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**City Council Minutes**

**November 18, 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, November 18, 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

JW Musgrove, Dawn Grossmann, Leslie Feilner, Pablo Martinez

Council member excused: Lou Heinbockel

City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman

Landfill Supervisor Butch Ellis, City Clerk Pat White

Seventeen members from the community and 5 out-of-town guests were present.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Martinez moved to approve the November 18, 2008 agenda as presented; Feilner seconded. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Musgrove said he made some minor changes.

Martinez moved to approve the minutes from November 4, 2008; Feilner 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**

**Ft. Greely Middle School Students - Presentation About Bullying**

**Roger Franklin**, Ft. Greely Middle School (FGMS) Counselor, stated students had prepared their presentation over the past twelve weeks. He deferred all questions to his four students and said it is a teacher's job to teach students and the student's job to teach the whole community.

**Jacienda Vent** introduced herself and fellow students, stating their goal is to educate about bullying and its effects. It hurts people, makes them feel bad, and forces them to do things that they do not want to do.

**Shana Wilburn** said some people are bullied because of their size, the way they act, or if they look like they cannot defend themselves.

**Suzanne Feilner** said bullying must not be tolerated. Incidents should be reported and the one being bullied should spend time with their friends because they are protected in a crowd. Bullying causes students to lose confidence, which can lead to dropping out of school.

Wilburn encouraged others to not be bystanders and to try to stop the act of bullying. Doing nothing allows the bad behavior to be accepted. Bullying others gives a false sense of being popular.

**Abigail Knix** asked, "Are you a bully?" She said other forms of bullying and harassment include cyber bullying, harassing, or blackmail via emails.

Wilburn said the FGMS is governed by Alaska Statutes 14.33.200, which required school districts to adopt a policy by July 1, 2007 that prohibits intimidation, harassment, or bullying of any student.

Vent said Alaska Statutes 14.33.210 requires school districts to report all incidents to the State that result in suspension or expulsion for harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

S. Feilner said AS.14.33.220 states that any person with reliable information about someone being verbally or physically harassed shall report the incident to an appropriate school official.

Knix said they have educated twelve classes to date, each class having approximately 30 students.

Wilburn said their goal is to present the topic to their peers and teachers and repeat it, if necessary.

Tana Wood, Delta-Greely School Board Vice President, said posters are displayed all around the middle school, relaying the message in different ways.

### **Denali Pipeline Progress Update**

**Lisa Pekich**, Outreach Manager for Denali – The Alaska Gas Pipeline, LLC, introduced herself and said her purpose is to provide background and progress information on the gas pipeline, which has been “in the works” for many years. The Denali Gas Pipeline is a joint venture by BP and ConocoPhillips, their headquarters being located in Anchorage. A separate joint venture with a Canadian affiliate is being formed because of the legal entity requirement and an office will be located in Calgary to manage the Canadian portion of the project. 2010 is the key milestone to get the project to an open season (turning point for any pipeline project, identifying if there is financial commitment from shipper) and current gas prices are a factor in helping the project move forward. Denali plans to spend \$600 million in the next 3 years toward the open season, gathering field data for the cost estimate of the project. Pekich said the pipeline starts on the North Slope at a gas treatment plant, ends in Alberta, and is designed to move gas to the market in the central United States. Depending on what is available and economically feasible, Denali may network with existing pipelines in the Lower 48 to transport gas throughout the country. If the existing pipelines are not available Denali will extend the project from Alberta to the Chicago area. Denali is designed to transport ~ 4bcf (one billion cubic feet) per day, which is 6-8% of U.S. daily consumption and the pipeline will be the largest construction project undertaken in North America. Pekich explained the process of dealing with CO2 content, chilling the gas so permafrost is not disturbed as it travels through the buried pipeline, and locating the 2,000-mile pipeline between Prudhoe Bay and Alberta. She said the pipeline would be 48” to 52” in diameter. Four of twelve compressor stations will be located in Alaska, one every 100 to 200 miles. Two to three million tons of steel will be used between Prudhoe and Alberta and another 2 million, if the pipeline is extended to U.S. markets. Pekich discussed job training and employment opportunities. She said at least 5 off-take (and possibly in-take) points will be located in Alaska, but where is not yet known. Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and the Yukon River are considerations. An office was opened in Tok because data is needed between Delta and the border. Fieldwork includes wetlands delineation, ecological land surveys of vegetation, investigating archeological sites, ortho-photography, and immersive videotaping, a technique in which thirteen cameras, positioned under a helicopter, film 360° of the entire gasline route. Pekich said as many as eighty employees were in the field, covering 538 stream and river crossings throughout state. The project timeline is 5 years for the planning and permitting process and another 5 years to construct the pipeline, so the best guess for completion would be 2018. Denali is working with the State of Alaska to identify roads and bridges that will require upgrading in order to support the pipeline project.

Hallgren said the original producer’s application, under the Murkowski administration in 2004, included approximately \$200 million for local communities that would be impacted during the construction period. The impact was based off a 245-page study done by the State Department Treasury Municipal Gasline Advisory. He said the current State contract with Trans-Canada does not offer any funding for local communities and questioned if there are impact funds in the Denali Pipeline project.

Pekich said they are researching what impacts could be, but at this time has not made any statement on impact funds.

Hallgren said he was interested in locating an off-take station in Delta Junction and feels Ft. Greely, Alyeska Pump 9, and Pogo Mine would support it. He said the Denali Pipeline is expected to offer fewer jobs than what the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) provided and jobs will be shorter terms. He asked about job opportunities in Delta.

Pekich said seasonal fieldwork would offer short-time employment. There will be a spike during construction when outside workers will fill positions that Alaskans can’t. About twenty full-time employees will manage each of the four compressor stations in Alaska, the gas treatment plant will require a significant number of employees, and pipeline maintenance will also offer some long-term jobs.

Hallgren said he would appreciate a public meeting in Delta to explain the proposed route and how it might affect Delta Junction.

JD Adkins, Lands Manager for the Denali Pipeline Project, said two primary people have been contacting area landowners. Denali does have a defined route, known as the preliminary route, which is a 26th revision. Since 2001 there has been a lot of subdivision development in the Delta area and they are managing around them. More studies are expected this winter to complete the half-mile to 2-mile wide study. The pipeline will be buried underground except for crossing near the Tanana River.

Musgrove asked about interaction between the two proposed pipelines and if there would be only one.

Pekich said there would be only one pipeline transporting gas to the Lower 48. Denali Pipeline and Alaska Gasline Inducement Act (AGIA) are separate, but similar projects. At some point the market will decide which project moves forward and that may be manifested during the open season. She stated a public meeting could be scheduled by Denali this winter. Also local residents can research information at [www.denali-thealaskapipeline.com](http://www.denali-thealaskapipeline.com).

## REPORTS

**Rescue Squad** – Lisa Shivel reported:

- Six people passed the practical portion of the EMT class and are awaiting results of the written exam.
- Medic III is back in service and running wonderfully.
- Four people represented Delta Rescue Squad at the Symposium, accepting the 2008 Outstanding Ambulance Award. Shivel said Delta's squad was one of three nominees. She quoted inscription on the plaque, "... Presented by the Governor's Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services to Delta Rescue Squad in recognition of the dedication from the all-volunteer squad in serving the geographic area of 12,000 square miles with response time of up to 6 hours."

Leith-Dowling thanked Shivel and said Delta residents understand and appreciate the squad for their dedication in serving the entire community.

Tvenge said he wanted to forward the award information to Representative John Harris, especially since the legislature granted the funds to purchase the newest ambulance.

- Shivel questioned why advertisement for the new ambulance cost \$604 in the Seattle Times and \$53 in the Idaho Times.

Hallgren said the difference in price correlates with the market volume.

**Fire Department** – Dawn Grossmann stated she would report Fire Department issues on behalf of Chief Carin Bear.

**Airport** – JW Musgrove reported the early snow has helped with moose surveys.

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported:

- Fridays after holidays are normally very, very slow. White asked to close City Hall on those days and said City staff will take them as personal leave. She said the landfill would be closed on the holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years), which are all on Thursdays, and they will be open for the public on the regularly scheduled Fridays and Saturdays following each holiday. The library will be closed on November 27 and 28, December 24/26, and December 31/January 2.

Musgrove asked that an emergency phone contact be posted with the notice.

Hallgren moved to close City Hall for the holidays and to allow employees to take the following day as personal leave, being closed for business on November 27 and 28, December 25 and 26, and January 1 and 2; Feilner seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

- A roll call was taken via e.mail and phone on November 6, 2008 regarding final payments to HC Contractors for paving contracts, Phase I and Phase II. Five Council members approved issuing the two payments, totaling \$1,476,068.47, listed as purchase orders #013018 and 013019 in *New Business*.

- The Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC) Conference in Ketchikan was refreshing and 62 clerks, representing 40 communities, attended the Advanced Academy and/or the 2-day conference. White thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the conference.

Grossmann said she appreciated being able to attend the Newly Elected Officials (NEO) training at the AML Conference. She gained a ton of knowledge applicable to serving as a member of the City Council and she met many interesting people.

**City Administrator** – Mike Tvenge reported he would meet with the Delta Skating Association and the School District on November 19 regarding the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the uses and responsibilities of the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena. The MOA defines the general use of the facility. He said he would present it to the Council once negotiations are finalized. DGSD will also have it approved by the School Board. There is no change to ownership of the facility or to the City's committed funds, which are budgeted.

**Finance** – Dave Zimmerman reported the City's audit was finished on November 7 and a preliminary report will take at least thirty days.

**Lands** – Pete Hallgren reported:

- He attended the Ft. Greely Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on November 5, where they discussed clean up efforts this past summer and plans for next year. Information is available online.
- He attended the what-if-a-missile-were-launched meeting at Ft. Greely on November 6 and said anyone off post will not smell fumes, hear harmful noise, see harmful light, and will not be hit by debris.
- Hallgren attended the Deltana Community Human Services Partnership meeting on November 8. Results of the community survey showed the most important concerns are: 1) elder/disabled services, 2) counseling/substance abuse programs, 3) additional physicians, 4) a teen/rec center, and 5) a pharmacy. He said researching cost effectiveness of each item is the next step.
- Hallgren would attend a gasline transportation needs meeting in Anchorage on November 19, which will be hosted by Department of Transportation (DOT). Information Insights of Fairbanks will provide infrastructure costs involved with highways and ports. The gasline pipe will weigh more than what the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) pipe did and hauling it will require three-times as many truckloads on the highways. Hallgren said the State plan currently does not provide impact funds for any affected municipalities during construction, yet it will cost hundreds of millions of dollars to change the State's infrastructure.

**Library** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported:

- The heating system at the library required another small adjustment and is working properly now.
- Local writer and filmmaker Brooke Bellinger will present a Big Foot movie premiere at the library on November 22.
- The library will host the annual Chamber of Commerce coloring contest and the gingerbread house-decorating contest.
- Elders from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints are scheduled to help decorate the library for the holidays.

**Park** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported she received a request to raise the volleyball net at least two feet so older youth can play next summer.

Feilner said she would make sure a new net is purchased.

**Public Health & Safety** – Pablo Martinez recognized Lisa Shivel and the entire Rescue Squad, stating the community appreciates their hard work and dedication. He congratulated them on receiving the Governor's EMS award and commended Shivel for her leadership.

**Public Works** – Butch Ellis reported he worked with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for the past two weeks on the landfill permit renewal, which is due every 5 years. He said the process is so detailed that some landfills hire engineers to do it. He also said purged (junk) vehicles will be accepted at landfill in the near future.

Discussion followed regarding crushing vehicles with the Cat or loading them with the loader for salvage.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Bike Path Proposal**

White stated Flower Cole's presentation is not old business. Discussion is necessary prior to bringing up the Legislative Capital Projects, which is carried over from the past two meetings.

Flower Cole, Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) Secretary/Treasurer, distributed a letter, dated November 14, 2008, requesting the City collaborate with them in requesting legislative funds to build a bike/activity path that would loop from the Richardson Highway through Jack Warren, Souhrada, and Nistler Roads.

Paul Knopp, DCC President, said using roads for a play yard has been a concern for many years and upgrading part of Jack Warren with a better bike path has been an ongoing discussion. Knopp said DCC is interested in participating with the City in a combined capital project. Deltana would take the Jack Warren, starting near the cemetery, Souhrada Road, and the Nistler, up to where it meets Mil-Tan, if the City would take the other portion of Jack Warren (from the Richardson Highway to Mil-Tan), through Mil-Tan, and the rest of Nistler back to the Richardson. He asked to incorporate them as one joint item. Tvenge said the City is considering redoing the bike paths from the Richardson Highway to the elementary school on Nistler. Constructing bike paths less than 8-foot wide is not cost effective. Discussion followed regarding sub-grade material (2", 4", or more than 4") to support the asphalt, displacing four-wheelers and snowmachines, right of way issues with DOT on Nistler, other potential funding options for the project, and clearing ground with equipment as an in-kind contribution. Cole stated having no bike paths presents a serious safety issue and she has heard nothing but positive comments about the venture.

Tvenge said he would research creating a joint project.

Feilner asked to repair existing bike paths, and not just build new ones.

### **Legislative Capital Projects List**

Leith-Dowling referenced the newly revised list of projects, dated November 13, 2008, and asked to prioritize, combine, and/or eliminate items.

Tvenge stated some costs for each item are accurate and others are estimates. He said fencing for the airport runway, along Rapids Road, would cost approximately \$100,000 and that estimate is from last year's motocross fencing, which is a 4-foot chain link fence. He said he did not get an estimate for the additional motocross fencing because of not knowing the needed amount.

Hallgren said he would speak against motocross fencing.

Grossmann suggested keeping the paving at the fairgrounds and to remove motocross fencing.

Hallgren said a D8 is needed at the landfill.

Tvenge said the cost for a D8, \$700,000, does not include trade-in of the D6 that is presently valued at about \$150,000. He explained possibilities of expanding the Public Works building by upgrading lighting and insulation, possibly adding a new roof, and a 30 x 60 (1,800-square foot) addition. He said he estimated \$300 per foot and would do further research if upgrades are to be kept as a legislative item. Discussion followed regarding constructing a new building, purchasing an existing building, adequate ventilation in the older building, and fuel costs.

Tvenge said he is comfortable with 6 miles of street paving and 4 miles of road improvements, which will cost approximately \$2,300,000. More information is needed for 16 miles of bike paths and he suggested combining them with road paving/improvements.

Discussion followed regarding adding bike paths (possibly costing \$7 or \$8 million), bike paths being more important than street paving, and calcium chloride treatments that are good for only one season.

Hallgren said he would prefer a better figure for what it will cost for bike paths. He said he would agree to delete the rapid response vehicle and calcium chloride treatments, if it is necessary to omit items. He said he initially suggested the road treatments, but would like more information to define its value. He asked to be excused (at 7:00pm), in time to meet the plane to Anchorage.

Grossmann asked to keep paving (handicap access) at the fairgrounds.

Martinez said it is a health and safety issue and it could be used as an exercise track, benefiting beyond those who need it for wheelchairs or strollers. He asked to keep it as a separate line item.

Tvenge said possibly 4 inches of D-1 is needed for 4.25 miles of gravel roads (Rebecca Lane, Sandra Street, Wien Street, and Attu Street). If treated with calcium chloride, the roads would be dust free for 6 months. He explained functions of calcium chloride and said it bonds back together should it need to be re-graded.

Knopp said a silt blend was used on Souhrada Road, not calcium chloride. It is an E-1 blend and has bigger rock (1") than D-1 (5/8"). E-1 is expected to hold up longer and is more expensive.

Leith-Dowling said calcium chloride treatments would be combined with road improvements.

Tvenge said he would research it more to get a better figure. It will require storage because of its volume.

Martinez asked to keep the water tender as a high priority, at the top of the list, because it affects the entire area. If awarded, it will replace the lime-green tender and protect Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating.

Tvenge said the tender is also a pumper with a 3,000-gallon capacity. He said he did locate a green one. Discussion followed regarding the benefits of a rapid response vehicle (to carry extra gear and oxygen, reduce the number of vehicles at the scene of an accident, which helps in traffic control when a trooper is not available) and scratching it from the Legislative List.

Leith-Dowling clarified the list as 1) water tender, 2) airport fencing, 3) D8 dozer, 4) street paving/road improvements (calcium chloride), 5) bike paths (City and DCC), 6) paving fairgrounds, and 7) Public Works building. She said discussion would continue at the December 2 meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Ambulance Bid Award**

Tvenge reported 3 bids were received and the ambulance bid opening was held on November 14. He said award of the bid would be postponed until December 2 to allow the Rescue Squad time to review them and other options that were not previously considered. Tvenge offered Council to review the bids also.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#013018 to HC Contractors in the amount of \$741,617.47 for Phase 1 of Street Paving

PO#013019 to HC Contractors in the amount of \$734,451.00 for Phase 2 of Street Paving

PO#013021 to ACS in the amount of \$1,672.98 for Nov '08 phone service

PO#013022 to Analytica Group in the amount of \$575.00 for Sept '08 landfill sludge tests

PO#013023 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$641.95 Nov '08 911 phones and power

PO#013024 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,234.71 for credit card charges (toner for City Hall printer, airfare for Dawn Grossmann to attend NEO training at the AML Conference in Ketchikan, and advertisement for the ambulance bid in Idaho newspaper)

PO#013025 to Buffalo Center Auto Parts in the amount of \$651.39 for landfill and street supplies (grease, hand cleaner, filters)

PO#013026 to Busy Bee Office Supplies in the amount of \$527.40 for paper, ink toner and labels for City Hall, Rescue Squad, and the library

PO#013027 to Delta Industrial Services in the amount of \$562.19 for oxygen at the Rescue Squad and rent of scissor lift to put up new light bulbs at the old fire hall

PO#013028 to GVEA in the amount of \$3,620.24 for Oct '08 electricity

PO#013029 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$1,340.00 for legal services (APOC and contract closeouts with HC Contractors)

PO#013030 to FNSB in the amount of \$996.57 for Medic III air shocks suspension repairs

PO#013031 to NC Machinery Inc. in the amount of \$728.21 for D6 ripper shank

PO#013032 to Seattle Times in the amount of \$604.10 for advertisement of ambulance bid

PO#013033 to Siemens Building Technologies in the amount of \$1,430.00 for adjustments and repairs to heating/cooler system at library

PO#013034 to University Redi-Mix Concrete in the amount of \$2,431.83 for winter supply of street sand

Feilner moved to approve purchase orders 013018, 013019, and 013021 through 013034 as presented; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

## **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Musgrove moved to adjourn at 7:28pm; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.