities.

Musgrove asked about bulldozing the shooting range (between the Delta River and the Richardson Highway, across from the medical clinic).

Heinbockel said he has been a staunch supporter of the rifle range but agreed to eliminate it because of how it is treated. He said it could be a spring project.

Discussion followed regarding the Delta Sportsman's Association facilities, the failed hope of using the old landfill for a range, and the Delta Sportsman's plan to build one on the Alaska Highway.

Jenkins suggested using landfill rocks as blockades after bulldozing the range inside city limits.

**Public Works** – Lou Heinbockel reported roads look good even though there has been little snow.

Hallgren said he appreciated the warning signs on Aurora because the road cannot be kept open.

Butch Ellis said Chad Morris built the bases and reflector tape and existing signs were used. The signs will serve as obvious clues of the snowdrift conditions and they can also be used during summer roadwork.

**Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported road improvements (asphalt between Delta Junction and the Tanana Bridge in Big Delta) are planned for this summer.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 2008 Legislative Capital Projects Priority List

Tvenge reported Life Pak 12's would be changed to Life Pak 20's and Lisa Shivel and Vern Heintz were researching purchase of a new ambulance, which runs between \$135,000 and \$150,000. They are also looking into saving the box (patient care compartment) or replacing the chassis on the Medic III.

Robertson said they were also researching possibly upgrading the chassis to a four-wheel drive. Discussion followed regarding ambulance pricing and the bid process and the importance of how specs are written.

Hallgren said, regarding the prison debt, the State has not accepted their responsibility. State Statute required government-to-government relationship and the City of Delta Junction was required to take over from the non-profit reuse organization. The City had no choice in getting involved.

Discussion followed regarding the prison debt and communication with Deltana representatives (Senator Albert Kookesh and Representative Woodie Salmon).

Tvenge said the Legislative Priority List would be reviewed with State representatives on January 7, 2008 at 4:00pm.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Gaming Renewal – Chamber of Commerce and Deltana Fair Association**

Heinbockel moved that the City of Delta Junction show no opposition to gaming renewal requests for the Chamber of Commerce and the Deltana Fair Association; Jenkins seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **Liquor License Renewal – Northern Liquors and Alaskan Steakhouse**

Heinbockel moved that the City of Delta Junction show no opposition to liquor license renewal applications for Northern Liquors and Alaskan Steakhouse; Jenkins seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#012268 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$6,909.73 for Jan '08 group health insurance

PO#012269 to AML in the amount of \$1,568.00 for 2008 annual membership dues

PO#012270 to ESRI in the amount of \$2,100.00 for annual 911 mapping software renewal

PO#012271 to City of Fairbanks in the amount of \$4,950.32 for Jan-Jun '08 dispatch service

PO#012272 to T/J Gilbertson in the amount of \$2,500.00 for Jan '08 warm storage rent

PO#012273 to Mikunda, Cottrell & Company in the amount of \$3,100.00 for 6/30/07 audit progress

PO#012274 to Rural Alaska Mitigation Planning in the amount of \$4,750.00 for LEPC Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) revisions

Heinbockel moved to approve purchase orders 012268 through 012274 as presented; Jenkins seconded.

Heinbockel referenced 012271 and said \$10,000/year for dispatch service is a necessary for emergency services (ambulance and both fire departments) for the entire community.

Discussion followed regarding past history of operating a dispatch service.

Musgrove stated 911 mapping software (012270) covered area wide services also.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 5 voting.

## **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Margie Mullins asked if garbage rates would be reduced if or when the military signed a contract.

Hallgren said the military rate would be the same as the community rate. There would be no rate reduction.

Heinbockel said breaking even, subsidizing the landfill operation, or making a profit must all be considered. The City is not in the business to make a profit but is also obligated to put money into a sinking fund for future operation needs. There appears to be no immediate reduction should the army bring in business.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 6:02pm; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.