



~~~~~  
**City Council Minutes**  
**July 7, 2009 ~ 5:00PM**

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

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren, Pablo Martinez  
JW Musgrove, Lou Heinbockel, Dawn Grossmann, Sherman Stebbins  
City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman  
Librarian Joyce McCombs, Facilities Maintenance Employee Jeremy Williams, City Clerk Pat White  
Nine members from the community were present.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Heinbockel moved to approve the July 7, 2009 agenda as presented; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Martinez moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2009 meeting as presented; Grossmann seconded. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Tim Webb**, local resident, asked if the Council had considered his proposal (made at the June 16, 2009 Council meeting) to add “handguns” to Chapter 3.07 of the Code of Ordinance.

Musgrove said it would be helpful if Webb would redline a copy of the ordinance with how he wanted it revised.

Webb said including handguns as accepted firearms is his only request, but he would present it on paper. He also thanked the City for installing the Veltoby street sign.

Discussion followed regarding criminal activities on June 28, in which the troopers were easily able to locate Webb’s residence.

**Jim Harris and Dennis Denton**, local residents, presented a check for \$6,000 and said the Kiwanis Club is disbanding and wished to support the multi-use court that is being built on North Clearwater. Harris stated shooting hoops is a wonderful summertime activity. Denton said the money could be used to purchase the backboards for the basketball court.

Leith-Dowling thanked the Kiwanis for supporting youth activities within the community.

**Charlie Herman**, Life Scout, Troop #56, said he plans to start his Eagle Scout project, a sod-roof cache, at the Visitor’s Center within the next 2 weeks. It will be built next to an existing cabin, which was Clint Ferguson’s Eagle Scout project (in 1986 or 1987). He said all supplies and money must be donated, according to rules of the Eagle Board and he asked if the City could contribute toward the project, which Delta Building Supply estimates to cost approximately \$800. Herman shared his design for the 6-foot structure and said he will ask Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) for a donation also.

Discussion followed regarding Eagle Scout projects that have been built in the past, and Herman locating funding and choosing to treat logs instead of using rough-cut/double-sided lumber.

Martinez moved to donate \$100 toward the Eagle Scout project; Heinbockel seconded.

Hallgren amended the motion to increase the donation to \$200; Martinez seconded.

Musgrove asked Herman to come back on July 21 to report what other organizations are willing to contribute. He asked that, if funding for Eagle Scout projects is requested annually, that it be brought forward during budget talks.

Motion passed by unanimous consent to donate \$200 to Herman's Eagle Scout project.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Hallgren asked about the Nistler street lighting project, particularly its cost because leftover street paving funds are to be used to exchange the current bulbs with more energy-efficient ones.

Tvenge said rough estimates to replace lights and poles on Nistler and North Clearwater is \$10,000 to \$12,000 each. Each paving project cuts into the available funding for the street lighting project. The minimum is to replace bulbs with LED.

Hallgren if LED lights are more energy-efficient then the project should include all lights, including those at City Hall and the library, and it should not cost more than \$40,000 or \$50,000, not \$200,000.

Musgrove said burying wires looks good, but is not necessarily good in Alaska, especially if something goes wrong during the winter.

Discussion followed regarding replacing poles or using the existing ones, four working LED lights, and library lights that do not function properly after -30°.

Hallgren suggested keeping the existing poles, just making them more energy efficient.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Division of Elections – Request for City staff to act as Election Officials for Absentee Voting**

White referenced a June 24, 2009 letter from Fairbanks Election Supervisor Mickey Speegle requesting reconsideration for City staff to oversee absentee voting for State elections. She explained what would be required of staff and that the State does pay to use the Community Center as a polling place each year.

The \$30 per precinct per election was increased in May 2008 to \$100 per precinct per election.

Heinbockel said there will never be any accusations of misconduct if absentee voting continues to be held at the courthouse because it is a State agency. He said absentee voting, and its very liberal rules, will become an increasing burden no matter who takes on the extra work.

Musgrove moved to approve providing absentee voting services as requested by the State Division of Elections; Stebbins seconded.

Motion failed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **REQUEST TO SPEAK**

**Bruce Swaim**, Delta Forestry Prevention Officer, said he is applying for a Western Urban Interface Grant and needs a letter of support. The grant allows up to \$300,000 for each recipient-community to purchase “fire wise” items, ones that prevent wildfires from encroaching on communities. It also requires a 50/50 match. Swaim said, if the grant is approved, he would like to establish a burn barrel exchange (to replace old ones when necessary), help handicapped residents and senior citizens clear defensible space around their homes, clear around some public facilities, put fuel breaks around Quartz Lake and along Spengler Road, prepare an analysis of other areas that require defensible space, and help support the EMS mapping project by naming roads and posting street signs. Huge quantities of woody debris are burned throughout the year at a disposal site on the Richardson Highway, across from Forestry offices and the airstrip. This project has been managed on a shoestring for the past 6-8 years and this year Swaim contributed \$1,000 of his own wages and the Delta Department of Transportation (DOT) provided about \$4,000 in dozer time. He would like to post good signage to direct people where to burn and purchase \$3,000 worth of independent contractor dozer work. He asked for input and ideas for next year’s grant application and if the City would consider a \$5,000 contribution to aim for a larger grant.

Discussion followed regarding City employees contributing labor as “soft money,” charging for the service of leaving debris to burn, ensuring household garbage is not dumped, grass cuttings being a nuisance, Swaim separating out stumps, a similar setup in the Mat-Su Borough, utilizing community service hours, selecting a time to burn because of its resulting smoke, and areas that are high risk for fires.

Swaim said it would be appreciated if the City's operator could periodically use the loader and/or end-dump to move debris piles at the disposal site. The time could be counted as soft (in kind) money in next year's grant application and recent brushing could be used in this year's grant reporting.

Leith-Dowling said she would provide a letter of support.

## REPORTS

**Airport** – JW Musgrove reported mowing is needed at the airport, but can wait a couple of weeks.

Heinbockel asked about the John Deere tractor with the pull-behind mower and suggested hiring temporary help before the summer runs out.

Discussion followed regarding the tractor/mower being ready, employees being tasked on other projects, age requirements to operate equipment, and City Council members volunteering to run it.

**Cemetery** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported on the vandalism that occurred on June 25, when a vehicle did brodie throughout the cemetery after breaking through the back fence. Ellis replaced the damaged fence and Dick Souhrada replaced military grave markers. Leith-Dowling said it would take time for the grass to repair itself. The troopers responded immediately and have identified a suspect.

Heinbockel said if the perpetrator is prosecuted he should be required to pay restitution.

**City Administrator** – Mike Tvenge reported:

- Deborah Hayes, representing Alaska Center for Resource and Families and also the Deltana Community Services Partnership (DCSP), has asked the City to co-sponsor or partner with DCSP in the grant application process for the Senior home. Tvenge said the City of Delta Junction has a history of receiving funding for Capital projects and fulfilling the requirements. They will administer all financial aspects of the project and are not asking for financial commitment at this time. In the future, terms can be established, but at this time they are looking for community and municipal support in searching for funding. Their grant application is due this month. He said the City has already partnered with DCSP by reserving land for the housing project and proposing the project under the 2010 Federal Appropriations.

Martinez moved to continue to support DCSP efforts in searching for funding for senior housing; Heinbockel seconded.

Leith-Dowling said nearly every person called upon in the phone survey is in support of the project.

Hallgren said he agreed with doing everything possible to help, but potential liability will need to be considered. If the City's name is on the grant, the City will have to be involved in funding, particularly in the audit. It will take a lot to sell him because of his concerns of protecting the entire community.

Musgrove questioned how much support other housing units receive from their local governments.

Leith-Dowling said \$700,000+ in taxes was waived for the housing complex in Fairbanks.

Tvenge said the grant is with Alaska Housing Finance and Deborah Hayes said the City could be a pass-through for their grant monies, but it can also be done through a Washington office.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

- The paving project appears to be on schedule. The contractors are working on Chena Street, Ryan Avenue, Healy Street (east and west), and Butte Street. There are concerns about soil conditions on Butte and because the width of Ryan Avenue on the south side of Hayes is narrower, the roadbed will be two feet less than the normal size. The fairgrounds will be paved on July 11.

- The 2009 bid packet did not include raising shoulders to the level of the pavement edges, necessary for erosion protection from vehicles and four-wheelers. The contractor did not factor it in and they want to be paid \$6,500 to do the work.

Hallgren said the corners on Aurora/Kimball and Deborah/Aurora need a lot of gravel.

Stebbins said he was told the drop off into his driveway would be finished at the end of the paving project when the shoulders are finished. He questioned why the project was not bid to completeness.

Tvenge said the contractors did notice that the shoulders were not included in the bid specs, he assumed it to be "standard of industry" and made no offer to pay more, but he did communicate that it is to be done. Discussion followed regarding the engineer's involvement, mounds of gravel and asphalt debris needing to be removed, and the specs not being different from last year (contract awarded to HC Contractors).

Heinbockel moved to pay \$6,500 to Paving Products, Inc. to finish all the streets in the 2009 paving project; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

**Lands** – Pete Hallgren reported:

- The checklist of subdivision regulations will be postponed till later in the year because of the surveyor's busy season.
- He attended the Alaska Propane Opportunities Conference in Fairbanks on June 17. Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority (ANGDA) was given a commitment to sell propane on the North Slope for a good price, but it will need to be trucked south between now and when the actual gas pipeline is in operation. GVEA is interested because propane will be the least expensive form of energy.

**Library** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported many people have paid compliments on the newly paved parking lot at the library and \$9,034 was collected from public contributions during FY09.

**Park / Recreation** – Lou Heinbockel reported the High School ball field looks horrible due to not being kept up since the High School season ended and he suggested locking up the park pavilion if it cannot be maintained.

Tvenge said money was added to the FY10 budget to paint the pavilion.

Discussion followed regarding upgrades of the outhouses, removing foxtails and dandelions in the baseball fields and burning the area in the spring, Council members volunteering to mow grass, purchasing a riding lawn mower, extending the park lawn contract to mow the ball field, and past history of how the grounds were maintained.

Stebbins said he would knock the weeds down in the baseball field with the John Deere tractor/mower.

Hallgren said there is a limit in paying for recreation and he would prefer to repair the outhouses and the pavilion because the general public uses them more.

Stebbins said to close it down if contributions cannot be collected from users to cover electricity and maintenance. He suggested providing the stain and putting facility repairs out to bid so that High School students, a coach, or a team can do the work. It will get done in a matter of two weeks.

Heinbockel said to include removal of the water fountain on the outside of the building.

Leith-Dowling said KP Wright requested two ball fields be named after his children, Mary Lynn Wright and George Hayden Wright, who grew up in Delta and both have passed away.

Discussion followed regarding memorial signs, past history, and not setting a precedence of naming city property after individuals.

**Public Works** – Lou Heinbockel asked if someone from the City would volunteer to look for a D8 or D9 at the Alyeska auction on July 25 on Van Horn Road in Fairbanks.

Hallgren said equipment can be viewed up to 3 days prior to the auction and it might be worth the time, but many are not buying new equipment because of the economy and the high prices for used equipment.

**Additional Reports by Council** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported:

- She received a letter from Wes Layton from the Army Installation Management Command at Ft. Richardson in response to public concerns about the low water table and questioned if USARAK (U.S. Army Alaska) had done something to affect the flow of Jarvis Creek water. Layton stated, "According to the hydrologist it is unlikely that the range complex construction or maintenance activities could have prevented seasonal backup into the fields. The situation may be due to unusual winter and spring conditions, a result of less snowfall, a drier than normal spring, and noticeably less aufeis" on Jarvis Creek.

Discussion followed regarding hearing water had been diverted out of Jarvis and scheduling a tour of the Battle Area Complex (BAX) and training area, which will be operational this fall.

- Delta Junction is listed as one of thirty possible communities to be chosen as one of ten communities featured in the fourth volume of *Alaska: North to the Future*, which is sponsored by the State Legislature. Leith-Dowling said 2 pages about Delta Junction would cost \$11,360, four would cost \$19,000, and six would cost \$27,000. She asked if others felt it would be of value to promote our community. Each community in the book would receive twenty-five complimentary copies. She explained previous books and featured communities.

Discussion followed regarding who and where the books are sent, if it is sold to the public, fundraising for the project, support from the community to raise funds, promoting the end of the Alaska Highway, agriculture, fishing, and canoeing, and the prospect of the book boosting local economy and tourism.

Heinbockel moved to support Leith-Dowling researching the book project; Martinez seconded.

Hallgren said he is willing to come up with \$2,000, but not \$11,000.

Musgrove said he is interested in seeing direct results in how the book promotes communities.

Leith-Dowling said she would take it to the Chamber's board meeting because it would affect commerce.

Grossmann said she would support it only if the community does.

Heinbockel said he would support spending \$2,000 for the book, if the community contributes \$8,000. He said he refuses to purchase the Delta Vanguard because of inaccurate reporting. He happened to read a recent headline that the City Council was seeking a new doctor for the EMT Squad. He said it is not a fact. He questioned a letter he received from the Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD) suggesting a donation of \$75. He said the City requests \$50, but not to residents outside of the city limits. Discussion followed regarding City financial support to RDVFD, the mutual aid agreement between RDVFD and the City Fire Department (DJVFD), establishing a fee schedule for fire response, and generating revenue at the library with paid employees versus the Fire Department with volunteers.

Hallgren said the City's current position is to ask the legislature for clarification of the law, so that a \$50 donation can be accepted in lieu of charging \$2,500 for a fire response, because the City cannot act as an insurance company.

Council recessed at 7:26pm and reconvened at 7:37pm.

- Leith-Dowling said she would like to add a mayor's report as a new category to *Reports* for future meetings.

Heinbockel moved to add *Mayor Report* to City Council agendas; Martinez seconded.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Purchase Basketball Equipment for Multi-use Outdoors Recreation Court**

Tvenge reported he received three quotes plus one from an Internet site. He referred to information on the Tyrant Dynasty, priced at \$10,576, including shipping to Delta, and explained that the long-arm extension and posts would be installed outside the rink boards. It comes with a lifetime warranty and shipping will take 10 days to 2 weeks.

Martinez moved to purchase the (4) Tyrant Dynasty basketball system, including freight, for \$10,576.00; Grossmann seconded.

Discussion followed regarding progress on the multi-use court, using the Kiwanis' money for it, and other sports activities, skateboarding and roller blading, that will utilize it.

Heinbockel stated Chris Morley, owner of Morley Electric, has offered to set the posts for the multi-use court. He is organizing a basketball tournament in conjunction with the Deltana Fair, but will hold it at the elementary school this year.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **Change Order 2009-02 – Additional Paving at the Library Parking Lot**

Tvenge explained the library parking lot was enlarged into the wooded area more than six feet, to get parked vehicles out of the lane of traffic. The paving is done, but there is not enough money in the Rasmuson grant to pay the full amount. It will cost approximately \$1,700 more and will be paid out of State grant funds.

Martinez moved to approve the change order as presented; Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **Paving Products Estimate for Community Center / Phase 1 and Phase 4 / Phone Poll - June 24, 2009**

[A phone poll was finalized on June 24 and resulted in approval to pave two of the four sides of the Community Center. Five (Leith-Dowling, Heinbockel, Martinez, Musgrove, Stebbins) voted in favor and two (Hallgren, Grossmann) voted against Phase 1, to pave near the Senior Lounge, between the Community Center and the Presbyterian/Lutheran Church. Five (Hallgren, Martinez, Grossmann, Musgrove, Stebbins) voted in favor and two (Leith-Dowling, Heinbockel) voted against Phase 4, to pave the semicircle in front of the Community Center, linking both ends of the loop to Deborah Street.]

Tvenge said M2C1 Engineers estimated \$91,868.47 to pave all four sections around the Community Center, Phase 1 being estimated to cost \$39,759.98 and Phase 4 estimated at \$11,081.40. Paving Products provided quotes on July 6, stating Phase 1 would cost \$32,838.50 and Phase 4 would cost \$19,498.50. Discussion followed regarding the engineer's estimate for Phase 4 not connecting it to Deborah Street, leftover funds for the streetlight project, maintaining the section between the library and the Richardson Highway (gravel or pavement), and controlling traffic speed by adding two speed bumps.

Heinbockel moved to accept quotes from Paving Products, Inc. to pave Phase 1 for \$32,838.50 and Phase 4 for \$19,498.50; Martinez seconded.

Hallgren asked if the quotes included gravel for the pavement edges.

Tvenge said he would ensure that the shoulders would be included in the price. Drainage will be a concern for the Presbyterian/Lutheran Church.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Tvenge said the two sections in front and back of the Community Center will be paved on July 14 and 15.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#013582 to Alaska Safety, Inc. in the amount of \$736.00 for 2 SCBA face shields for Fire Department

PO#013583 to Raymond Andreassen in the amount of \$2,500.00 for Jun '09 ambulance sponsorship

PO#013584 to Crowley Petroleum Distribution in the amount of \$923.60 for Jun '09 landfill equipment fuel

PO#013585 to Delta Industrial Services in the amount of \$1,553.46 for rebar for outdoor rink PO#013586 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$558.29 for Jun '09 gas/diesel used for Rescue Squad, lawns, and street grading

PO#013587 to Deltana Fair Association in the amount of \$680.00 for Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) displays during the fair

PO#013588 to Interior Building Supplies, Inc. in the amount of \$624.60 for work gloves used at City Hall, wire snake used at the library, trash bags for the park, steel cable fence at the landfill, sledgehammer handle and chain to be used on streets, and locking fuel cap and padlocks for rink building

PO#013589 to Municipal Emergency Services in the amount of \$4,124.10 for steel cart and water hose tester for checking pressure and leaks on Fire Department hoses

PO#013590 to R&D Environmental in the amount of \$6,500.00 for brush clearing city streets

PO#013591 to Ernest L. Wyrick in the amount of \$2,051.90 for LEPC GPS mapping project

PO#013592 to Paving Products, Inc. in the amount of \$346,361.76 for progress billing through June 30, 2009 – Street paving of Aurora, Healy, Butte plus library parking lot and outdoor ice rink pad

Musgrove moved to approve payment of purchase orders 013582 through 013592; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

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

Heinbockel asked Mayor Leith-Dowling to delegate a Council member who has computer skills, particularly Musgrove, to research the Alyeska Auction in case there is equipment that the City could have use for.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 8:06pm; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, CMC

Approved: July 28, 2009