



**City Council Minutes
July 28, 2009 ~ 5:00PM**

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

The July 21, 2009 regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was postponed to July 28, 2009 and held at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Councilman Lou Heinbockel called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

Council members present: Lou Heinbockel, Pablo Martinez, JW Musgrove
Sherman Stebbins, Dawn Grossmann (arrived at 5:20pm)
Council members excused: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren
City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman
City Clerk Pat White

Twelve members from the community were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Martinez moved to approve the July 28, 2009 agenda as presented; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Tvenge said to add *conditions* to the sentence on page 3 under the *City Administrator Report* to read, "There are concerns about soil conditions on Butte Street..." He said to clarify that "... the width of *Ryan Avenue* on the *south* side of Hayes is narrower so the roadbed will be two feet less." He said Ryan is twenty-two feet wide between Deborah and Hayes streets.

Martinez moved to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2009 meeting as amended; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jennifer Brant introduced herself as the Coach for the Delta Girls Fast-Pitch Softball team and said several community members and businesses are interested and willing to work with Council members to devise a plan to address City Park needs. She described recent improvements at the park, which were done by volunteers (bringing the gravel up to grade next to the pavilion, eliminating weeds and overgrowth around the outlying areas of the fields, and distributing and compacting gravel). She said it is only part of what remains to be done and explained that the water from the fountain is constantly running even though it is not drinkable, there are ongoing issues with vandalism, and the sheds are not user-friendly so the Softball Association's mower must be housed at her residence. Brant started a team, ages 7-10, this summer through the Interior Girls Softball Association (IGSA), who supplied equipment and game time on Fairbanks fields. The Delta girls were extremely successful, losing one out of twelve games and taking Championship in the mid-season tournament. Brant said the girls fast-pitch softball team is the only one that currently exists in Delta. She hopes to start a team for twelve and under next year with Marchell Delange taking over the younger (7-10) team. Brant said a committee representing all levels of baseball and softball is needed to support maintenance of the fields.

Lindsey Pinkleman stated softball is a difficult sport to teach in Alaska because the season is so short.

Heinbockel said feeder programs are necessary to be competitive in all High School sports.

Delange said the season is over except for the Adult Coed, who plays through the end of August. There were sixty to seventy youth, ages 4-12, involved in Little League and All-Stars. She explained her

family's involvement at the park and said she is concerned that all efforts will be lost because the fields will not be maintained until snow falls and they will have to start over next spring.

Heinbockel said maintaining the fields has always been dependent upon volunteer groups and he, as City Council Park / Recreation representative, would be part of the committee. He asked Brant to present a list of projects.

Grossmann asked to be specific in requests and priorities, so funding can be properly addressed.

Discussion followed regarding pavilion upgrades underway, including removal of the water fountain, Delta Girls Softball team competing against two Fairbanks teams during Deltana Fair weekend, an active men's league, and the prospects of bringing back tournaments to Delta Junction.

Heinbockel called for Council comments on non-agenda items with none being offered.

CORRESPONDENCE

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Delta-Clearwater Watershed Restoration Project

Tvenge referenced a July 10, 2009 letter from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and said they need City input in how the watershed restoration project will affect the community and they need public comment on how the project will affect recreation and hunting. Initial comments are due by July 31, a scoping meeting is scheduled at the NRCS Delta Junction Field Office on August 5, and final written comments are due by August 20.

Heinbockel said what was done ten or fifteen years ago, to keep water from getting to the Upper Clearwater, cost about \$2 million. Now it will cost \$8-\$10 million to undo it and he is not sure he agrees. Discussion followed regarding the road at Mile 1408 being a trail to the Granite Mountains back in the late '60s, hunting, four-wheeler, muzzle loader, and jet ski activities in the area, flooding, and the problem evolving around the agriculture project.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Michael Nuckols reported:

- On July 21, 2009 Wilma Vinton of Interior Region Emergency Medical Services (IREMS) provided AURORA (State of Alaska electronic data collection program) training to squad members. Most all squad members were in attendance and have a basic familiarity with the State-required system, which will replace the existing run reports on paper with an electronic version. It allows use of a stand-alone computer for remote data entering that can be downloaded to the Internet once it is hooked up. Nuckols said remaining equipment funds from a Code Blue Grant and hopefully, a \$2,500 micro-grant from IREMS, will cover the cost of two laptops. Online reporting is free, but if stand-alone computers are used there will be a \$400/year annual maintenance fee for the software license. The only other choice is to use a wireless connection card, which will be problematic because of lack of cell phone signals in some areas. Nuckols said the State is threatening to pull certification if the Rescue Squad does not comply and the squad would not qualify for any future Code Blue grants or anything administered by the State. The greater impact will be the actual run report, which will be done on paper and transcribed to the database after the transport. It appears someone will be stuck to a computer if an additional EMT is not on every run. He said the squad plans to discuss options, possibly data from Fairbanks Memorial Hospital (FMH) transports can be done on the return trip, but local calls will need to be done at the station. Nuckols said the squad can barely keep up with patient care, not to mention chasing down bureaucracy.

Discussion followed regarding contacts (Wilma Vinton and Dan Johnson from IREMS in Fairbanks and Tim Bundy from the Dept. of Health and Social Services in Juneau), AURORA implementation date of June 1, current certification to expire December 31, 2009, and Vinton commenting that the local service is in good standing because of the squad's efforts to comply with the reporting requirements.

- Three ETT recruits will attend EMT I training and three current members will attend EMT II training. Increasing membership may not be enough to deal with the State reporting requirements.

- Delta Rescue Squad was incorrectly dispatched to a tractor-trailer rollover at 86 Mile Glenn Highway.

Airport – JW Musgrove asked about the current condition of the John Deere tractor/mower.

Tvenge said the tires are repairable, but the extent of damage to the mower deck and blade gearbox is not known.

Discussion followed regarding the age of the John Deere (1980), the engine being rebuilt 3 years ago by Dave Boadwine, and the cost of replacing it, \$60,000 to \$70,000.

Musgrove said everything, including the windsocks, held up with recent winds (that peaked at 56mph).

Cemetery – Sherman Stebbins asked if there was a lead to the (June 25) vandalism at the cemetery.

Sebastian Saarloos said the suspect has been identified.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- Busy Bee Office Supply (1380 Richardson Highway) will be the location for absentee voting for the upcoming School Board election as well as all future State-run elections.

- Tim Webb submitted suggested revisions to the City Code, Chapter 3.07, Prohibited Hunting of Big Game. White asked for direction in addressing Webb's request.

Discussion followed regarding moose hunting with handguns, pistols having killing range capabilities near the same as long-range shooting rifles, initial intent to stop hunting within the core area, not all hunters taking precautionary measures, and hazards of hunting around neighborhoods and children awaiting school buses.

Martinez said to table discussion until the August 4 Council meeting.

Musgrove said he appreciates Webb's efforts.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported the air compressor at the fire hall has quit, but the problem is not known. It is less than 5 years old, but a backup plan is needed.

Finance – Dave Zimmerman reported Federal PILT (\$866,000) has been received from the State of Alaska. Normally received in October, the schedule has been changed to July. Twenty thousand was received over what was budgeted (\$846,000).

Discussion followed regarding additional State Revenue Sharing (\$145,000 budgeted) minus the prison loan payment (\$50,000).

Library – Pat White reported for Mary Leith-Dowling:

- Summer Readers ended on July 17 with a reward party and decorated hat contest. More than nine thousand pages were read during the six-week program.

- Concrete bumpers are needed for the parking lot to prevent cars from rolling onto the sidewalk. Twelve to fourteen bumpers are needed for the library parking lot and Delta Concrete has priced them for \$95 each. The Library Board may consider some or the entire \$1,330 price.

- Wendy Smithen's last day of work will be August 5, so the library is advertising to fill her part time, evening and weekend library aide position.

Park / Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported the outdoor rink installation is to begin on August 10. Delta Skating Association volunteers will do the work along with City employees, Jeremy Williams, Arthur Dowling, and Bubba Terry.

Tvenge said basketball backboards were shipped today.

Discussion followed regarding repairs and maintenance on the park pavilion, capping the water fountain for possible future use, the potential for clean water, and cleaning out and organizing the facility.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported paving projects are completed and speed bumps have been built and painted. He said in retrospect he would have preferred paving all four sides of the Community Center.

School Liaison – Sherman Stebbins reported:

- Superintendent P.J. Ford Slack informed that the school district would contribute \$68,000 to the retrofit (weatherization) project, adding to a \$5,000 gift from Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) and \$35,000 that has been collected from the community. The City Council will be approached for monetary assistance. The (\$193,878) match is due May 2010.

Discussion followed regarding positive community support and whether Pogo Mine has contributed.

- The High School, Junior High, and Cyber School have new principals this year. The Junior High Principal lost all of his household belongings and family heirlooms when his U-Haul burned on the way up the Alaska Highway.

- The first day of the school year will be August 27.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**NEW BUSINESS****Resolution 2010-01, A Resolution to Continue Participation in the AMLJIA Loss Control Incentive Program for the City of Delta Junction**

Tvenge said the Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association (AMLJIA) Loss Control Incentive Program is education-based with monthly teleconferences focusing on prevention of accidents and injuries. There is no cost to participate, but there is potential to lower insurance rates by up to \$5,000. Zimmerman said the City is starting the fourth season with the program and recently received a \$3,700 allowance on insurance rates.

Musgrove moved to approve Resolution 2010-01 and to continue participation in the AMLJIA Loss Control Incentive Program for 2009-2010 policy year; Martinez seconded.

Musgrove suggested inviting firefighters and squad members to teleconferences that would benefit them.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Final Plat Approval of Lots 1A + 10A, Block 3, Jack Subdivision

Sebastian Saarloos, Delta Survey Associates, stated everything is in order for Lots 1A and 10A of Jack Subdivision to be recorded and to allow the property owner, Holly Stewart, to sell the property.

Martinez moved to approve the final Stewart re-plat as presented; Grossmann seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

ROW Extension – Lots 1 + 10, Block 9, Buffalo City Townsite

Saarloos explained that Sixth Street is one of the last streets on the right headed out of town on the Alcan. Second Street is like an extension of Quartz Avenue. There are no roads built between them, but they are platted. Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) was turned down when they asked to cross Decker's property with power lines because there are no easements within their highway-frontage property. Saarloos said a twenty-foot easement in the hundred-foot road ROW, which is in the City's jurisdiction, would serve Lots 1 and 10 of Block 9, Buffalo City Townsite, with power. The road would be an extension of Fourth Street. It is not named or built and it exists only on a map. (Second and Fifth are constructed streets.)

Martinez moved to grant twenty-foot ROW easement to GVEA as presented; Grossmann seconded.

Saarloos said the Buffalo City Townsite map is so old that utility easements were not considered for the highway-frontage lots.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Purchase Orders

PO#013597 to Fairbanks North Star Borough in the amount of \$926.40 for Medic II alternator repair

PO#013598 to GVEA in the amount of \$1,471.56 for June '09 electricity

PO#013599 to Interior Building Supply in the amount of \$593.45 for outdoor rink materials

PO#013600 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$11,503.21 for July '09 group health insurance

PO#013601 to ACS in the amount of \$1,858.19 for July '09 telephone services

PO#013602 to Alaska Wildland Support in the amount of \$4,187.98 for July '09 lawn maintenance at cemetery and park

PO#013603 to Analytica Group in the amount of \$966.90 for water testing at City Hall, Community Center, library, rink, and landfill

PO#013604 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$649.65 for 911 phones and power

PO#013605 to C&R Pipe and Steel in the amount of \$1,102.50 for outdoor rink rebar rings

PO#013606 to City of Fairbanks in the amount of \$5,103.63 for July-Dec '09 dispatch fees

PO#013607 to Crowley Petroleum Distribution in the amount of \$1,237.42 for landfill and street equipment fuel

PO#013608 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,917.54 for outdoor rink materials

PO#013609 to EFOOTBRIDGE in the amount of \$5,288.00 for 50% payment for four basketball posts and backboards at outdoor rink

PO#013610 to State of Alaska, Administrative Services in the amount of \$50,000.00 for annual loan payment, #5

Martinez moved to approve purchase orders 013597 through 013610 as presented; Musgrove seconded.

Heinbockel said he feels strongly against #013610 because the previous Knowles administration required the City of Delta Junction, as the only local government, to be responsible for the prison fiasco, resulting in a \$1.2 million judgment against the City. The State of Alaska helped out by loaning the money to pay the debt, but the State of Alaska should be paying the bill because they put the City in the position to begin with. Forgiveness of the loan has been vetoed twice because of "legal concerns." Heinbockel suggested not paying the debt and letting the State foreclose on the City and take over the landfill. Initially there was strong public support to build a prison, but it had to go through the City, not the Citizens Advisory Group that was created to work on reuse of Ft. Greely. It became a political issue once the City got involved. The City of Delta Junction was held liable.

Musgrove said some people ran for City Council and the mayor's position to defeat the people that wanted a prison.

Heinbockel said that is the democratic process, to replace those that make decisions that you do not support. He said if PO#013610 is approved, it will be the fifth payment and \$950,000 will still be owed.

Martinez withdrew the motion to approve purchase orders 013597 through 013610.

Discussion followed regarding negotiating a settlement with the prison developers, asking City Attorney Jim DeWitt to research "legal concerns," and possible consequences of not making loan payments.

Musgrove moved to approve purchase orders 013597 through 013609; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Zimmerman said defaulting on the \$1 million loan would shut the City down. Assets would need to be liquidated and the City cannot issue IOUs like the State of California.

Martinez moved to pay purchase order #013610; Musgrove seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with four (Musgrove, Grossmann, Stebbins, Martinez) voting in favor and one (Heinbockel) voted against.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Margie Mullins asked if a legislative bill mandated the City of Delta Junction's involvement in the prison issue or if it was administrative pressure from Governor Knowles.

Heinbockel said it was an administrative decision because the legislature did not want to become involved and nor did they want to remove the prison prospect. They would work with the City of Delta Junction, but not the Citizens Group.

Mullins clarified that the Knowles administration did not want Ft. Greely turned into a prison, but they would concede to Delta's wishes, making Delta responsible.

Tvenge said he could review City Attorney Jim DeWitt's summary regarding wording about a legislative bill or administrative decision. The land transfer was required to go to the City, not to a private group.

Heinbockel said the local government must act as a pass-through agency for any organization that applies for State funds and support.

Tvenge said the new ambulance is to arrive in mid-August.

ADJOURNMENT

Martinez moved to adjourn at 7:04pm; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, CMC

Approved: August 4, 2009