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**City Council Minutes**  
**April 21, 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 21, 2009 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren, Lou Heinbockel JW Musgrove (telephonically), Pablo Martinez. Dawn Grossmann
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
Ten members from the community were present at the beginning of the meeting.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Heinbockel moved to approve the April 21, 2009 agenda; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Martinez moved to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2009 meeting; 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.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter of request from Flower Cole, dated April 16, to lower speed limit on Richardson Highway
Heinbockel said he is in support of reducing the speed limit because there is too much slow moving traffic that is being approached by 65mph+ traffic. He suggested Cole gather signatures on a petition.
Heinbockel moved to submit an official request to the State of Alaska that the speed limit be reduced to 55mph north to the Tanana Bridge and east to the City's boundary (Trophy Lodge); Hallgren seconded. Discussion followed regarding history of changes in speed limits in Delta and the speed limit in Salcha.
Hallgren said the State refused to reduce the speed limit when asked in the past.
Chuck Cramer said he considers the bus barn, where the busses enter the Alaska Highway, an extended part of the school zone. It creates a hazardous situation when the busses become the slow moving traffic.
Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Chuck Cramer, representing the Chamber of Commerce, asked Council to consider funding the 2010 Festival of Lights Fireworks display when preparing the FY10 budget. Total expenses in 2009 were \$8,900 and were funded by Deltana Community Corporation (\$1,000), City of Delta Junction (\$3,300), and the Chamber (\$4,600). Cramer said the event brings positive feedback and he would like it to continue.
Dani Markham, Chamber Events Coordinator, said local business owners see an increase because residents come from Tok, Salcha, and Fairbanks to watch the fireworks and attend the Festival activities.
Musgrove questioned how much money is needed, what other groups contribute to the event, and how other places in the State fund their fireworks displays. He suggested the City become an honorary member of the Chamber of Commerce should the Council decide to contribute.
Brenda Peterson, Chamber Executive Director, said sponsor contributions fund all Chamber events (Festival of Lights, Friendly Frontier Days, 4th of July Celebration, Halloween Bash) except the

fireworks. 2010 would mark the 16th annual Festival of Lights fireworks. She said the Chamber purchased tables, BBQ grills, and other items to help sustain events, but they depend on sponsorships.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Michael Nuckols reported there were eleven runs this month, an informational meeting is scheduled tonight for perspective new members, the squad plans to recruit during the Relay for Life (May 8 and 9) while they man the event, EMT Levi McLaren will attend pediatric training, and he is working with Tvenge on revising the ambulance fee structure.

Fire Department – Dawn Grossmann referred to a draft list of charges by Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department (DJVFD) and explained there would not be a charge for good intent calls, \$1,000 would be charged for anything other than a structure fire that requires up to an hour, and \$2,500 would be charged for structure fires.

Tvenge said donations will still be solicited, but fees will not be waived.

Discussion followed regarding fee comparison with Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD) and membership versus subscription.

Heinbockel questioned reducing or discounting fees for those who do support the fire department.

Grossmann said a member benefit could be a reduced rate or a waived service fee.

Hallgren said many homeowners cannot afford fire insurance, but can make a donation to the fire department. He asked to not make the service unaffordable, so that residents who require assistance are comfortable in calling and that they do not risk losing their home by fighting a chimney fire themselves.

Leith-Dowling said \$1,000 is too high for a burn barrel.

Grossmann said it would be considered a good intent call and there would be no charge. She suggested allowing for hardships.

Heinbockel said the fee schedule must be fair to the community and he would like membership to cover at least 50% of the call out charge.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported:

- A complaint was received about the cleanliness of the Community Center kitchen. Tvenge expressed appreciation for Elder Kennedy and Elder Young of the Church of the Latter Day Saints who volunteered to clean it on April 14.
- TV conversion to digital is scheduled June 9, but local residents that currently receive television reception will not be affected because the towers at Donnelly rebroadcast the satellite signal via analog.
- Local residents are unable to get Channel 17 (ARCS) and he will investigate the problem.
- Three groups were represented in the pre-bid conference today for the paving project. Bid opening will be May 1.
- A draft of the FY10 budget will be available on May 1 and a work session will be at 5:00pm on May 13.

Finance – Dave Zimmerman referenced a nine-month expenditures report against the FY09 budget and said to contact him with any questions.

Lands – Pete Hallgren reported he received a request about airport lots and building the access road beyond the clinic road (Service Street). He asked Tvenge to research the project.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the annual Library Open House is on April 25.

Park – Mike Tvenge reported the graffiti at the park pavilion was covered, but the doors will need to be replaced. For the time being, the locks were changed. He said the High School baseball season starts on April 28 with the first home game against Eielson.

Heinbockel asked that *Park and Recreation* reporting be combined when a new Council member fills Feilner's seat.

Personnel – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the janitor will be moving and her last day of work is May 15. That part-time position will be advertised.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported the cost of sealing cracks in the blacktop should be investigated and he expects run off from the Granite Mountains in about 3 weeks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS**Highway's End / Farmers' Market – Request for Funding**

Grace Gay, representing the Farmers' Market, reported Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) gave them \$2,500 and Friends of Delta Ag contributed \$1,500 since she requested funding at the April 7 meeting. Gay said she is still waiting on a response from the Delta Clearwater Moose Lodge 911, who will respond after May 6. The Chamber of Commerce is unable to contribute at this time, but they do provide liability insurance and they advertise for them. The Chamber contributed \$700 in October 2003, \$1,000 in March 2004, and \$1,500 in March 2005. Presently the Farmers' Market needs another \$3,100, not including money for gravel foundations for the two cabins and treating (finishing) the exterior walls. The (\$2,500) Farm Bureau money is already allocated.

Discussion followed regarding locating funding from the current year's budget, the Farmers' Market owning the portable buildings, and status of the land (presently owned by DNR and leased by the City).

Musgrove questioned how the Farmers' Market differs from other private business and, "What if the grocery store needs money to run their business?"

Gay said there is no charge to the public, vendors pay to rent the booths, and no one makes a salary.

Hallgren said the Farmers' Market is good for local residents and also for the tourists who stop in town.

Gay quoted their motto, "buy locally and buy fresh" and said the market provides a community service.

Musgrove said he preferred to stick to the budget unless it is an emergency and that the Farmers' Market should not be a City function because it is a private moneymaking venture.

Martinez said he agrees with Musgrove, but it promotes tourism in Delta Junction.

Grossmann said she would support it because kid's activities are community-oriented, but she is concerned with the budget.

Heinbockel asked to match what DCC contributed (\$2,500) if the City decides to support the request.

Musgrove said the City Council cannot give to everyone who asks for money.

Leith-Dowling asked to find the funds.

Hallgren said the unexpected (\$321,000) PILT would project the City's functions through 2011, maybe 2012. Hopefully Governor Palin will forgive the \$50,000 prison debt.

Hallgren moved to give a one-time donation of \$2,000, contingent upon the Farmers' Market receiving the remaining \$1,100 from another organization; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Public Hearing, Seconding Reading, and Adoption of Ordinance 2009-02, An Ordinance Authorizing the Imposition of Weight and Load Restrictions on City Streets

Heinbockel moved to open the public hearing and second reading of Ordinance 2009-02; Martinez seconded.

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

Heinbockel moved to close the public hearing portion of Ordinance 2009-02.

Heinbockel moved to adopt Ordinance 2009-02, An Ordinance Authorizing the Imposition of Weight and Load Restrictions on City Streets; Hallgren seconded.

Hallgren said weight restrictions should be imposed right away because the shoulders on the paved roads are very soft and "squishy." The public should also be encouraged to not drive on the edges.

Heinbockel said four-wheelers have broken off blacktop on Nistler just within 2 days of snow thawing.

Musgrove said the City does not have any enforcement ability. If someone is willfully negligent the Alaska State Troopers (AST) might need to be involved to document incidents.

Tvenge said the State has already imposed restrictions and vehicles must cross their zone before accessing City streets.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Resolution 2009-03, A Resolution In Support of the Area Wide Bike Trail Proposal

Tvenge reported the sixteen-mile area wide bike trail was submitted as a Stimulus project in December 2008. DOT requested a resolution supporting it. DCC submitted a resolution also.

Martinez moved to adopt Resolution 2009-03 to support the area wide bike trail proposal; Grossmann seconded.

Hallgren said he is bothered by the (\$9.5 million) price tag because there are more important projects, but he would vote for it as long as the City does not take on maintenance of it.

Tvenge said Dave Sanches of DOT asked to add wording regarding maintaining it if the State builds it. The loop will be both inside and outside of City limits.

Martinez said he would have preferred more time to submit a funding request for senior housing.

Discussion followed regarding stimulus funds and preparing an operational plan in a short time frame.

Musgrove asked who is responsible for liability once the bike trail is built.

Tvenge said "maintenance" is being volleyed back and forth.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Purchase Orders

PO#013411 to ACS in the amount of \$1,535.80 for April '09 telephone services

PO#013412 to Raymond Andreassen in the amount of \$2,500.00 for Mar '09 EMS ambulance sponsor service

PO#013413 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$641.45 for April '09 911 phones and power

PO#013414 to Coastal Netting Systems in the amount of \$4,500.00 for landfill litter fence netting

PO#013415 to Construction Machinery in the amount of \$681.12 for landfill loader bucket teeth and pins

PO#013416 to Crowley Petroleum Distribution in the amount of \$5,183.74 for Mar/Apr '09 heating oil

PO#013417 to Delta Concrete Products in the amount of \$2,497.50 to remove snow pack on 7 streets (Hayes, Kimball, Harper, Aurora, Butte, Rapids, Clinic Road)

PO#013418 to Delta Industrial Services in the amount of \$604.50 for lease of oxygen cylinder tanks used in ambulances

PO#013419 to GVEA in the amount of \$2,141.47 for March '09 electricity

PO#013420 to Joyce McCombs in the amount of \$561.87 for reimbursement of Kodiak State Library Conference expenses

PO#013421 to NC Machinery in the amount of \$11,575.12 for repairs to D6 Dozer ripper pocket shank holder and track roller stand

PO#013422 to University Redi-Mix Concrete in the amount of \$1,566.00 for 626 tons (427 yards) of landfill cover material

Martinez moved to approve purchase orders 013411 through 013422 as presented; Hallgren seconded.

Hallgren asked about 013422

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel said landfill expenditures make up 58% (\$19,871) of the first two weeks of this month's billing cycle and that this community cannot afford to operate the landfill. It is an albatross.

Hallgren said 88% of the overall budget and 98% of the landfill budget has been spent.

Heinbockel asked to see a report showing what revenue has been brought into the landfill.

Ellis said Wilder Construction is researching the best location to dispose of a large cleanup on the Taylor Highway and they are considering the landfill. Also three thousand gallons of septic waste was delivered during Arctic Man weekend, April 18/19.

Al Edgren talked about Bio Mass and recycling garbage.

Leith-Dowling said sorting and recycling garbage requires management and commitment.

Hallgren said the biggest problem in operating the landfill is lack of garbage. The problem is not running out of property. He said it is more expensive to recycle than it is to put garbage in a hole.

ADJOURNMENT

Grossmann moved to adjourn at 6:45pm; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.