



City Council Minutes
November 4, 2008 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, November 4, 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 Pete Hallgren, Lou Heinbockel
JW Musgrove (telephonically), Dawn Grossmann

Council members excused: Leslie Feilner, Pablo Martinez

City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman
Landfill Supervisor Butch Ellis, Facilities Maintenance Employee Jeremy Williams, City Clerk Pat White
Six members from the community were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Grossmann moved to approve the November 4, 2008 agenda as presented; Heinbockel seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2008 meeting as presented; Grossmann 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 reported members of the Rescue Squad would participate in a joint exercise with Ft. Greely on November 16.

Fire Department – Dawn Grossmann reported that Fire Chief Carin Bear stated two new members, both employed at Pogo Mine, have joined the Fire Department. The Red Cross trailer is presently being stored at Station 5 (City’s new fire hall), keys are located at the LEPC office and at City Hall, and restocking the trailer is not the responsibility of either the City or the Fire Department.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported the sander/plow truck would be used around Service Street and Andreassen’s hangar, but not beyond the taxiway. He asked to not plow down to the gravel because it makes ski plane operations difficult.

Discussion followed regarding maintaining the road behind the clinic, that it is too narrow for the grader blade, prioritizing streets that are requested by the public, and local residents maintaining their own roads. Hallgren said the road between the clinic and the hangar, which is currently used as an auto repair shop, is legal access into the airport subdivision. It should be plowed occasionally and it will prevent non-legal access (crossing the runway). He said proceeds from developing more airport lots should be used to construct the road past the clinic into the airport lots.

Heinbockel said it is time to make that trail a road because it is not wide enough for two vehicles to pass.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported he stated at the October 21 that the Donnelly Dome site permit was renewed. He clarified that the permit was renewed in September and it was actually for the Communications Site Tenant / Customer Equipment Inventory. BLM requires an annual report of what equipment is at the Donnelly site. The Donnelly Dome use-lease permit is valid through 2027.

Hallgren said it took nearly 8 years to acquire the lease permit.

Tvenge reported arrangements have been made for the UAF Geophysical Institute to install a seismic antenna on the landfill scale house this week. It is the perfect location for the 24” antenna that is used to

identify earthquake epicenters. Funding does not allow leasing, so they are unable to contribute to the electricity bill.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the library will be closed on November 14 because the computer systems are scheduled for more reconfigurations. She said the Baca Beyond concert was well attended on October 30 and the Library Board is researching more events, including bussing people to out-of-town events. Leith-Dowling said support funding from the military has been extended for another 2 years. It covers costs associated with extending library hours.

Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported the sign at the rink advertises ice.

Al Edgren said approximately fifty skaters from the High School, Mites, Squirts, and Pee Wees started back on the ice on November 3.

Heinbockel said the Kiwanis Club wants to donate money toward construction of a basketball court at the park near the volleyball area and playground equipment. He said he preferred the basketball court be with the outdoor rink next to the Liewer-Olmstead Arena and to consider it as a Capital Legislative item.

Lynn Robertson said the Kiwanis do not have projected costs for a basketball court, but prefer to locate it at the City Park because of the different age groups that are not involved in other summer activities. She said they are researching a concrete foundation and four hoops, but maybe only two.

Heinbockel said costs are tripled for City contracts because of engineering requirements, quotes and bids, and legal fees. He said Tok has 3 skating rinks and two of them turn into a tennis court/basketball court during the summer months.

Hallgren explained concerns related to subsurface conditions at the park.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Liaison – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Fred Sheen of GVEA replaced bulbs on most streetlights along Nistler (School Road).

Additional Reports by Council – Pete Hallgren reported a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting would be held at City Hall on November 5.

Heinbockel said he would be unable to attend the Missile Launch Safety Presentation on November 6.

Hallgren said he would attend both.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Legislative Capital Projects List

Tvenge referenced the preliminary Legislative Capital Projects List and said he gave it to Representative John Harris and Legislative Aide Pete Fellman. He said the items need to be prioritized and asked if there were any more to add to the list.

Grossmann said fencing is needed at the fairgrounds. The \$40,000 that was given to Delta Junction Motocross (DJMX) for fencing was not enough to close the area off from the rest of the fairgrounds.

Hallgren asked to upgrade the old fire hall (Public Works) and said it is expensive to widen an existing door, but a shed-type addition onto the back of the building with a drive-through bay and a larger door would accommodate the grader with its wing.

Leith-Dowling asked to add bike paths to the Legislative List, stating they are most needed on State roads.

Heinbockel said the State of Alaska should be building bike paths.

Discussion followed regarding both potential for a Senior Citizen or assisted living home and a feasibility study for one, more paving to complete the downtown area, the D8 overshadowing all other requests, and buying cover material for what purchasing a D8 would cost.

Tvenge said he would get clarity on distances and locations for bike paths and also cost estimates for each item by the November 18 meeting.

Heinbockel said he would like to add a rapid response vehicle.

Musgrove asked if the public has offered any suggestions for the Legislative Capital Projects List.

Lynn Robertson asked for an alternate route into the clinic and if it could be added to road improvements.

She said the past construction season, when sections of the Richardson were closed, proved an alternate route is needed during emergency situations. She explained a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) training exercise that used Forestry's access trail.

Al Edgren, Delta Area Forester, said the road between Forestry and Family Medical Center is not a legal access and traffic could create a hazardous situation. He suggested using Dr. Andreassen's hangar access. He asked why improvements at the rink did not make the list, why projects cannot be finished.

Hallgren said recreation items rank low on the list and it will also take a lot to convince him that bike paths should be a priority over heavy equipment storage and purchasing a water tender.

Edgren said the rink is a City facility and it should be finished to an acceptable standard. He said he would present a list of maintenance items.

Heinbockel said the remainder of impact funds (\$200,000) was locked in to finish projects at the rink, but Council is not willing to support more. Projects at the rink need to be finished in-house and by volunteers.

Leith-Dowling asked to prioritize the Legislative Capital Projects List.

Heinbockel asked each Council member to individually strike or add items and turn them in. He said he would prefer \$850,000 be spent on road improvements instead of a D8, he is not in favor of using road paving money for the fairgrounds unless it is a separate and distinct item, and he felt calcium chloride road treatments should be removed from the list. He said street paving and road improvements should include upgrading less-traveled gravel roads with D-1 or other decent material and the prison loan is an absolute priority. Forgiveness of the loan would not cost the State anything.

Hallgren said he agreed with pushing for the forgiveness of the prison debt, but it should not be part of the Capital Projects List. The debt takes \$50,000 from the City's operating capital every year. He said he also agreed with Heinbockel on the calcium chloride and not paving the fairgrounds, but wanted the D8 to remain a consideration.

Musgrove said calcium chloride treatments and street paving road improvements are one category. He asked to repair the existing water tender or purchase a new/used one.

Heinbockel said to replace or fix the lime green tender, but he did not support a third water vehicle.

Discussion followed regarding the purpose of a rapid response vehicle, transporting extrication tools, paving the rest of the downtown streets (Chena, Aurora, Hayes Circle, etc.), the new 4WD ambulance that will be purchased with Legislative funds from last year's wish list, and fencing the perimeter of the airport.

Musgrove said roughly 2 miles of fencing would be needed for both sides of the airstrip. He asked to identify it as airport security fencing and he said it will require some research.

Hallgren said he agreed with fencing along Rapids Street to include one or two gates so that airplanes have access. He questioned fencing along the pipeline to prevent four-wheeler access.

Edgren suggested not putting a fence in front of Forestry's helibase.

Discussion followed regarding a D6 versus a D8, upgrading the old fire hall to be more energy efficient and more functional, and previous costs associated with fencing the park and the motocross track.

Heinbockel asked that paving the east-west runway be included in road improvements. He said it may be necessary for lifesaving flights should access to Allen Army Airfield be denied.

Musgrove said the airport cannot expand because of its location.

Discussion followed regarding providing disability access at the fairgrounds, expanding use of the fairgrounds beyond the annual Deltana Fair, applying for grant applications, the success of the matching Rasmuson Foundation grant at the library, and possibly the City sponsoring a grant for the fair board.

Sebastian Saarloos, Delta Surveys Associates Office Manager, said survey of the fairgrounds was done in July 2008.

Hallgren said paving the City Hall parking lot is more justified than paving the fairgrounds because of the amount of public use.

Heinbockel asked to describe the bike paths as sidewalks for non-motorized vehicles.

Discussion followed regarding paving bike paths as a safety issue, packaging repairs to bike paths along school road with repairs to streetlights on school road, extending the bike paths on Nistler to Mill-Tan and connecting Emmaus Road to the ones in town, providing a 4-foot shoulder on roads to allow distance between bikers and traffic, removing overgrowth from bike paths, and space for four-wheelers and snow machines.

NEW BUSINESS

Torba 2 Subdivision

Sebastian Saarloos, Delta Surveys, said Torba 2 is a basic 5-acre subdivision, located on Jack Warren Road, north of Jack Subdivision. The property is split into two parcels. Lot 1 is 2 acres and Lot 2 is 2.99 acres. Saarloos said the property was patented from the State with easement along the eastern side (right

side on map). No new access is being granted and both lots will use the existing driveway. Presently there is one house located on the northerly lot with its own well and septic and there is a larger house, shop, and well on the southerly lot, but no septic installed at this time. Both houses run off the same power source and a pole is needed on the western edge to provide electricity to the southern lot (#2). Saarloos said the only new dedication is the power line and there are no leans against the property.

Heinbockel moved to approve the Torba 2 Subdivision as presented; Grossmann seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Implementing a Local Financial Disclosure Form

Heinbockel said he would serve on a sub-committee to create a local financial disclosure form, to bring it back to the Council, and to do it before March 2009, when APOC filing is normally required.

Hallgren volunteered also, stating he does not want to discourage people from running for City Council. Discussion followed regarding older versions of the State financial disclosure form, not declaring ownership of properties outside of the City limits or listing children's investments or property valued less than \$5,000, and requiring information that will be useful to local residents.

Musgrove said anything the City Council does is more than what the State of Alaska requires because municipalities are allowed to opt out and file nothing. He suggested the form be as simple as it can be, that local officials be required to disclose only what could affect judgment on City-related issues.

Delta Chamber of Commerce Renewal of Gaming Permit

Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to the Chamber of Commerce's gaming permit renewal; Hallgren seconded.

Hallgren and Grossmann stated they are members of the Chamber.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Purchase Orders

PO#013005 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$8,798.34 for Nov '08 group health insurance

PO#013006 to Crowley Petroleum Distribution in the amount of \$9,183.86 for Oct '08 heating fuel

PO#013007 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$2,677.77 for Oct '08 vehicle fuel and studded tires for Ford snowplow/sander truck

PO#013008 to IBS in the amount of \$1,141.05 for fluorescent ceiling lights and outdoor flood lights at City Hall, foam spray to seal windows at Fire Hall, door seal for library, replacement ballasts and fluorescent ceiling lights for old fire hall, and reinforced visqueen to cover street sand at the landfill

PO#013009 to John Johnston in the amount of \$1,894.60 for library computer network configuration

PO#013010 to Kel's Tractor Backhoe and Septic Service in the amount of \$3,543.75 for annual septic services

PO#013011 to Physio-Control, Inc. in the amount of \$2,335.40 for power adapters to go with Lifepak-12's, purchased in Sept '08 for the Rescue Squad

Heinbockel moved to approve purchase orders 013005 through 013011 as presented; Grossmann seconded.

Heinbockel said the price for fuel (\$2.85) is less than what he pays as a homeowner (\$2.90) with the same distributor.

Discussion followed regarding past and present fuel prices and budgeting at \$5.00/gallon.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Leith-Dowling called for additional public and Council comments.

Musgrove reported all the major news agencies are predicting that Obama has won the Presidency.

ADJOURNMENT

Grossmann moved to adjourn at 7:05pm; Hallgren seconded. Motion carried.