



City Council Minutes

April 15, 2008 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting

City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Pro tem Lou Heinbockel called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Council members present: Mayor Pro tem Lou Heinbockel, Leslie Feilner
Pete Hallgren, JW Musgrove

Council members excused: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Pablo Martinez

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

Five members from the community were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Heinbockel reported three items to add to *New Business*:

- ✓ Sale of Lots 16 and 17 of Block 28
- ✓ Hire Equipment Operator
- ✓ Purchase Gravel for Top Fill at Landfill

Heinbockel reported the lineup of agenda items would be changed, moving *Unfinished Business* and *New Business* items prior to *Reports*.

Musgrove moved to approve the April 15, 2008 agenda as amended; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

White reported corrections made to the April 1, 2008 draft minutes. "Arch" was added to "... potential economic development in the Delta area, especially the proposed Alaska Highway Arch." (page 3 under *Reports/DOT Liaison*). Sentence structure was changed to read, "...paving the outside ice and basketball court" from "...paving outside of the ice arena..." (page 4 under *Unfinished Business/Street Paving*) and "...paving outside the rink..." changed to, "He said paving the outside rink was not included in the contract,..." (page 4 under *Unfinished Business/Street Paving*).

Feilner moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2008 regular meeting as amended; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

APPOINTMENT OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER TO SEAT E

Heinbockel said only one letter of interest was received from a qualified individual. He asked to entertain a motion to approve Michael E. Murphy to serve on the City Council "by acclamation."

Hallgren moved to appoint Michael E. Murphy to Council Seat E; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel stated Michael Murphy would be sworn in at the May 6, 2008 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Street Paving

Tvenge stated the street-paving packet is being advertised in the Delta Wind, Fairbanks News-Miner, and at the Associated General Contractors (AGC) Plans Room in Fairbanks. Packets are \$25 each. He referenced the estimate from M2C1 Construction & Engineering, dated April 8, 2008, and said it will cost \$27,287 to follow the project through.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Clean Up – May 17, 2008

Heinbockel stated garbage delivered on Community Clean Up Day was free-of-charge for many years, but changed two years ago when the City reduced normal landfill rates by half and accepted all yellow-bagged garbage without charge. He said he would prefer it continue at the 50% rate. Scale House Operator Bob Morley recommended not discounting household garbage and directing all yellow-bagged garbage to the Triangle where Delta Sanitation will have two (30-yard) roll offs.

Hallgren said Delta Sanitation is not charged for the garbage delivered from the roll offs.

Zimmerman said \$1,660 was lost revenue in 2007 during Community Clean Up when rates were reduced 50% and yellow bags were free-of-charge. Roughly 25 tons of trash was delivered from 72 customers and the Delta Sanitation roll offs.

Hallgren said he was concerned about the landfill operation breaking even at \$125/ton. He said Ft. Greely indicated they were willing to negotiate, but at a lower level. Participation from Ft. Greely, even at \$90/ton, would create a substantial increase in operation costs, but their volume would prevent price increases to the general public. He asked that it be considered during budget discussion.

Heinbockel suggested advertising the whole landfill operation to private enterprise.

Discussion followed regarding private enterprise versus government, non-yellow bags delivered to the Triangle, not discounting the \$25 refrigerator disposal fee, accepting washers, dryers, and stoves, not reducing the \$10 Unsecured Load Fee (in exchange for a tarp and bungee cord), past history of Community Clean Up Day, potential for backed up traffic, and accepting all yellow bags at no charge.

Ellis said personnel were on hand last year to cover garbage and also direct traffic.

Musgrove moved to approve reducing landfill rates by 50% for all household garbage (same as last year) for Community Clean Up Day on May 17, 2008; Feilner seconded.

Discussion followed regarding extending business hours (9:00am to 5:00pm on May 17), not turning away late arriving customers, and obtaining bags from the Chamber of Commerce.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Sale of Lots 16 and 17 of Block 28

Heinbockel stated the properties in question meet adequate separation for well and septic.

Hallgren moved to approve the sale of Lots 16 and 17 of Block 28, Delta Junction Townsite, North Addition of the North and West Additions to Phebe R. Horschel in the amount of \$3,900 for each lot; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Hire Equipment Operator

Heinbockel reported Public Works has operated with essentially 2 ½ employees since January. For safety reasons, it is necessary to have two people working in the pit at the same time. Morris will not be back to work for approximately thirty days and the D6 sustained over \$20,000 in damages after sliding off a berm and tipping on its side on April 1, resulting in a major malfunction to the landfill operation. Luckily the operator was uninjured. The D6 will be out of service until the roll protection cage is repaired and because of that, gravel must be purchased. A permanent part-time operator must be hired

to work 15 to 30 hours a week. Heinbockel said Stephen Selfe has been relied on to maintain streets and the landfill operation because of Morris' recovery from his personal injuries and Ellis' physician limiting him to work no more than 20 hours a month.

Discussion followed regarding recommendations and expectations for the landfill operation from MACTEC engineering firm, permanent part-time or temporary part-time, no medical or retirement benefits initially, reducing current employee health care benefits, and an employee who could possibly fill the mechanic role.

Tvenge stated wages would be \$18 to \$20/hour and the operator job description would include requirements for CDL and HAZWOPER credentials and welding and mechanic experience.

Musgrove asked how hiring would affect Chad Morris' status.

Tvenge said Morris' hours were reduced and his status is unclear. He said hiring another equipment operator has been a consideration for some time.

Ellis said Morris' employment status is a permanent part-time (20-25 hours/week) equipment operator with mechanic, fabricator, and welding capacity. Morris also runs the compactor on road jobs. Ellis asked to leave the welding requirement off the job description and to hire an operator with mechanic skills and a CDL.

Hallgren moved to authorize the City Administrator to advertise hiring an equipment operator to fill the vacant position; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Purchase Gravel for Top Fill at Landfill

Heinbockel said it is necessary to purchase gravel because of the D6 being out of service for thirty days or more, active load restrictions, and the prohibitive cost of renting a D8 (\$15,000/month). He said Ellis suggested purchasing gravel from Delta Sand & Gravel, across the road from the landfill, at \$2.50/yard. Circumstances of distance and hauling with other gravel suppliers are more costly.

Hallgren said Delta Sand & Gravel offers a good price and they are in good proximity.

Heinbockel said he is more convinced the D6 is not big enough for the landfill operation and could be reason for the recent accident. He reported he and Mayor Leith-Dowling called Representative John Harris in a last-minute effort to request funding to upgrade to a D8.

Tvenge said Don Reed of NC Machinery demonstrated a computer program that identifies compatible equipment to operating conditions. Reed is scheduled to return on April 17 to present it to Butch Ellis.

Change Order – Zamboni Addition

Tvenge referred to the (February 16 and 17, 2008) freeze-up at the rink that was caused by the air-handling unit. A heater core is needed, to preheat outside (fresh) air before it is distributed throughout the building. The change order includes the cost of the heater core and Sensaphone, a cold weather warning system that will monitor the temperature in three rooms and trigger an alarm if or when the temperature drops to a certain degree. It has ability to dial three pre-programmed phone numbers and can be set on a timer up to two hours. Providing fresh air into the building will be during peak times only, not 24 hours per day. Tvenge said \$5,000/year is budgeted to pay the electric bill at the Ice Arena and Delta Skating Association (DSA) pays the rest.

Zimmerman said the change order would be paid from the remaining federal impact grant.

Feilner moved to authorize the City Administrator to sign Change Order #HGC-2007-003 from Heritage General Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$4,869.83; Musgrove seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Purchase Orders

PO#012492 to ACS in the amount of \$1,627.51 for April '08 phone services

PO#012493 to Crowley Petroleum Distr. in the amount of \$5,349.47 for March '08 heating oil

PO#012494 to Family Medical Center in the amount of \$842.03 to replenish ambulance meds

PO#012495 to GEOAPPS, Inc. in the amount of \$923.20 to expand address grid on mapping software
PO#012496 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$2,035.00 for legal services for ordinance review, brush cutting bid issues, Zamboni addition, and review of street paving bid
PO#012497 to NC Machinery in the amount of \$542.06 for dozer maintenance parts
PO#012498 to University Ready Mix in the amount of \$525.00 for street sanding gravel
PO#012499 to Bank of America in the amount of \$784.87 for credit card charges (hotel accommodations for library conference in Fairbanks and continuing education course for Landfill Supervisor Butch Ellis)
PO#012500 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$646.22 for library storage building materials
Feilner moved to approve purchase orders 012492 through 012500 as presented; Musgrove seconded.
Heinbockel noted several purchase orders are for landfill related costs.
Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

REPORTS

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported:

- Tender 50 is still experiencing problems, especially when driven more than a certain (low) speed. She deferred all mechanic questions to Vern Heintz (who had to leave prior to reporting).

Heinbockel said to put the engine out of service if the problem cannot be repaired, especially if it has safety issues.

Ellis offered to test drive the engine on April 16.

Heinbockel explained history of the “albatross” (lime green tanker) and asked to pursue repairs if it is to remain in service.

Bear stated a new tank is needed. It leaks, but it is kept full and response-ready.

- The moldy window in the new fire hall was repaired and Bear expressed her appreciation for it.
- 62% of the individuals received State certification in February. Bear was one who passed, but does not know her test scores.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported there is a noticeable increase in flying activity due to military training exercises, as posted by Delta News Web. Locals can express concerns at 1-800-JET-NOISE. Discussion followed regarding dealing with the loud, sharp noises.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported he is still pursuing KATN and the brush-clearing project is slated for the week of April 28, but may change due to cool weather conditions.

Finance – Dave Zimmerman reported a rough draft of the 2009 budget would be available for review next week.

School Liaison – Leslie Feilner reported Jr. High and High School students are now registering for next fall. Block (flex) scheduling will be used again. Normal courses will be scheduled on Mondays and Fridays, but Tuesday through Thursdays will have extended class periods.

Heinbockel said \$9.5 million was appropriated to the Delta-Greely High School for renovation, which will make significant improvements to their utilities. District 12 received \$48 million district-wide.

Tvenge reported Delta Junction would receive \$1.5 million plus \$500,000 for street paving, \$237,000 for a new ambulance and emergency medical purchases, \$25,000 for the Delta Court House, \$50,000 for DGSD vocational training, and \$20,000 for a delivery van and moveable building for Alpha Omega.

DREDC – Pete Hallgren reported a guest speaker would present the possibility of establishing an Alaska Army Guard unit in Delta at the Chamber luncheon on April 17. He and Tvenge plan to attend.

Library – Pat White reported in Mary Leith-Dowling’s absence:

- Open House is scheduled from 10:00 to 4:00pm on April 19, 2008. The library will be closed at 3:00pm on April 18 to prepare for the fundraiser.
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation approved the Delta Library as part of their matching grant program for new Internet computers. Two new machines, valued at \$2,600 each, will

arrive sometime this summer along with software upgrades for the existing Gates computers. Eligibility was based on the number of low-income families in the community. The Delta Library has been part of the nationwide Gates Library Grant program since 2002.

- Library staff conducted a hand held scanner inventory of the children's sections and will complete the inventory after the Open House. Inventory is preparation for annual weeding.

Park – Leslie Feilner reported locals have already begun playing ball.

Heinbockel said one of the fields was burned off.

Hallgren reported the pavilion door was repaired along with removing some downed trees.

Public Health & Safety – Pat White reported in Pablo Martinez's absence. She said Council members are invited to join EMS responders for Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) training at 7:00pm on April 28, 2008 at City Hall. Chester Ince from the Anchorage office will provide the training. The conventional back up system for dispatch radios is down again (two weeks ago also) and ATT Alascom has ordered parts, but the ALMR system is working fine.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported the \$10 Unsecured Load Service Fee goes into effect on April 18, 2008. It has been advertised on the Delta News Web, Delta Wind, and on the KDHS radio station, which is run by Delta-Greely high school students.

Additional Reports by Council – JW Musgrove asked that the draft budget show monies that are generated (built-in income) by individual departments. He asked about the grant writing software.

Tvenge said he discussed it with Superintendent P.J. Ford Slack and the Metasoft agent has offered DGSD a trial period. Tvenge said he has not heard back whether they are interested in purchasing the software, but thinks it will be later next week.

Musgrove said he is interested in some type of security fence to prevent motorized vehicles like four-wheelers and motorcycles from crossing the runway. The fence does not need to be substantial or even complete. Footage would be equivalent to 2 miles for both sides of the airstrip. He explained scenarios of why airports would need to be fenced.

Discussion followed regarding motorized vehicles, accessing private aircraft, situations and how other communities deal with them, and trails that access the airstrip.

Feilner said the final EIS draft of the Northern Rail Extension would be available this summer.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel called for additional public comments.

Margie Mullins asked about the logic of bringing in Ft. Greely's garbage at a reduced price if the landfill operation is not breaking even at \$125/ton. She asked, "How can more trash save money?"

Hallgren said more revenue would actually be gained. There is twenty years life in the existing pits and room to build two more pits north of it. He used the analogy of newspapers. Staff is paid whether two papers are sold or a thousand. Money is made only when more papers are sold.

Heinbockel called for additional Council comments with none being offered.

ADJOURNMENT

Hallgren moved to adjourn at 6:38pm; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, CMC

Approved: May 6, 2008