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**City Council Minutes**  
**April 7, 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, April 7, 2009 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren, Lou Heinbockel  
JW Musgrove, Pablo Martinez, Dawn Grossmann

Council members excused: Leslie Feilner

City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Public Works Supervisor Butch Ellis  
Maintenance/Public Works Jeremy Williams, City Clerk Pat White

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

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Grossmann moved to approve the April 7, 2009 agenda as presented; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.  
Leith-Dowling announced that she would have to leave at 6:00pm and Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren would chair the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2009 meeting as presented; Hallgren seconded. Motion carried.

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

**Grace Gay** introduced herself as the Vice President of the Highway's End Farmers' Market, a non-profit organization in the process of applying for 501(c)3 status. She said this is her fifth season as a vendor at the Farmers' Market, which is located at the Triangle near the Visitor's Center. The season opens May 16. Gay distributed brochures and a flyer that explained that the market is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 10:00am and 3:00pm. Arts and Craft Festivals are scheduled the second Saturday of each month, Children's Day will be on July 22, Senior Day on August 5, and a variety of free workshops and seminars are scheduled every Wednesday. Some topics will cover composting with worms, herb window boxes, hanging baskets, and double digging raised beds. She said their goal is to make the Farmers' Market a place for the public to go every Wednesday. Their main project this year is to repair the gazebo roof and they are raising funds to cover its cost. A storage building is of greater need because they can no longer share the limited space in the Chamber of Commerce's building. A 10 x 12' shed is estimated to cost between \$2,800 and \$3,600. Another option is to purchase two of four existing cabins, behind the Buffalo Drive-In, for \$2,500 each, plus the cost to install a gravel pad. Each cabin could serve as vendor space. All booths have been rented for the season and the Farmers' Market has \$2,500 in a checking account. They have applied for a cooperative marketing grant of \$1,830, but it requires a 50% match and can be used for advertisement and promotion, but not buildings. The match would take \$915 of the \$2,500. The Delta Chapter of the Alaska Farm Bureau donated \$1,500 and Gay planned to approach Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) and Friends of Delta Ag for support. She said the Farmers' Market serves the entire community and they would appreciate any type of contribution. The six existing booths that are located at the Triangle cost \$10,000 in materials and were constructed by the High School Construction Trades Class. The Farmers' Market is restricted to portable structures because DNR owns the property. Hallgren asked Gay to contact the Chamber of Commerce for support. He said the City has applied for a deed to the Triangle property and is in the process of getting it surveyed. The goal is to turn the area into a tourist attraction.

Tvenge said the City leases the property at a minimal cost and the deed will be a no-cost transfer.

Leith-Dowling asked to postpone discussion to the April 21, 2009 meeting.

Tvenge said he would like to wait on the Farmers' Market non-profit status before taking action.

**PJ Ford-Slack**, DGSD Superintendent, introduced herself and Kent Scifres, DGSD Maintenance Supervisor, who oversees the construction project. She said her purpose is to educate every public venue (Deltana Community Corporation, Chamber of Commerce, School Board, and parent groups) about why the school district needs \$193,878 to match the \$9.6 million in grant funds for the school weatherization project and why the school district will receive another million to refurbish the interior and do renovations next year, which will also require a 2% match. Ford-Slack said the Statute (AS 14.11.008) that governs the Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA) explains how boroughs and municipalities must participate when they receive State funding for a capital improvement project. Each year the district is required to submit a 6-year plan because one year may be different from the next depending on how existing buildings deteriorate and priorities change. She said DGSD competes with almost three hundred other applicants every year. The required participating share for the Delta REAA will always be 2% unless a tax base is established, changing the status of the Deltana area that allows the school to apply for loans and also qualify to bond. The 2% contribution is the only way the district presently has to maintain buildings. The Ft. Greely School, which the State will no longer provide maintenance funding because of its age and location, and the ag building on the DGSD campus are both issues to address after the High School renovations are complete. Ford-Slack welcomed input and invited City Council members to a School Board work session at 7:00pm on May 7. She said the school district plans to run its first radio-thon on April 24/25. It is opportunity for youth involvement. It will begin at 6:00pm on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Students will be sent home sometime between midnight and 6:00am and the (KDHS 95.5) Radio-thon will resume sometime in the morning and end at 5:00pm on Saturday, April 25, just before Prom. Entertainers and comedians who care to share their talent can contact Michele Trainor or Rachelle Stebbins. The school buildings are always in use for community events, but they will have to be limited during construction. Ford-Slack said request for funding and community involvement is not on a first-time, only-time basis. She said USKH has completed a 10-year visualization plan of the school campus, which includes the ice rink, the elementary school, and walking trails. Ford-Slack said the Delta Partners for Progress would host a seminar about the Bio-Mass (boiler system) project at 7:00pm on May 16 at the Career Advancement Center. DGSD received \$2 million for the project and Delta Forestry secured another \$800,000. Alaska Gateway and Kenny Lake school districts are also doing the same project. Musgrove questioned maintaining buildings that may not have been designed properly. He said there would be zero community involvement or interest in the school if the City contributed money (from other grants) for the match. He said he agreed in supporting the school, but in accordance with everyone else, including those on correspondence. He said schools are the responsibility of the State of Alaska. Ford-Slack said the match requires local contribution, not community involvement.

Hallgren said, "We are all beggars in this town," because most everything costs more than what it brings in. State Statutes regulate that a second-class city, which Delta Junction is, cannot own a school. He favors contributing to the weatherization project because the school district was able to leverage \$10 million for it, requiring only \$200,000 in local dollars. Hallgren said the City government tries to help the whole area even though three-quarters of the population live outside the City limits. He finds it distressing that three-quarters are not supporting the school district.

Discussion followed regarding showing support during the Radio-thon, the ability to charge student tuition if Delta Junction were to be a first-class city, appreciation for the streetlight near the school, and education being the ultimate responsibility of the State.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Resignation letter from City Council member Leslie Feilner**

Leith-Dowling read Leslie Feilner's resignation letter, dated April 1, 2009.

Heinbockel moved to accept Feilner's letter of resignation with regret and that it be incorporated in its entirety into the minutes; Hallgren seconded.

Hallgren amended the motion to accept Feilner's resignation as of April 3 so that appointment can be made at the May 5, 2009 City Council meeting. Otherwise, because filling the vacancy requires thirty days, the seat would not be filled until May 19, at the earliest. Heinbockel agreed.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

April 1, 2009

Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, City Council Members, Delta Junction Citizens, City Hall Staff

Please accept my resignation from City Council as we are relocating to New Mexico. I, regretfully, will be unable to complete the last two years of my second term. I am grateful to have served as Councilwoman for the past 4 years.

As I have stated several times, it has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve on City Council. My time on Council has been an extremely rewarding experience. Together we have worked through many critical issues and projects for the benefit of our community.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my friends and neighbors for your loyal and generous support. Your encouragement has served as my inspiration during my time in office. I, in turn, would encourage each of you to get involved in our City government. Dedicated volunteers are the backbone of our nation's communities. After all, 'We The People' are the government.

It is unfortunate that I will miss the opportunity of being involved in the future growth of this community, with such projects as the gas pipeline and railroad on the horizon. I will be monitoring this progress with great interest from my home in the Southwest.

May GOD truly bless this devoted Council, City Staff, and this Community!

Sincerely,  
Leslie A. Feilner

### **Gaming Permit Application – VFW Post #9889 Auxiliary, Tok**

Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to the gaming permit application from VFW Post #9889 Auxiliary in Tok; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **Delta Industrial - Request to Pave 4th Street**

Leith-Dowling referenced an April 2, 2009 letter from Delta Industrial and said paving 4th Street would be added to the list of paving requests.

Heinbockel asked that any improvements on 4th Street be the absolute lowest of priorities because it was literally destroyed by Delta Industrial during construction of their business complex and they have almost exclusive use of that road. He said the City spent \$8,000 repairing the road (in 2004) to allow for proper drainage and received nothing back after sending two letters requesting Delta Industrial pay half of the expenses. He said they created the problem, offered no help, did not respond to the letters, and their request deserves no response.

Martinez questioned the feasibility of paving 4th Street because of the cost to maintain it.

Heinbockel said three residences are accessed by 4th Street, including one that is not occupied. He said the Council should be willing to grant permission if Delta Industrial asks to pave it.

### **Delta Nordic Ski / Trail Association – Request Support**

Tvenge referenced an April 2, 2009 letter from Delta Nordic Ski and said the ski club would like the City to provide insurance coverage for an area that they want to develop. The property is owned by the University of Alaska and is north of the fairgrounds, near the pipeline, towards Jack Warren Road. The University is willing to grant a use permit, but not without proof of insurance. Tvenge asked for direction on whether to pursue costs of getting insurance through AMLJIA.

Discussion followed regarding not owning the property and insuring something in which there is no control, whether the area would be kept open to snowmachines and four-wheelers, spring flooding and access during summer months, what the user group would contribute to the cost of the coverage, and not pursuing insurance at this time.

Heinbockel said the City would be required to act as the legal entity, but would have no more control than the University.

Musgrove said the University is not denying anyone access to the area.

Leith-Dowling was excused at 5:54pm.

## **REQUEST TO SPEAK**

Lea Ann McKenzie was not present to speak on behalf of Heart Fur Animals.

## **REPORTS**

**Rescue Squad** – Michael Nuckols reported:

- There have been eighty-five rescues since the beginning of the year.
- ETT and Search & Rescue classes are being scheduled.
- The squad is losing four higher-level EMTs, which may affect certification for Advanced Life Support (ALS) service. Nuckols said there are not enough EMTs interested in higher training, so the two that are will travel to Fairbanks. He explained attempts to recruit new members.
- The Rescue Squad will not be at Arctic Man because of the number of available EMTs. A private company is covering the event and the 10,000 participants. Nuckols said the squad does plan on covering the Relay for Life on May 8 and 9.

Hallgren said the apartment (with two bedrooms) is available at the new Fire Station for squad members.

Nuckols said it is becoming increasingly difficult to staff the squad around the clock. Many runs require three EMTs and many patients are flown out because there are not enough volunteers available for a ground transport to Fairbanks. It may be a faster trip, but the flight is a much higher cost to the patient. Nuckols said half of the squad consists of residents who live outside City limits.

Martinez said emergencies always happen at the most inopportune time. He asked to discuss the subject during the budget cycle.

Nuckols asked that the Council consider a full-time coordinator or part-time individual.

Musgrove said dedication from squad members is very much appreciated.

**Fire Department** – Dawn Grossmann reported:

- A fee schedule for billing fire responses will be presented at the next meeting.
- The City Fire Department (DJVFD) did not have fire responses in its jurisdiction in March, but did respond to two of four tone-outs for Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD).
- A CPR and First Aid class was held at the fire station.
- The registration paperwork from the State Fire Marshal has been received, which means all the 2008 reports have been accepted.

**Airport** – JW Musgrove reported:

- He moved the snowdrift on the east taxiway with his backhoe and the rest of the airport is in good condition.
- Billing for users of the airport is complete and the Pilots' Association will be able to pay a portion of the insurance policy when it comes due in June.

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported forty-seven passport applications were processed in March. The increase is because of large families with travel plans to cross the Canadian border after the June 2009 mandate requiring each person to carry a passport book or card.

**City Administrator** – Mike Tvenge reported a new LED streetlight was installed at the corner of North Clearwater and Nistler Road. The 40 LED demo is equivalent to 150 watts. He said he likes the color and array, which broadcasts across the street, but it does not appear to be bright enough.

Musgrove said the bright white light illuminates a lot of the ditch area underneath the pole.

Tvenge said three 250-watt lights (80 LED) have been ordered because he feels brighter will be better.

Morley Electric donated their labor to install the demo light, charging only for the cost to rent the man lift equipment from Airport Rentals.

Discussion followed regarding using dimmer lights at City Hall and using extras to replace those near the airport tie-downs.

**Library** – Joyce McCombs, Librarian, reported:

- The library checked out 3,658 items in March, which was one of the busiest months ever recorded. Library staff handled each item twice. The State Quilt Exhibit brought many new people to the library.
- The fifty books that were received from the Toyota Corporation Grant are now cataloged and will go on display after the Library Open House.
- Representative Woodie Salmon (District 6) sponsored a Legislative Citation for the Library to honor the 5-Star Library Award that was received from Library Journal. Representative John Harris (District 12) also signed it. The certificates are being framed and will hang at the Library, City Hall, Ft. Greely, DGSD office, and the Visitor's Center. McCombs said the local library has many supporters.
- The Annual Library Open House and Baskets of Books Silent Auction is scheduled April 25, 2009, 10:00 to 4:00pm. Unveiling of the Legislative Citation will be at noon and cake will be served.
- Library Association membership is \$40/year for a family or \$20 for a single person and allows participation in library events and input on spending funds from fundraisers. The annual membership drive is during Open House and the Library Association is always looking for more members.

**Park** – Pete Hallgren reported school district employees are clearing snow from the ball fields.

**Personnel** – Mike Tvenge reported Jeremy Williams received his CDL (Class B) certification.

Hallgren said City Hall staff appreciated Library Aide Elvira Zidrashko covering Administrative Assistant Letha Burcham's position while she was gone.

**Public Health & Safety** – Pablo Martinez reported Rescue Squad personnel needs to be discussed.

Heinbockel said the Fire Department should be included in discussion.

Hallgren said the City is unable to pay for staffing. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) services are better than in other comparable communities, yet there is no guarantee that it can survive.

Discussion followed regarding the Fire Department joining forces with the Rescue Squad, Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings that affect fire insurance coverage, and not having ALS services could affect the proposed senior housing project.

**Public Works** – Lou Heinbockel reported roads are graded. He expects a lot of water by May 15 from the snow melting in the hills. The Army did do some preventative work on Jarvis Creek.

Martinez said he received a complaint that Cedar Street has not been plowed in a while.

Tvenge said Cedar Street was developed by the homeowners and is not listed as a City-maintained street.

Ellis said he would look at it when he is on Attu Street.

Tvenge said bid packets for the paving project (6 streets, fairgrounds, rink pad) are ready for pick up and bid opening is scheduled for May 1, 2009. Streets that need brushing have also been identified. The job cannot be done in-house and will need to be completed before paving.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Landfill (15-yard Roll-off) Containers for General Public and Recycling**

Tvenge said the public delivers garbage to the bins located at the landfill. Additional bins are needed for when the landfill is closed because of cold weather or when temperatures are too cold to operate equipment. One bin may be dedicated to recycling. Lids protect the garbage from wind. Cost, including shipping, is approximately \$21,000 and money from the second PILT (\$225,000) account would cover it. The landfill sinking fund (\$300,000) will not be used.

Hallgren said storing garbage is better than compacting it in the wind or during extreme cold temperatures.

Ellis said Delta Sanitation could not operate their packer trucks during a cold snap because of the hydraulics, but restaurants still filled all three public containers in one day.

Musgrove moved to purchase three (15-yard roll-off) containers from Wastequip as quoted (\$15,315.00), including shipping from Lynden Transport (\$5757.21); Martinez seconded.

Heinbockel said he is not sold on buying containers because the landfill is such a drain. The operation is unable to break even and revenue is not improving. Sewage is no longer being delivered.

Hallgren said it is less expensive to buy cover material than it would be to purchase a new D8 dozer.

Discussion followed regarding dropping the fee on boulders to get rid of them and using them for a possible future dike project.

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

### **(Unleaded Gasoline) Fuel Bid Award**

Tvenge said the heating fuel contract was awarded to Crowley Petroleum at the March 24 meeting. There is a discount of 13¢ per gallon at the pump if the unleaded gasoline contract is awarded.

Martinez moved to award the unleaded gasoline contract to Buffalo Center Service (a.k.a. Delta Professional Development, Inc.) in the amount of \$2.634/gallon at the station, with the price increasing or decreasing should the price increase or decrease for the contractor; Musgrove seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2009-02, An Ordinance Authorizing Imposition of Load Restrictions on City Streets**

Heinbockel moved to introduce and hold the first reading of Ordinance 2009-02, An Ordinance Authorizing Imposition of Load Restrictions on City Streets; Hallgren seconded.

Tvenge said the plan is to sign streets off the Richardson Highway, Alaska Highway, Jack Warren Road, and Nistler Road, which act as entrances to City streets. The core City streets will not have signs and public notices will be posted to advertise the ordinance. He said the purpose is to protect City streets and an ordinance is necessary to restrict travel.

Ellis said the "Legal Limit 50% of Maximum Axle Load" signs would be put on existing posts.

Discussion followed regarding changing wording from "...the Mayor or designee" to "...the Mayor or the Mayor's designee," differences and circumstances between size and types of vehicles (bulk milk tankers, water trucks, and emergency service vehicles), and protecting Emmaus Road.

Heinbockel amended the motion to include wording, "... and to hold the public hearing and second reading on April 21, 2009."

Ellis said the policy should be adopted to preserve what was built.

Heinbockel said many communities restrict heavy traffic and only allow local delivery vehicles.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#013369 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$743.64 for Mar '09 vehicle fuel

PO#013370 to Delta Sanitation in the amount of \$755.62 for Mar '09 garbage dumpsters

PO#013371 to GVEA in the amount of \$856.23 for Feb '09 electricity at Liewer-Olmstead Arena

PO#013372 to John Johnston in the amount of \$894.10 for library software network services

PO#013373 to Rainer Equipment Transport in the amount of \$1,250.00 to haul D6 dozer to Fairbanks

PO#013374 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$9,831.81 for April '09 group health insurance

Martinez moved to approve purchase orders 013369 through 013374 as presented; Grossmann seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

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

Tvenge said \$5,000 could be saved annually by eliminating a couple dumpsters and relocating another.

Fire Hall and Rescue Squad garbage can be picked up on employee trips to the landfill and the dumpster near City Hall will serve the library, Community Center, and City Hall.

Hallgren suggested putting a lock on the dumpster.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 7:03pm; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.