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**City Council Minutes**  
**March 24, 2009 ~ 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, March 24, 2009 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:08pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Dawn Grossmann, Lou Heinbockel, JW Musgrove (telephonically), Pablo Martinez (arrived at 5:12pm)

Council member excused: Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren, Leslie Feilner

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

Public Works Supervisor Butch Ellis, Maintenance/Public Works Jeremy Williams, City Clerk Pat White  
Eight members from the community and one out-of-town speaker were present.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Leith-Dowling said she had to leave early so all action (business) items would be moved prior to *Reports*. Heinbockel moved to approve the March 24, 2009 agenda; Grossmann seconded. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Heinbockel asked to change wording (“gotten” to “were received” and “lowest bid” to “lowest quote”) under discussion about *Litter Fencing* at the top of page 3 in the March 10, 2009 draft minutes.

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2009 meetings as amended; Grossmann seconded. Motion carried.

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

**Rob Warren** stated he represents the Delta Skating Association and wished to report good news. He said the Pee Wees won the State Championship in Fairbanks on March 20/22 and the Squirts won the State Championship in Palmer on March 20/23. He presented team photos with their trophies and said the referees recognized the Delta Pee Wee hockey team for their outstanding behavior and respectfulness. Warren said the Delta Mites (ages 6-8), Squirts (8-10), Pee Wees (10-12), and Bantams (12-14) won the Bush League Tournaments in the past two weeks and they are very proud of all of them.

**Joseph Mock**, Squirrt goalie, announced that he was presented with the Most Valuable Goalie (MVG) Award, which means he is the best goalie in the State.

**REQUEST TO SPEAK**

**Michael Smith**, Census Bureau Recruiting Assistant, introduced himself and said the Census Bureau would like to hire part-time workers in the Delta community. The pay is approximately \$17.50/hour and shifts are five to ten weeks at a time, now through July 2010. It is an opportunity for a second job. Hours are very flexible and can be days or nights and weekends. Smith said interested people should contact the Census Bureau.

Leith-Dowling asked if it would make good summer employment.

Smith said employment would depend on willingness to work. Applicants can apply at the age of seventeen, but they will not be hired until they turn eighteen and they should have their own vehicle.

Census takers have been hired since December throughout the State. He said mileage is reimbursed at 55¢ per mile and residents with foreign language skills will need to be hired.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - none

**NEW BUSINESS****Renew Certificate of Deposit at Mt. McKinley Bank**

Martinez was excused from voting.

Zimmerman referenced a Maturity Notice, in which the (Waldo house sale) CD is due to renew on March 31, 2009 and is typically renewed every 6 months.

Discussion followed regarding interest rates and a longer term.

Heinbockel moved to approve renewal of the Certificate of Deposit with Mt. McKinley Bank for 6 months; Grossmann seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with four (Heinbockel, Grossmann, Musgrove, Leith-Dowling) voting and one (Martinez) abstaining.

**Community Clean Up Day on May 16**

Leith-Dowling stated the Chamber of Commerce needs information relating to the annual Community Clean Up, which is scheduled for May 16, 2009.

White referred to last year's advertisement reducing landfill rates (50% or .0313¢ per pound with a \$5.00 minimum) on all household garbage, excluding fees on refrigerator disposal, commercial services, and unsecured loads, and accepting all yellow-bagged garbage free of charge during Community Clean Up Day between extended landfill hours, 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Martinez moved to adopt the same procedures as last year; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

**Pioneer Park Property Deed**

Tvenge asked Doug Fett why the Pioneers want deed to the property.

Doug Fett, representing the Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #35, stated the Pioneers' initial concept was to obtain the property to host the annual Buffalo BBQ, which started in 1989. Public Safety/Alaska State Troopers (AST) owned the property before it was turned over to DNR. (The Pioneers entered into a 25-year lease agreement with the City/DNR on October 16, 1996.) They invested about \$45,000 in constructing a pavilion and improvements to develop a community park and they have been under the assumption that obtaining ownership was in the process, even though it has been slow.

Tvenge said the State of Alaska still owns the land, but the amenities remain the property of the Pioneers. The lease that the City has with the State is through October 2021. Tvenge said he and Robert Layne, DNR Officer, suggest three options: 1) The City could end the lease with the State and the Pioneers could purchase the 4.49-acre parcel from the State of Alaska at fair market value, or 2) The City could acquire the property and enter into a second lease agreement with the Pioneers, Igloo #35 and Auxiliary #19. The Pioneers would never acquire ownership and the property would forever remain public, or 3) The City could continue with the existing lease agreement through October 15, 2021.

Martinez said the best option is for the City to acquire the property.

Heinbockel said putting the land out for bid is not something the Pioneers want.

Fett said the Pioneers understood the property was being processed to their benefit. Otherwise they would not have expended revenues at the location. They wish to procure ownership so they can continue park development and they wish to retain ownership for the longevity of the park. Otherwise they need to change direction.

Leith-Dowling asked if a long-term lease between the City and the Pioneers is agreeable.

Fett said it would not be, because the goal is to create a statewide park system. Property was gifted to the Pioneers from the City of Palmer and property is being procured in Fairbanks to establish a park there.

Martinez asked if the City acquires the property and donates it to the Pioneers, would it revert back to the City if the Pioneers ever wanted to sell it.

Fett said there would be no problems with the Pioneers transferring ownership back to the City.

Tvenge questioned if the City could solely transfer ownership of the property to the Pioneers. He said if the Council wishes to pursue obtaining ownership of the property he would start with a letter to the State.

Martinez moved to start proceedings to acquire the property from the State of Alaska; Heinbockel seconded.

Musgrove asked if the State has restrictions on selling or giving property away.

Tvenge would inquire. The only restriction he is aware of is that it must forever remain a public park.

Musgrove said the property would not remain public if it is to be sold.

Martinez said ownership would be an asset to the City, whether or not the Pioneers have use of it.

Heinbockel said the other leg of the arch could sit on the property (which is located across the Alaska Highway from the Visitor's Center).

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with five (Martinez, Heinbockel, Musgrove, Grossmann, Leith-Dowling) voting.

Fett said the Pioneers appreciate the support in creating the park within the City limits. It will be beneficial to the community and the Pioneers will be recognized throughout the State of Alaska.

### **Purchase of Test Street Lights**

Tvenge referenced documents describing LED Type III streetlights and explained upgrades planned for Nistler Road, where existing streetlights are 250-watt. He said Anchorage is installing similar lighting. Tvenge suggested testing the lights before investing a large sum of money. Many Alaskan communities are changing over to the new LED lights and they do not require any major modifications.

Heinbockel said if the lights prove unsatisfactory, they could be used elsewhere. He said he purchased expensive 40-watt-equivalent LED lights for house lamps and found them to be a total waste of money.

Tvenge said the LED lights provide a whiter light and better visibility and they function better during cold temperatures. Fairbanks and Anchorage have installed many with no reported failures throughout the winter. Funding would come from the street lighting grant. He said savings is over 60%, that the LED lights draw less energy to produce more light.

Martinez moved to purchase three LED lights; Grossmann seconded.

Discussion followed regarding purchasing different wattages.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with five (Martinez, Grossmann, Musgrove, Heinbockel, Leith-Dowling) voting.

Leith-Dowling was excused at 5:47pm.

### **Resolution 2009-02, A Resolution to Continue Participation in the AMLJIA Loss Control Incentive Program for the City of Delta Junction**

Martinez moved to approve Resolution 2009-02, participating in the Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association Loss Control Incentive Program; Grossmann seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **Award Fuel Contracts**

Tvenge stated the current fuel contracts expire March 31, 2009, the bid opening was held on March 17, and the new contracts are from April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2012. Crowley presented the lowest bid for heating fuel, which is subject to the daily rack price at Flint Hills Refinery because of crude oil market price fluctuations. Buffalo Center Service was the only bidder for unleaded gasoline and their bid was \$2.634 undelivered.

Zimmerman said ambulances, fire engines, and Public Works equipment use diesel. Nine hundred gallons of unleaded gasoline was used last year in the chainsaw, lawn mower, and Zamboni.

Martinez moved to award the 3-year fuel contract to Crowley Petroleum Distribution, Inc. for Heating / Diesel #1 (winter) in the amount of \$1.84/gallon and Heating / Diesel #2 (summer) in the amount of \$1.83/gallon; Grossmann seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with four (Martinez, Grossmann, Musgrove, Heinbockel) voting.

Discussion followed regarding not awarding a contract to purchase gasoline fuel at the pump.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#013322 to ACS in the amount of \$1,535.92 for March '09 phone service

PO#013323 to ATT in the amount of \$632.25 for March '09 911 phones and power

PO#013324 to FNSB in the amount of \$1,650.61 for Medic II repairs (front-end alignment and replacement of air horn compressor, brake system relay lights, and glow plug relay)

PO#013325 to Frontier Business Systems in the amount of \$548.40 for library copier service agreement, March 2009 through Feb 2010

PO#013326 to GVEA in the amount of \$2,020.84 for Feb '09 electricity

PO#013327 to Interior Regions EMS Council in the amount of \$1,207.00 for 8 sets of EMT training books and related course materials

PO#013328 to Rainer Equipment Transport in the amount of \$1,250.00 to transport D6 dozer to Fairbanks for repair of rear ripper pocket and left side track roller stand

PO#013329 - void

PO#013330 to Sawtooth Emergency Vehicles in the amount of \$44,209.00 for down payment on 2009 Ford ambulance

PO#013331 to Crowley in the amount of \$4,264.21 for March '09 heating fuel

PO#013332 to State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in the amount of \$830.00 for landfill 2009 wastewater system fee

Martinez moved to approve purchase orders 013322 through 013332 as presented; Grossmann seconded.

Heinbockel noted that purchase order #013329 is voided.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with four (Musgrove, Grossmann, Martinez, Heinbockel) voting.

## REPORTS

**Airport** – Lou Heinbockel questioned how property owners access the airport lots.

Musgrove said vehicles access the airport lots by way of Rapids Street and the trail off the east end of the runway. They can cross the taxiway without driving onto the runway by staying on the opposite side of the reflectors. Forestry owns the property near the clinic and it has an unimproved road that is not available to the general public. Wind carries snow and it accumulates in one corner on the airport-access road (not the same as near Dr. Andreassen's hangar, but the one with Mat's Auto Body shop), but it has acquired a lot of immobile automobiles and it is not big enough for two lanes of traffic.

Discussion followed regarding snow removal and creating better access before developing more lots.

Al Edgren, Delta Forester, said a sign is posted identifying State property that is not a public access because of potential hazards with aircraft. A fence protects people from accessing the area and it protects the property from becoming a legal ROW.

Musgrove said the heliport is located on part of City property, but Forestry offers no funds to help maintain the airstrip when they are one of the primary users in the summertime. The fence claims ownership of the property.

Heinbockel said better access to the airport lots should be a road improvement project sometime in the future so that crossing the runway or taxiway is no longer an issue.

**City Clerk** – Pat White expressed appreciation for the Library Board that hosted the 50th Anniversary Statehood quilt exhibit and paid the postage (\$280.83) to return the 9 panels.

Heinbockel asked about ambulance and fire response billing.

White said approximately \$113,000 has been generated since July 2008, of the ambulance runs that have been billed through January 2009, and \$73,000 has been collected.

Tvenge said there is question about a graduated fee, depending on the type of fire (burn barrel, structure, or vehicle) so fire responses have not been billed.

Heinbockel said he wished the community had enough resources to not have to charge for volunteer services. Insurance will pay and thus, services should be charged. If they are not, then the estate of a property owner who died in a house fire should not have been charged.

Martinez asked Tvenge to work with Fire Chief Carin Bear.

Zimmerman asked if the billing is for fire responses that are only within city limits or if it is to include backup aide for Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department calls.

Heinbockel said to address all issues, incorporate a scale for services, and create a billing plan.

**City Administrator** – Mike Tvenge reported:

- Harry Noah, Governor Palin's new energy czar, will complete an analysis to choose the best route for the instate gasline by June 1. Tvenge said one of the routes is through Delta Junction.
- The City has received the land use permit from DNR, which authorizes the City to access the trespass shooting range between March 1, 2009 and September 30, 2009 for the purpose of cleanup. One

condition is to work with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding disposal of the clean up. The permit is to clean up the area, not close it.

Heinbockel said the trash (refrigerators, computers, televisions, piano, washers, and dryers) is a concern, but he thought the Council wants the shooting range closed.

Tvenge said the plan is to clean up the area and barricade it with rocks.

Ellis said the rocks will be a deterrent, but will not stop people from walking into the area.

- M2C1 Engineering has completed a draft layout plan for the 2009 Paving Project that will include Aurora Avenue, Butte Street, Chena Street, Ryan Avenue, Healy Street, and 2nd Street. The bid packet will include pricing for the library parking lot and the outdoor multi-use court. The project will have alternates and only what can be afforded will be awarded. Anticipated bid opening is prior to the May 5 City Council meeting.

Martinez asked about paving at the fairgrounds.

Tvenge said he could include fairground paving as an alternate because the paving project has already been engineered. Also additional funding for paving has been requested from the Legislature.

- The City will impose weight restriction limits on paved streets during spring breakup. They will be advertised and signs will be installed on primary streets. The weight restrictions will be mirrored after State of Alaska highway restrictions.

Musgrove asked how to determine if heavier trucks are being driven and if there is anything that can be done about it.

Tvenge said there is no system in place to measure vehicle loads. Streets are not built to highway specs. Notices of weight restrictions will simply advertise an awareness requesting people not tear up the roads.

- The City has a request with the State Legislature to fund Capital projects and a \$4 million dollar request with DOT for street improvements. There is no guarantee of receiving funding, but it should be known by early April if Governor Palin accepts the federal Stimulus money.

Martinez said senior citizen housing would be a good Stimulus project.

**Lands** – Mike Tvenge said he would like to pursue opening airport lots to sell.

Heinbockel said nothing was made because the sale of the lots covered the cost of providing electricity. Any money made from whatever is sold this time must be used to develop an access road to the lots.

Tvenge said he would work with Hallgren on the project.

**Park** – Mike Tvenge reported Jeremy Williams was unable to remove the graffiti on the park pavilion and will wait for warmer weather to repaint the building.

**Personnel** – Mike Tvenge reported Jeremy Williams' new title is Maintenance/Public Works. He received his HAZWOPER endorsement and is scheduled to attend a CDL class in Fairbanks on April 2.

**Recreation** – Mike Tvenge reported M2C1 may want to install a septic tank heater at the rink facility, but the reason for the freeze up (on February 18) is unknown. It is not because of lack of hot water.

**Public Health & Safety** – Pablo Martinez reported the Delta Rescue Squad is lining up courses for the Search & Rescue team.

**Public Works** – Lou Heinbockel reported cover material is being purchased from Delta Sand & Gravel, across the Richardson Highway. It is cheaper than developing it.

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

Al Edgren shared a photo of the Pee Wees with Alex Timoshin, a 3rd year skater, holding the championship trophy. He said the Timoshin family relocated to Fairbanks after their home burned in February. They commuted to Delta for practices and it was in the championship game at the Fairbanks Big Dipper that Timoshin scored his very first goal.

Heinbockel called for additional Council comments with none being offered.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Martinez moved to adjourn at 6:38pm; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.