



~~~~~  
**City Council Minutes**  
**February 17, 2009 ~ 5:00PM**

**Regular Meeting**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**  
~~~~~

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 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, and Dawn Grossmann

Council members excused: Leslie Feilner and Pablo Martinez

City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman, Acting Administrative Assistant Elvira Zidrashko, Facilities Maintenance Employee Jeremy Williams, and City Clerk Pat White

Nine members from the community were present at the beginning of the meeting.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Heinbockel moved to approve the February 17, 2009 agenda as presented; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2009 meeting as presented; Grossmann seconded. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Leith-Dowling called for comments on non-agenda items.

Musgrove said he appreciated the public in attendance.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Gaming Permit Renewal – Deltana Fair Association**

**Gaming Permit (Amended Operator License) Application - Powers Bros, Inc.**

Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to the gaming permit renewal for the Deltana Fair Association; Hallgren seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

White stated Jack Powers of Powers Brothers, Inc. operates the Bingo Center on Tudor Road in Anchorage and Greater Anchorage, Inc. (a.k.a. Fur Rendezvous) is authorized to sell raffle tickets under Powers' license, but they do not yet sell them in Delta.

Discussion followed regarding listing Southeast Fairbanks Census Area and not specifically identifying Delta Junction as a location for raffles and lotteries, Jack Powers' original gaming permit application versus this amended application, examples of statewide gaming activities, and local organizations benefiting from raffle fundraisers.

Hallgren moved to deny the request by Powers Brothers, Inc., based on the gaming permit application being incomplete; Heinbockel seconded.

Hallgren said Powers' application is an attempt to suck money out of the Delta community, which would be harmful to local charities. He withdrew the motion to deny Powers Brothers' application; Heinbockel seconded.

Hallgren moved to show objection to the State of Alaska for granting approval of an incomplete gaming license application; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion failed on a roll call vote with two (Grossmann, Leith-Dowling) voting against and three (Hallgren, Musgrove, Heinbockel) voting in favor.

Heinbockel stated he has a problem with the percentage of proceeds that goes to a charitable organization compared to the profit that the licensed pull-tab operator gets.

## REPORTS

**Rescue Squad** – Pat White reported in Michael Nuckols' absence and said there have been forty-eight tone outs since the beginning of the year, ten of them in the last two weeks.

**Fire Department** – Dawn Grossmann referred to a Fire Department report, dated February 17, which identified responses between January 1 and 31, 2009.

Discussion followed regarding billing for fire calls and ambulance runs, different fees for different types of fires (structures, vehicles, burn barrels), and modifying ordinance pertaining to response to fire calls. Chief Carin Bear reported she has not turned in any property owner's names after the January 2008 fire because of it being unethical to bill those with severe loss and not having clear instructions of if and how they are to be billed. Bear said the January 2008 fire costs were astronomical because it required response from three fire departments, three days with the Fire Marshall, and the City's loader. She warned against creating policy in which residents become reluctant to call for assistance.

Tvenge said a policy or plan is needed.

Musgrove asked to change "subscriber" wording in the ordinance.

Hallgren said policy and ordinance need to be refined, but donations to support the fire department should be accepted. It costs money to run the fire department so blanket bills should be issued to everyone except those that do contribute their support. Deltana Fire Department is in the same quandary. The fire engines will roll no matter if the property owner contributes or not and the ordinance needs to allow for an appeal process should the emergency only be to put out a fire in a burn barrel or respond because of a call from an "evil neighbor."

Heinbockel said a \$50 donation is much less than paying a \$2,500 fire call. The ordinance may need to be amended if bills are not being sent.

Bear said she would provide a recommendation or a scale on how to bill. She asked that Attorney Jim DeWitt research how Guardian (air medi-vac) can charge membership, which does not promise to respond or even fly, but they do promise that they will eat the bill if the patient and/or their insurance does not cover the fees. The term "membership" should be used instead of "subscriber."

**City Clerk** – Pat White reminded Council of the work session with Dr. Andreassen on February 18, 2009 and that the 3-year fuel contract, which expires March 31, 2009, will be put out for bid.

**City Administrator** – Mike Tvenge reported:

- He has been busy with requests from DOT regarding gasline infrastructure needs and transportation (street gravel and/or pavement) improvements in the Delta area and requests regarding the stimulus bill from U.S. Senator Mark Begich. A bike path was submitted to the Senator for the 2009 Stimulus package. The Alaska Highway Commemorative Arch, Senior citizen home, and a new Public Works/Rescue Squad building were submitted for the 2010 package.

- Both the Fire Department and the Rescue Squad were present during the fireworks display at the park February 14. Tvenge said he appreciated their presence.

- The Fire Department has received over \$8,000 in donations, 31% from businesses and 22% from residents.

- The BLM and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are hosting a scoping meeting at the Community Center on February 25 to discuss the proposed Beluga Spur Line (Anchorage to Fairbanks gasline route). The Beluga gas fields feed Anchorage with natural gas.

Leith-Dowling said she intends to attend.

Hallgren said he is unable to attend and would like the Mayor or a representative to support the project. He said there are two potential routes. Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority (ANGDA) would place a natural gasline from Beluga through Wasilla, Glennallen, Delta Junction, North Pole, and

Fairbanks. The line will be in place to transfer gas from the North Slope to South Central Alaska. The other potential line is ENSTAR, a private gas company, and it does not pass through Delta Junction. It would be a bullet line from north of Fairbanks, through Denali and the Parks Highway into south central Alaska. It depends upon a field in the foothills of the Brooks Range and will require another year of exploration. It is not known if that route best suits the State of Alaska overall, but the ANGDA proposal best suits Delta Junction and Ft. Greely because residents would have opportunity for gas sooner than getting it from the North Slope.

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

- Patrons made Northern Lights greeting cards during the Festival of Lights weekend.
- The February 15 issue of the Library Journal reported that the Delta Community Library, compared to libraries with the same budget range of \$100,000 to \$199,000, was rated third out of six nationwide and has earned the top 5-star rating for public service (computer use, patrons, cultural events, etc.). Other libraries from Alaska honored were Haines, Seward, Petersburg, Unalaska and Soldotna. [To view the featured article go to [www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6636953.html?desc=topstory](http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6636953.html?desc=topstory)]

**Park** – Pat White reported Leslie Feilner expressed gratitude toward the Chamber of Commerce for orchestrating the stunning display of fireworks during the Festival of Lights.

**Public Works** – Lou Heinbockel asked about removing the snowdrift from the Zamboni building because it presents a dangerous situation and he feared the metal roof collapsing.

Tvenge said snow cleats were installed last spring to hold the snow back but it creates a drift. He suggests a false roof, dead air space, to shed the snow from collecting. It took out the plumbing vent last year.

Heinbockel said signs have been ordered for weight limits because of concerns about break up on Emmaus and Rapids and he asked that it be advertised.

Hallgren suggested all paved roads have weight restrictions.

Discussion followed regarding parking of a rig on Harper Street, creating an unsafe situation, particularly when it is shut down and without lights. There is little room for the school bus to pass.

Leith-Dowling suggested contacting the vehicle owner to park elsewhere.

Heinbockel reported Tvenge would explore to enroll Jeremy Williams in a Class A CDL class in Fairbanks because there is little spare time to do it in-house.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Local Financial Disclosure Form**

Hallgren referred to his February 12, 2009 report and recommendations in creating a local financial disclosure form. He changed wording on the second page to read, “Real Estate Brokers would not have to list sales commissions *below* \$25,000.” The local form would not require disclosing as much information as the new State APOC forms, specific amounts, or income from various sources that are less than \$5,000 a year.

Leith-Dowling said she disagreed with not listing real estate that is not local.

Hallgren said it would only be of interest if it is sold and then it would be listed as income. The purpose of a financial disclosure is to show financial interests of a public official.

Musgrove said a local disclosure form would be beneficial to the public, even though no one asks to see them, but the more complicated the form, the easier it is to make a clerical error and be in violation. The State of Alaska and IRS use the information for other purposes.

Hallgren explained failure to file penalties for homebrewed financial disclosures and how they are addressed in most other communities that are exempt from local APOC law.

Musgrove said he is not in agreement because, according to the results of the October 2008 election, residents do not care if a form is completed or not. The public said no form is needed. Now the City wants to fine one of its members for not filling out a form that the public said is not needed.

Hallgren said even filling a vacancy by appointment could get confusing.

Heinbockel said he is in favor of a local form so that Council members do not have an appearance of any conflict of interest and the only way to do that is to list interests within the community.

Leith-Dowling suggested using an older version of the APOC form, a simple fewer page one versus the new 10-page form, requiring only income, investments, and property.

Hallgren agreed with a simple form, eliminating income reporting of less than \$5,000 or \$10,000, not reporting an elderly parents assets, and landlords not having to list tenants.

Musgrove said the form should be voluntary and it should be simple enough to post on the wall. The City Council should not have the authority to make a rule that is against what the public says. Filing a local form is reasonable because not filing did not have 100% of the public support.

Leith-Dowling said the topic would be put off until at least April.

### **Heart Fur Animals – Use of Community Center for Spay & Neuter Clinics**

Leith-Dowling explained that Heart Fur Animals has requested use of the Community Center for a spay and neuter clinic on April 9. They need clarification, a yes or no.

Char Lundy, representative of Heart Fur Animals, said they would like to know if the Community Center would be available to them whenever they need to schedule a clinic. She said she feels the clinic fills a need in the community and the number of unwanted pets has decreased since they have been running them. In the past the solution was to take animals to Fairbanks, where taxes pay for the service. Lundy said, "As a community we should be taking care of our own business and we should not have to beg for a place to host the clinics. The Community Center is a community building and it should be used for community service."

Musgrove said he attended the clinic that was held in December 2007. He suggested the first clinic be open for inspection by the public for complaints or suggestions in making improvements or changes.

Musgrove moved to allow use of the tile side of the Community Center for the purpose of holding spay and neuter clinics and that Heart Fur Animals meet all of the specs required in hosting clinics; Heinbockel seconded.

Discussion followed regarding Heart Fur Animals not expecting to use the Community Center free of charge, cleaning policies associated with renting the facility, and concerns with the non-profit vet being in competition with the local veterinarian.

Leith-Dowling said she attended a spay and neuter clinic also and she supports Heart Fur Animals' efforts.

Motion failed on a roll call vote with two voting (Hallgren, Grossmann) against and three (Musgrove, Heinbockel, Leith-Dowling) voting in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Road Paving – Phase III**

Tvenge reported the HC Contractor's plant is located in town until sometime in May and, because there are remaining grant funds available, paving projects are still considerations, one being the library parking lot. Tvenge referred to a map that identified potential streets to pave (Ryan Avenue, Aurora Avenue, Chena Street, Healy Street, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street) and the Public Works/Rescue Squad parking lot. He asked Council to give direction so that M2C1 can engineer the (Phase III) project.

Heinbockel said Phase III would complete the streets within the City's core area and, especially if there is not enough funding, he did not consider 2nd Street and the Public Works/Rescue Squad parking lot a priority. He said gravel improvements are needed on some roads that will not be paved.

Hallgren said some paving funds should be used to build back the shoulders on the bike path along Nistler instead of using general funds. It will require a lot of gravel. Hallgren questioned frost heaves and cracks in the new pavement and said he would like to include repairs on Emmaus Road and between IBS and the Buffalo Diner on Kimball. He said Brewis Subdivision and other areas should be on the City's radar as well as other street repairs that will be more evident once the snow is gone.

Tvenge said the City's request with DOT may allow for future appropriation, but he asked to move on the current grant funding, recognizing the need for maintenance. He said the Department of Commerce would not allow using funds to purchase a crack-sealant machine.

Heinbockel said serious consideration is needed in purchasing cover material.

Discussion followed regarding the expense of maintaining equipment, making 2nd Street an additive alternate, and keeping Aurora open.

Hallgren said he is surprised that Aurora is still open and also surprised with the amount of traffic that uses it, noticeably during the recent fireworks display. The snow that was dumped over the park fence has turned out to be effective protection from the road being snowed shut.

Heinbockel said he is not pleased with the costs associated with keeping Aurora open. Snow is blown from the park and there has not been that much wind this year.

### **Street Lighting**

Tvenge referenced the street-paving map that identified where light poles need to be replaced on Nistler Road and North Clearwater Avenue near the school campus area, elementary school, and the rink area. More-efficient LED lights will give 2.5 times more light at the same electricity cost that the City presently pays. He said twenty lights and a service line (not underground) would cost approximately \$80,000, each light costing between \$4,000 and \$5,000. Presently every other pole is lit. Tvenge said the project could be engineered and put out to bid or it could be a design build (submit design).

Hallgren asked to replace City Hall street lights with LED also.

Heinbockel asked to eliminate engineer's costs if possible.

Tvenge said he will verify ROW issues and prepare a design.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#13238 to ACS in the amount of \$1,536.41 for Feb '09 phone services

PO#13239 to Raymond Andreassen in the amount of \$2,500.00 for Jan '09 physician sponsor fee

PO#13240 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$632.25 for Feb '09 911 phones and power

PO#13241 to Buffalo Center Auto Parts in the amount of \$828.81 for repair and maintenance (strobe marker, reflector, antifreeze for FD Engine 5, antifreeze to be used at the landfill, and seatbelt, hose end, and hydraulic connector for the City truck)

PO#13242 to Delta Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$3,300.00 for sponsorship of Festival of Lights

PO#13243 to Crowley Petroleum in the amount of \$13,475.32 for Jan '09 heating oil

PO#13244 to Delta Sanitation in the amount of \$755.62 for Feb '09 garbage dumpsters service

PO#13245 to Fairbanks North Star Borough in the amount of \$1,179.46 for Engine 5 repair

PO#13246 to GVEA in the amount of \$3,440.29 for Jan '09 electricity

PO#13247 to Kenworth Northwest Inc. in the amount of \$707.21 for dump truck brake repair and replacement of brake shoes

PO#13248 to Siemens Building Technologies in the amount of \$1,568.93 for inspection of heating system and replacement of valves at new Fire Hall

PO#13249 to State of Alaska, DEC in the amount of \$1,848.00 for 2009 landfill permit fee

Musgrove moved to approve purchase orders 013238 through 013249 as presented; Grossmann seconded.

Discussion followed regarding fuel consumption and comparisons between City facilities.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Flower Cole reported the Junction Readers Book Club at the library generates a lively conversation.

Al Edgren reported the Bantams took first place at the President's Day Tournament in Anchorage. The Squirts took second.

Heinbockel said installation of the outdoor skating rink should be incorporated with paving projects.

Tvenge said it was put out to bid twice and he is looking at doing it in-house.

Grossmann said the Delta Skating Association (DSA) Board is willing to pitch in to support the project.

Musgrove asked about the status of the checklist for platting procedures.

Hallgren said the last plan was to set up a meeting with expertise in Fairbanks.

Tvenge said he was presented with a question about what is in place within the community for emergency food rations. He attended a Risk Management class in February and learned that the City of Anchorage has an elaborate plan that works with the school district. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) does not yet have a food ration plan.

Leith-Dowling explained the cycling food.

Hallgren explained circumstances in Nome when grocery store food shelves are depleted. He said they provide instructions on stocking necessary items, including how many gallons of water per person.

Grossmann said the public should be educated on what to have on hand in case of an emergency for at least a 2-week period.

Edgren said Homeland Security does have a pamphlet that LEPC could distribute. It provides instruction about storage and quantities needed per household. He said Ft. Greely is the closest source for survival because they could house and feed a mass number of people.

Hallgren said if Delta Junction were without electricity for any length of time during the winter, it would be easiest to evacuate rather than supply food and water.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 7:06pm; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, CMC

Approved: March 10, 2009