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**City Council Minutes**  
**July 15, 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 15, 2008 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Lou Heinbockel
JW Musgrove, Mike Murphy, Leslie Feilner

Council members excused: Pete Hallgren, Pablo Martinez

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

Seven members from the community were present, two out-of-town guests were present telephonically during *Request to Speak*, and Mayor Leith-Dowling introduced and welcomed Sgt. Robert Carmichael “Mike” Shetler, a DGHS graduate and longtime resident, who spent the day recruiting for his Army unit at IGA. Shetler stated he served in Iraq and was looking forward to a tour in Afghanistan.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leith-Dowling reported two local residents, Margie Mullins and Matthew Joslin, would speak under *Request to Speak*.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Feilner asked to change “pavilion” to “gazebo” on page 3 under the *Park Report* of the July 1, 2008 minutes.

Feilner moved to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2008 meeting as amended; Murphy 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.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Matthew Joslin reported progress on the pavilion at the cemetery, his Eagle Scout project. He asked Council for direction in adding handicapped access, whether it should be a ramp or landscaped dirt. Discussion followed regarding costs and benefits of each option, safety issues related to building the structure, and funding. Council members expressed preference for a wooden ramp and railings. Joslin said he had adequate funds to cover materials for a ramp.

Ted Sponsel, Ph. D, introduced himself as the Project Consultant for the Deltana Community Human Services Partnership Grant Project and Deborah Hayes, the Director of Northwest Resource Associates (NwRA) and Facilitator of the grant project. Sponsel referred to a handout (agenda for an upcoming meeting and a 3-page spreadsheet showing the timeline of the project). He explained that the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services approved funding for the first year of the 3-year grant. Applications will be submitted to renew grants for the following two years. Planning the project

will be in the first year. Sponsel said the long-term goals of the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) is 1) for all Alaska children, youth, and adults to be mentally healthy and living successfully and 2) for all community members to be connected, resilient, and have basic life skills. It gives direction of the grant and also meets the State's interest. The purpose of the project is to identify services that are most needed in the community and find ways to secure funding to make the services sustainable. Sponsel invited Council members to become involved in brainstorming ideas that they wish most for the Delta Junction community. He said he has resided in Fairbanks for the past 31 years and is familiar with the Delta Junction area. He has been hired to work on the project, but locals within the community will need to be the drive behind the project. He referred to the agenda for the meeting on July 21 and explained the multi-modal approach. He said a behaviorally healthy person must have physical health, mental health, an adequate living situation, social skills and community participation, education and training, and employment and each aspect must be treated with equal value. Sponsel said the comprehensive needs assessment is to be completed by August. What does the community lack in terms of mental health and social needs? What are gaps to meet those needs? What is needed to develop a community plan? What must be done to draft a plan for the next ten years? What is reasonable? He invited Council members and the public to fully participate in the process by attending the organizational meeting, scheduled for 5:00pm on July 21, 2008 at City Hall. The meeting has been publicized on the Delta News Web and in the Delta Wind.

Deborah Hayes thanked the Council for support on the community project.

Margie Mullins, editor of The Delta Vanguard, stated she had concerns about comments made during recent City Council meetings, particularly by Lou Heinbockel, upon invitation for input on money to be spent. She said citizens and newspaper media do not need permission to report on issues. The public has a right to know there is additional money and it is the media's duty to publicize it.

Heinbockel said the media has a responsibility to report accurately. He asked to be excused at 5:27pm.

Mullins explained examples of accurate reporting and said Heinbockel does not return phone calls when called upon to ascertain facts. She explained how she had inaccurately reported information about paving streets, pertaining to conflict in voting because of where Council members reside. She said she questions Heinbockel's residency and what his conflict of interest was, if he moved, and if the public was informed. She said she does not intentionally print inaccurate information. She expressed concerns about how meetings are conducted and when the public is allowed to ask questions; that parliamentary procedures are not held to, so it is difficult to identify when a motion is made, who makes a motion, and who offers comments. Assumptions are derived when there is no opportunity for clarification. Mullins said she is often not recognized when she raises her hand to make comment. She does not know of errors in her articles unless she is alerted to them. She explained problems in obtaining minutes from previous meetings because they are not always posted in a timely manner and getting a copy of the recorded meeting is difficult. She explained recent circumstances in duplicating recordings of meetings onto a thumb drive, CD, and a cassette recorder and about her dilemma in regards to compatibility with the City's recorder and her Macintosh computer.

White asked Mullins to bring in her personal tape recorder and she would record meetings onto it, even though the City no longer records onto cassettes. She said Mullins recorder is not compatible with the City's cassette recorder, which will be used only in a backup instance.

Heinbockel returned to the meeting at 5:35pm.

REPORTS

Cemetery – Mary Leith-Dowling reported latches on the cemetery's back gates have been repaired.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- GVEA is scheduled to host public meetings in Alaskan communities throughout July. One will be held at City Hall on July 22 and extra effort was made in advertising it to generate attendance.
- Kent Cummins, Public Affairs Officer at Ft. Greely, sent notice on July 9 that the Army will conduct sporadic artillery live-fire training at the Donnelly Training Area between July 14 and July 24. Range Control (873-4714) is contact for more information.

- Letha Burcham began the process of getting another phone line (not a new number) installed in the large conference room at City Hall so that more than one party can attend meetings telephonically. The current set up restricts use to the small conference room. It can be done in the large conference room, but set up is more complicated and involves an extra telephone.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported:

- There will be a change order to the current paving project to include parking lots at the library, Community Center, and City Hall. The engineer estimates will not be known until later this week, but a special meeting must be scheduled to take action on dealing with the change order before the bid opening on August 4. The next Council meeting is not until August 5. Parking lots would be an addendum to Phase 2 of the paving project. The last date for changes is July 28. There are 75 approaches (driveways) in the current paving project. The prices for the parking lots and approaches should be in this week so that it can be discussed and put into the bid packet.

Discussion followed regarding progress of the paving project.

- Paving of Emmaus Road has been delayed temporarily because of placement of the culvert near the Nistler Road. Tvenge will meet with HC Contractors and M2C1 on July 17, 2008 to discuss it.

- Parts have not yet arrived for the D6 and the D8 rental agreement ended July 9. The D8 is still at the landfill, but is not in use. It will be transported back to Fairbanks when the D6 is returned.

- Pogo Mine will host a public meeting at 5:00pm on July 30, 2008 at City Hall to discuss general mine operations and Ballot Measure 4.

Musgrove asked about the outdoor rink.

Tvenge said the project is going out to bid.

Musgrove asked about the status of the Volvo loader bucket.

Tvenge said parts have been ordered and Sam Porter estimates a couple weeks in repair time. The Case (track) loader is being used in the interim.

Finance – Dave Zimmerman reported that landfill equipment (D6 dozer) repair is about \$36,000 in expenses. He is waiting on the final invoice from NC Machinery. After which, he will file for reimbursement from AMLJIA. The city has expended \$1,712 on Matthew Joslin's Eagle Scout cemetery project. We have received \$750 in donations; therefore the cemetery project has a favorable balance of \$538.

School Liaison – Mike Murphy reported:

- There is no information available regarding the break-in at the school (on June 22, 2008 that resulted in \$6,000 in vandalism and \$80,000 in theft).

- A tally amount is not yet known for what has been collected from the community regarding the \$193,000 needed to match the State's \$9.5 million grant to winterize the school facilities.

- All teachers have been hired for the new school year and extracurricular athletic activities are starting soon.

Musgrove asked if there were any predictions on whether the enrollment would be up or down.

Tana Wood stated no drop or increases are predicted.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the storage building is almost ready for use and the summer reading programs end with a party scheduled at the Community Center on July 25. She read a quote from mystery writer John Straley of Sitka, "In all my travels in Alaska I've not heard of any town or village that has regretted their investment in their library. Libraries are centers for self betterment and a haven from the noisy business of the world."

Park – Leslie Feilner reported that despite the heavy rains the grounds are being well maintained. We do need to do some trimming around some of the ball fields.

Musgrove asked about the baseball field.

White explained that the user groups maintain their own fields. The baseball field is only used by the High School and after they are finished, no one takes care of it.

Leith-Dowling stated once the MOA with the school for the skating rink was completed another one would be worked on regarding use of the park facilities.

Personnel – Dave Zimmerman reported Elvira Zidrashko is being trained as a library aid.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported clearing trees off the rink lot is schedule for July 22. City employees will clear the land to prepare it for the outdoor rink and private contractors will put in the concrete ring. The outdoor rink will be situated between the rink building and North Clearwater Ave.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported the culvert situation on Emmaus Road would probably have to be changed. He has been asked what width the paving will be on the roads. He said Mill-Tan has a 23-foot paving surface.

Tvenge said roads would be 24 feet wide.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Purchase Orders

PO#012688 to Alert-All Corporation in the amount of \$1,472.35 for LEPC safety brochures

PO#012689 voided

PO#012690 to Busy Bee Office Supplies in the amount of \$515.80 for library copy paper and color copies of LEPC brochure for the Deltana Fair

PO#012691 to Crowley Petroleum Distribution in the amount of \$2,080.72 for Jun '08 landfill equipment fuel

PO#012692 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$762.58 for cemetery tools and materials for the Boy Scout cemetery project and library storage building

PO#012693 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$1,937.16 for June '08 vehicle fuel for the Rescue Squad, Fire Department, park, and streets

PO#012694 to Dimond Fence Co., Inc. in the amount of \$37,869.30 for Delta Junction Motocross (DJMX) chain link fence

PO#012695 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$1,194.09 for June '08 legal services (review of paving contract, employee personnel policy changes, and proposed changes to the library canopy)

PO#012696 to Debra Joslin in the amount of \$607.95 for reimbursement of materials used in the Eagle Scout project at the cemetery

PO#012697 to Alan Levinson in the amount of \$562.93 for reimbursement of materials used in the Eagle Scout project at the cemetery

PO#012698 to NC Machinery in the amount of \$15,840.00 for June '08 D8 dozer rental

PO#012699 to Michael Paschall in the amount of \$574.06 for reimbursement of LEPC travel

PO#012700 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$8,384.49 for July '08 group health insurance

PO#012701 to ACS in the amount of \$1,627.17 for July '08 phone service

PO#012702 to Alaska Wildland Support in the amount of \$4,066.00 for July '08 cemetery and park lawn maintenance

PO#012703 to City of Fairbanks in the amount of \$4,954.97 for July/Dec '08 dispatch service

PO#012704 to Delta Sanitation, Inc. in the amount of \$830.20 for July '08 dumpster service

PO#012705 to Morley Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$1,260.00 for service to rewire City Hall ceiling lights

PO#012706 to State of Alaska, DCED in the amount of \$50,000.00 for 4th annual loan payment

PO#012707 to GVEA in the amount of \$2,206.81 for June '08 electricity

Feilner moved to approve purchase orders 012688 through 012707 as presented; Musgrove seconded. Heinbockel said he would not vote in favor of paying PO#012706 because it is a debt incurred by the actions of the State of Alaska.

Murphy asked if this was the total contract price for PO#012694.

Tvenge answered that the council had awarded \$40,000.

Leith-Dowling said the DJMX Club was purchasing warning signs for the fence to make up the difference.

Murphy asked for clarification on PO#12698 to NC Machinery.

Tvenge said this is the June bill and it is end of that cost, part of which will be refunded less the \$5,000 deductible and difference between the rent cost of the D6 and D8.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with four (Feilner, Musgrove, Murphy, Leith-Dowling) voting in favor and one (Heinbockel) voting against.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

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

Heinbockel said he has purchased a GPS that tells him the names of streets in Delta. He has found that we are missing many street name signs. He asked Ellis to do a survey and get that remedied. He had an occasion to meet with a man who works for the second largest waste company in the United States. He works out of Flint, MI and has six landfills in his jurisdiction. He said that \$125/ton is an exorbitant amount of money for disposal of waste. They must utilize the space available to them and use loaders especially equipped with metal spikes to crush garbage.

Musgrove asked about the Eagle Scout project at the cemetery. He wanted to make sure there was proper supervision on site. According to the picture presented, it doesn't look as if any safety measures are in place. OSHA requires that anything over 6 feet high have walking / working surfaces and protection with harnesses. He is concerned about possible injuries and/or lawsuits.

Leith-Dowling said she had observed that parents have been present and they were working from ladders.

Musgrove said that you can work from a ladder no matter how high it is, but working from a platform needs to meet specs.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 6:15pm; Murphy seconded. **Motion carried.**

Letha Burcham, Administrative Assistant
Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: August 5, 2008