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**City Council Minutes**  
**July 1, 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 Tuesday, July 1, 2008 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Lou Heinbockel, JW Musgrove, Pete Hallgren (telephonically), Mike Murphy, Leslie Feilner
Council member excused: Pablo Martinez
City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Equipment Operator Bill Smith, Administrative Assistant Letha Burcham
In addition there were 10 members from the community present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Heinbockel moved to approve the July 1, 2008 agenda as presented; Feilner seconded. **Motion carried** unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Feilner moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2008 meeting as presented; Murphy seconded. **Murphy** asked for a correction to the amendment of the 6/3/08 minutes stating that on the School Liaison report he was not involved in the MOA discussion. **Burcham** stated that the error had been corrected previously. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Hallgren stated that he saw somewhere that Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) was going to be putting in a hydroelectric dam near Delta. He asked if anyone knew anything about it. Cari Novak replied that it is supposed to be near the Gerstle River. More information will be available tomorrow; it is in the beginning stages. Tvenge introduced LTC. Chris Chronis, the new Post Commander.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Tim Huebscher apologized for being late. He said that currently the only basketball court in town is behind the high school and is not easily accessible by most of the community. He knows there is a need for outlets for the 16-22 year old age group. He says putting a basketball court in the park would give them a place for a physical outlet and it would eliminate the liability from the school. It could be used for small tournaments during the fair and encourage community youth participation. The Kiwanis will help with maintenance and help to gain funding for setting the court up. Heinbockel said he has heard for years about setting up a court at the park, but part of the problem is that there is no funding. He said we do have funding for an outdoor hockey rink and if the council will go along with it, and the basketball court will be within the confines of the outdoor rink. There are a couple like it in Tok and they have worked out very well. There is fencing and includes a full court

and two half courts. It would be open to the public all summer long and when it is too cold to play basketball, they'll skate on it.

Leith-Dowling said it would still be across from the school area.

Heubscher said he was only wondering about the liability issues for the school.

Tvenge said it would be off school property.

Leith-Dowling said the City carries liability on the rink property.

Heinbockel said there has been no maintenance on the court at the school since 1975.

Huebscher said given the amount of construction out at Ft. Greely, there might be some company who would help sponsor it.

Heinbockel said the City would make the space available in the park if Huebscher can put funding together.

REPORTS

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported she would be conducting fire extinguisher training on July 17 at 4 pm for City Hall employees and anyone from the council who would like to participate. It will be a theoretical and practical exercise; everyone will actually get to work the extinguishers. She said that White had also asked about an exit drill and more will be discussed later. She has turned in the drawing for the tanker and for the tank for the tender and the few additions that they need to have welded. Delta Industrial gave an informal quote of \$25,000 to \$26,000 and we would also like to ask Greer to bid on it, too. We have no opinion on where the third quote should come from.

Tvenge said he spoke with the Steese Fire Department and got some specs from them as well as some of the things we should be looking for when we write up the request for proposal. He said he is working on the Request for Proposal.

Cemetery – Mary Leith-Dowling asked Debbie Joslin to give a report on the progress of her son, Matthew's project.

Joslin handed out a mid-project report and request for reimbursement for supplies. She explained that her son could not attend the meeting as he was actually at the cemetery working on the project.

Tonight the work crew was working on the roof of the structure and putting in some benches. The rain has plagued them but everything is going well. Matthew has added a handicap ramp since the platform is higher than originally thought. She explained the amounts on the report for reimbursement. The City had given him \$1500 and he has been getting donations in cash and materials. He has had lots of help. She is going to the Pioneer meeting tonight to ask for donations.

Heinbockel asked if they had received the City's \$1500.

Joslin said no, but she was asked to submit receipts for reimbursement.

Musgrove asked for pictures at the next meeting.

Joslin explained that part of the requirements for the Eagle Badge is that he documents what is going on so they have some video as well as pictures.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported that the Road-Surfacing Phase Two bid packet would be going out on July 9. The opening date will be August 4. That will be for the streets that we earmarked: Service St. (Clinic Road), Hess Ave., Paxson Ave., Richardson Ave., Salcha Ave., and Quartz Ave. We decided to include the parking lots in an addendum to this packet in order to be able to get this out on the street and we can add parking lots once we get the prices back from the engineer estimates. No parking lots are in the Phase Two Bid yet.

Hallgren asked for clarification on which parking lots.

Tvenge replied that the council had decided at the last meeting to do the City campus area consisting of the library, the Community Center, and the City Hall parking area and the bike path, which extends off Nistler Road. Since we have not heard any engineering numbers on that, we decided to hold off on that. Council asked for pricing only, no decisions would be made until we get the pricing.

Murphy asked if there would be a base bid plus alternates.

Tvenge said the numbers would come in as a per street basis so we can determine what we can afford. Current paving will begin on Monday, July 7 on Emmaus Road. The hours of operation will be from 7am-5: 30pm.

Feilner asked about getting kids to camp.

Tvenge replied that there would be local traffic only. City Hall will be closed Friday, July 4. The Landfill will be closed on Friday but open on Saturday with the normal hours of 9am-3pm. The grant agreements have been received from the Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs so those 3 grants are now official. We received \$500,000 for street paving, \$1,500,000 for pavement of downtown arterial and school bus routes and the ambulance and emergency medical equipment purchase of \$237,000.

School Liaison – Mike Murphy reported the school district meets tonight. Burglary losses will not be covered by the insurance except about ¼ of it. They may offer a reward for information if the troopers don't object. They haven't received their grant funds yet, but they expect it. The grant matching effort is going on.

Musgrove asked if they had the matching numbers yet.

Murphy said that Ford-Slack said it was going okay, but that she knew she needed to advertise.

Lands – Pete Hallgren said that he was gratified to see that lots were selling. He asked Burcham if she had been able to determine how to handle the triangular lot (Lot 16, Block 26).

Burcham replied that she had not had time to research yet. It is on her to-do list.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported that the storage building is in place. The summer reading program had beekeepers come and explain all about bees and honey in keeping with the bug theme. Joyce McCombs turned in \$889.25 to Zimmerman, which means that the library has made \$300 over the \$10,000 amount they were to come up with for the library budget.

Musgrove asked where the money came from.

Leith-Dowling replied it was from local donations, this was a one month amount for people paying for copies, internet use, etc..

Heinbockel asked if it was indicated that the library needed to do that again this FY 07/09 year.

Leith-Dowling said the Library Association is of the understanding that it is expected.

Heinbockel asked if the storage building was anchored down in any way.

Leith-Dowling replied that it would be anchored with books and with other items.

Feilner asked if steps would be added.

Tvenge said yes. Materials will be charged to the Rasmuson fund.

Park – Leslie Feilner said the park is staying busy with softball.

Tvenge added that Kel's Pumping had to be called due to the restrooms being clogged. It was "snaked" out and flowing again.

Feilner asked that the softball teams and other users be courteous and maintain the restrooms. It is part of the user groups' responsibility to keep them clean. She also asked that grass clippings not be dumped over the fence and that gates be kept closed and not driving into the gazebo area when user groups are there. The only time vehicles should be in the park is for loading and unloading only. The gates should remain closed and locked.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported that since the decision to close the rifle range, some folks have stepped up and made a serious effort to clean it up.

Feilner said she has had people approach her regarding it. They asked her if it could remain open if it was cleaned up. She told them it was already decided to close it as a hazard. She would like to talk about an alternate place if we could find a spot for discussion tonight.

Tvenge reported a change in contract with Roy Gilbertson for warm storage. Gilbertson has now decided that he cannot honor agreement of \$700; he now wants \$1500 per month for the west bay and overflow room and an additional bay. We store street sand and gravel outside in the parking area. We are sprawling. We are budgeted for \$8400 this year; this would be an increase of \$9600 for the year to rent the space. Today is the day the new rental agreement would have been in effect. We still have the grader, tools, signs, and etc. over there.

Musgrove asked for clarification of the rental amounts and the increase.

Tvenge explained the \$700 offer came when Gilbertson was told we would be moving out. He made a suggestion that we keep one bay at that amount. Butch really wanted to keep one bay. So, that is what the council voted for in the budget.

Musgrove said we need it in the winter more than in the summer.

Heinbockel said basically we do not need it in the summer. The reason to keep the bay is so that the wing could be left on the grader. It will not fit into the old fire hall with the wing attached. The wing is not used all that often. We may never put the wing back on.

Leith-Dowling said it hasn't been attached in the last two years.

Discussion continued regarding options for warm storage.

Tvenge said he would ask for a month to make a decision as he was just notified this afternoon. He said Butch would be back this weekend. Maybe Roy will offer the \$700 per month price since it is not being heated now. That would give us time to make a decision.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison – Mary Leith-Dowling said we had a complaint on the state road-paving project on the Richardson Highway. She had to explain that it is not the City's project.

Heinbockel asked if any other council members had heard any negative comments regarding the City street paving. The complaint is that paving Emmaus Road will make it a speed stretch. He thought that people would be glad to eliminate the dust and ruts. He has had not one person come and say it is great.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Remainder of Impact Funds

Leith-Dowling referenced a sheet included in the packet with the facts on all the money moving that was done at the last council meeting. There is approximately \$20,089 that was not directed to a particular location.

Tvenge explained the spreadsheet. He said repair of the Volvo bucket would be discussed under new business and this remaining amount could be used for that. The main question is what is to be done with the recreation project. \$225,000 is the balance. We moved money out, now the fund is \$204,000. Do we want to dedicate that amount to the completion of the recreation center, all the projects we have talked about over the past months? He needs direction tonight, either a yea or nay. The construction season is midway now and the reason we had to postpone projects last year was due to weather constraints. Project costs will increase the longer it is put off.

Hallgren says \$204,000 is the maximum amount he was wanting to see. He doesn't necessarily want to dedicate that amount to the recreation project. However, he thinks that things should go out to bid if we want to have the outdoor rink up and paved. Asphalt is at the best price right now. He personally has problems with lighting, and a scoreboard for the outdoor rink. He is interested in getting a bid out if we can get the outdoor rink put up and paved and with the basketball standards put in it.

Murphy said he tried at the last meeting to get direction to get the inside floor finished.

Heinbockel asked if we had an estimate on what it would cost to finish the inside of the rink.

Tvenge said he believes \$75,000 would finish the concrete.

Heinbockel suggested paving would be more reasonable since the places needing the concrete are not high traffic areas. He felt black top would work just as well.

Edgren said he thought there might be a code issue with black top. He knows there is no issue with concrete.

Heinbockel said let's finish all or as much as we can, indoors and out. Indoors have been worked on for a long time and it cost us a lot of money often because we were doing it in an off-season. Once that is done, move outside and finish up with everything we can do out there. We should have a paved way into that rink for the zamboni. Minimal lighting is needed for outside in the winter. A scoreboard is only needed for competitive events.

Tvenge said that he had a lighting quote last fall of \$40,000 for a winter install.

Heinbockel moved to commit no more than \$200,000 of the remaining money for the recreation project budget to include the completion of the indoor concrete work and then whatever can be done outdoors within that amount of money; Hallgren seconded.

Heinbockel reminded council that volunteers would construct the outdoor rink. The entire outdoor rink is purchased.

Tvenge said we need the footings in place to set the boards on. We have the boards and the chain linked screening, the gates, and the complete package. Also, the package included a construction supervisor to come up from Minnesota to help the volunteers build it. The estimate for building it was 3 days as long as we had enough volunteers. His trip costs were included in the package.

Hallgren commented he wants to have basketball backstops and minimal lighting on the outdoor rink.

Edgren thinks placing them on the outside of the rink building would do.

Murphy asked for clarification that the indoor rink could be finished for \$150,000.

Tvenge said they were talking about the gravel areas only in the indoor rink. The cost to asphalt the inside of the outdoor rink has not been priced. He has talked to the contractor and let them know we are thinking about that. We will see what kind of response we will get. What he really wants to do is get some pricing and see just what can be done. He will not go forward without commitments.

Feilner asked who would do the job.

Tvenge said HC Contractors are paving the streets.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with 5 (Musgrove, Hallgren, Feilner, Heinbockel, Leith-Dowling) for and 1 (Murphy) against.

NEW BUSINESS

Sales of City Lots

Heinbockel moved to sell Lots 4 & 5 of Block 31, Delta Junction Townsite to M. Kent & Jodi L. Brown; Murphy seconded. **Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel moved to sell Lots 19 & 21 of Block 28, Delta Junction Townsite to Bruce R. & Dawn E. Grossmann; Murphy seconded.

Musgrove wanted to know who owned Lot 20.

Heinbockel replied that Grossmann owned it. Heinbockel pointed out that Lots 22 and 18 will have to be sold as a package in order to follow the land sales rules set out by council.

Burcham interjected that an adjoining property owner could buy them. She added that it had been explained to Grossmann before he purchased these lots.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel moved to sell Lots 19, 20, 21 & 22 of Block 26, Delta Junction Townsite to Robert Rucker, III; Murphy seconded.

Tvenge added the lot Hallgren referred to earlier in the meeting is the adjoining Lot 16.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel said monies from land sales go into the City Permanent Fund, which now values around \$1,200,000 and growing. It is the only source of revenue this community has besides state and federal funding.

Change Order to Street Paving Contract

Tvenge said these streets (Emmaus, S. Clearwater, Rapids) were in original paving packet bid by 5 bidders. HC Contractors was the low bidder on the base three roads. These (Deborah, Kimball, Harper, N. Clearwater) were the alternates. Since all bidders bid on this and HC Contractors was still the lowest bidder we can add this scope as a change order to the original base contract. The reason we have been holding off is that we needed confirmation from the Department of Commerce, which we now have.

Leith-Dowling stated that it would make the new contract total $\$461,630 + \$553,952 = \$1,015,582$.

Heinbockel moved to approve the change order as presented; Murphy seconded.

Musgrove stated that he lives on North Clearwater, so he did not want to say anything.

Heinbockel said there is no way we can avoid it. If we all excuse ourselves we can't vote on the issue. We all live on the city streets. He stated he no longer lives on Harper, but on Foxy Lane which has never had five cents spent on it.

Hallgren said he wants to abstain from voting and discussion of this change order since he does live on Harper.

Heinbockel said he still owns property on Harper, but if he abstains, how is this going to pass? So, he does not want to abstain.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with 4 (Murphy, Feilner, Heinbockel, Leith-Dowling) for and 2 (Hallgren, Musgrove) abstaining.

Tvenge said he would issue a change order for those streets.

Landfill Volvo Loader Bucket

Tvenge explained that the loader is fine; however the bucket is damaged. It cannot be used without repair. He said that he has looked into purchase of a new bucket and has a proposal from CMI (Construction Machinery Industrial) from whom we bought the loader. The quote is \$12,800 delivered to Delta Junction. This is not a Volvo bucket; we ordered a different (WeldcoBeale) attachment system, making it not available locally. He said he also looked into the repair of the existing bucket. We have stopped the use of it to prevent further damage. He introduced Sam Porter who brought a proposal for repair. Porter handed out copies of the repair quote.

Tvenge said that the current bucket was never strength reinforced or hard faced. He recommends doing that to any new purchase. Then any repairs needed to the face of the bucket can be done by purchasing a kit to replace the wear plates and not having to purchase a new bucket. He gave the council photos of the damaged bucket and said Porter gave a quote with two options, one is \$5,500 and the other is \$7,428.

Musgrove asked who Sam Porter was.

Porter said he was with Custom Steel in Delta.

Tvenge read aloud: Scope A- remove broken disconnect and repair damage to curve of bucket by rolling new plates to cover damaged areas. Weld on new disconnect segment and gusset to prevent further problems. Add wear plates to heel of bucket. Realign all hook couplings and lock plates and weld in place. All parts and consumables provided by Custom Steel. Price is \$7,428. Scope B- remove corner bits, leading weld on edge and bucket hardware. Weld in new leading edge and corner bits. Bolt on new segments between teeth adapters. Hard surface all wear areas of bucket to include bucket lip, teeth adapters, leading edges, bucket sides in and out, and bucket floor. All parts and consumables provided by Custom Steel. Price is \$5,500.

Musgrove asked if a new bucket would have any hard facing.

Tvenge said no.

Musgrove said it looked as if the damage was caused by picking up more than it was meant to.

Leith-Dowling asked Porter for his opinion.

Porter replied that there are a few contributing factors, some of it is abuse; some of it is improper repairs. The partial repairs that were done probably did more damage in the long run to the bucket. By looking at the photograph of the bucket, he said at one time a shim was put in the top hooks, which threw off the placement of the bucket. Without the alignment being perfect, it probably put more stress on the bucket.

Tvenge read again from the quote and said Porter added that in his opinion that once repaired, this bucket will be 100% and with the additional measure of the hard facing the repaired bucket should outlast a new bucket that has not been reinforced. Tvenge said the quote to reinforce a new bucket is estimated at \$2,000. Porter also states in the quote that there may be something overlooked and if so the price would be adjusted.

Heinbockel said we are talking a total of \$12,928 versus a new bucket, which is \$12,800 and would still need to be reinforced.

Feilner said Tvenge just found out about the damage and it occurred last winter.

Heinbockel said someone did not bring it to our attention until it got so bad it couldn't be used anymore.

Hallgren said he would like to see the business stay with some local folks.

Hallgren moved we should do both A & B; take funds out of landfill sinking fund #1; Heinbockel seconded.

Musgrove asked Porter what the lead-time would be.

Porter said if the repairs go well, it will be one week, if not it will be two weeks.

Leith-Dowling asked about the renting of a bucket.

Tvenge replied that he had not been able to find an available one yet. Volvo buckets are available, but we need the Weldco-Beale. He told the council that he is nervous because this may happen again. He said he wonders if we should have a second bucket available to eliminate this predicament in the future. What do we do if this happens again?

Heinbockel asked if we could still dump containers using the forks.

Tvenge said the loader is fine; it is the bucket that is not useable.

Bill Smith suggested putting a straight edge on one bucket so that it could be used for snow removal, then if the dirt bucket went down, you would still have one to use at the landfill.

Tvenge asked if we needed to get more than one bid.

Heinbockel said that he felt that it was an emergency situation and he didn't feel we needed to.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel asked if the bucket needed to be moved to Porter's location.

Porter said it needs to be in his shop and he hopes the City will be able to get it there. At some point he will need the loader in order to realign it with the bucket.

Tvenge said we would deliver it.

Heinbockel asked Smith what the loader is being used for now.

Smith replied that they were pushing up dirt, which will have to go through the Grizzly.

Heinbockel asked if we need to rent a loader during the repairs.

Tvenge said we don't need another loader, only a bucket with the Weldco-Beales attachments.

Porter said he might be able to help with finding a bucket.

Tvenge said he would rent a bucket once found.

Heinbockel agreed that we should.

Purchase Orders

PO#012658 to Alcan Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$5339.25 for ice arena final contract

PO#012659 to Bank of America in the amount of \$2695.00 for grant search software

PO#012660 to Crowley Petroleum Distribution in the amount of \$3878.63 for June heating oil

PO#012661 to Heritage General Contracting in the amount of \$63750.00 for ice arena canopies progress invoice

PO#012662 to William J. Smith in the amount of \$544.00 for backhoe rental

PO#012663 to AK Dept. of Labor in the amount of \$585.00 for boiler inspections

PO#012664 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$4326.00 for management of street paving project

PO#012665 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$1545.00 for management of ice rink project

Feilner moved to approve purchase orders 012658 through 012665 as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Heinbockel protested having to pay a boiler inspector from the State to come and inspect the boilers.

This is a State requirement to have the inspection and we must pay \$585 to have them do it!

Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Edgren said the Skating Association would move forward and would stretch money for the hockey rink as far as they can.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel commented on the Vanguard (a Delta local newspaper) mistakes. He wishes for a more accurate representation.

Feilner asked about an alternate firing range. She asked if the old landfill location is available. She wants to give the public an alternate location to use since we are closing the range.

Hallgren said that one problem with using the old landfill is that the Rural Deltana Fire Department is using the building there as a substation with at least two pieces of equipment in it. The fencing would have to be changed. The building is unattended and would be a worry with people around using firearms.

Heinbockel said that originally he wanted to get a responsible agency to run the new range if it were to be put at the landfill. The Delta Sportsman's Association did not want it.

Feilner asked if she found a group to manage it, could the land be made available.

Heinbockel said he thought a piece of ground could be found. The fence would have to be changed.

Hallgren said the Delta Sportsman's problem was the unsafe backstop. Bullets could go downrange and end up on private property. The club is also looking for another location to build an additional range for Delta area residents.

Feilner asked the council if a group could be put together, would the council be willing to find another location.

Leith-Dowling said it would be open for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 6:44pm; Feilner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Letha Burcham
Acting Clerk

Approved: July 15, 2008