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**City Council Minutes**  
**August 18, 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, August 18, 2009 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, JW Musgrove, Lou Heinbockel
Sherman Stebbins, Pablo Martinez

Council members excused: Dawn Grossmann, Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren

City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman
Librarian Joyce McCombs, City Clerk Pat White

Five members from the community were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tvenge asked to recess to the parking lot to see the new ambulance whenever it arrives.

Heinbockel moved to approve the August 18, 2009 agenda; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Martinez moved to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2009 meeting as presented; Heinbockel seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Carol Austin thanked the Council for paving at the Deltana Fair. She said even though the fair is only three days out of the year, this was the first year that so many handicapped, elderly, and entire families were able to participate in fair activities. The fairgrounds are cleaner because of the paving also. Austin said there is still interest in developing a ski program with the elementary school and she believes a lot more activities will come about because of the paving improvements.

Mindy Eggleston said the local ski group is working with the Department of Interior Rivers, Trails, and Conservation, who partner groups (City, Forestry, land managers) to establish ski trails. Grants can be applied for once trail plans are in place.

Leith-Dowling said the City works well with groups. Construction of the outdoors multi-purpose rink is a good example of teamwork because volunteers worked with the City and the Delta Skating Association. Discussion followed regarding the width of the pavement and overlooking a path to the Lions Den to connect to their wheelchair ramp, which would have been a good improvement.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Upcoming Election – Notice of Vacancies

[The filing period for the Municipal Election on October 6, 2009 is August 27 through the close of business on September 11. Three seats will be on the ballot. Seat A and E are three-year terms and Seat D is one year. Candidate packets are available at City Hall.]

REPORTS

Mayor – Mary Leith-Dowling reported she would travel to Anchorage on August 25 to attend a Boeing reception. She referenced the Senior Survey Results, regarding needs for senior housing, that was compiled by the Deltana Community Services Partnership (DCSP) and said residents, age 55 and older, would be called upon through August 30 to complete the survey. She said DCSP is also investigating food services, including grant application to upgrade the Community Center kitchen.

Rescue Squad – Mike Nuckols reported they met with Dr. Andreassen two weeks ago to discuss the services he provides and the need to support the Emergency Services Administrator position. Andreassen suggested the City pay him for services as he provides them, such as attending meetings, and use the leftover funding for the emergency services position. He also suggested the position include qualifications of an instructor to eliminate having to bring someone in. Nuckols said the City should consider renegotiating the physician medical director (physician sponsor) contract.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- Election officials for the October 6, 2009 Municipal Election are Eddy Growden, Stormie Mitchell, and Doris Fales. They will run the election from 7:30am to 8:00pm at the Community Center. Terry Kozarik, Sherry Smith, and Jackie Becker are the Election Board and will count ballots at 8:00pm, following the election. Rena Case, Lucille Combs-Stock, and Dave Becker are the Canvass Board and will recount ballots at City Hall at 9:00am on October 7.

- The AML Conference is scheduled November 18/20 in Anchorage and individual groups (Newly Elected Officials, Clerks, Finance Officers, Municipal Managers, Mayors) have meetings on November 17, which conflicts with the second regular Council date.

Discussion followed and it was decided to postpone the November 17 meeting to November 24, 2009.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported:

- More fencing around the multi-use rink/basketball court was purchased. Only three sides will be fences. Player boxes will be located on the east side.

- He issued a memo outlining the action plan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to monitor wells near the Visitor's Center property, which the City leases from the State of Alaska. One well will be located next to the Visitor's Center and two others will be located across the Alaska Highway. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests a letter of non-objection from the City.

Musgrove asked if the well would be capped and if USACE could submit a photo of what they propose to put in.

Tvenge said the well will be at ground level and would have to be covered unless they test manually.

- The Battle Area Complex (BAX) tour is scheduled for 1:00-3:00pm on August 19 and City Hall will be covered so staff can go.

- After tracking visits to the landfill, Bob Morley suggested changes to the landfill hours to accommodate patterns from the public and commercial haulers. Morley proposed reducing Tuesdays by one hour (normally 11:00 to 6:00) to 11:00am to 5:00pm and increasing Fridays (normally 11:00 to 3:00) to 11:00am to 4:00pm.

Discussion followed regarding accepting the new landfill hours.

- Carl Benson of SLR Consulting did a site visit to the rifle range and plans to return on September 9-11 to evaluate the soil. The area will be closed during their visit. SLR will make recommendations to DNR for what to do with the soil.

Heinbockel said he gave a history of the rifle range to Benson because clean up will require more than the surface area. The first berm was covered about ten years ago and the "good" berm was made from material taken off "Clinic Road" when it was paved in 2008. Heinbockel said the area is an absolute disaster and spent rounds are proof that people are shooting from the highway.

RECESS

Tvenge introduced James Ackerman, Sawtooth (ambulance dealers) and Chuck Drake, Company President of SJC Industries (ambulance manufacturing company) who drove the new ambulance from Anchorage, once it arrived by barge from Boise, Idaho.

Council recessed at 5:43pm and reconvened at 6:04pm.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported:

- Miranda Contreras, the new Library Aide, is training with different staff to fly solo this weekend.
- McCombs will pick up the large screen television on August 20.

Stebbins asked if the purpose of a library is to get people away from TV and video games.

McCombs said to “think outside the book,” that libraries are not just about books any more than Amazon took the place of libraries. Sale items encourage customers to come into a store so they take advantage of everything, not just the discounts. Senior citizens are interested in Nintendo and evening activities. She said people still have landlines even though they carry cell phones and online game or videos are no different than doing a crossword puzzle or playing chess. McCombs said games can be played on library or personal computers, but the television would be restricted for evening activities and used for Nintendo, movies, and slide show presentations. McCombs said, “It took her awhile to become a believer, but it is not to the exclusion of books; it is in addition to reading.”

Stebbins said society as a whole is alienating other human beings and for that reason he did not support purchasing a television.

- The Sweet Adelines 50th Anniversary of Alaska Concert will be held on September 12 at 7:30pm in the Delta High School large gym. Tickets will be available after Labor Day.
- Sometime on August 14 the Delta Library circulated its 100,000th item since moving into the new library in January 2005.

Park / Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported:

- The inside of the outhouses are painted white to help brighten the interiors, painting the pavilion and the dugouts is just about finished, and the grounds look exceptional.
- The multi-use rink/basketball court is almost complete and mostly done with volunteer labor.

Chris Morley volunteered to install the basketball apparatus, which was \$10,000 that was well spent because the 6” x 14’ pipe stands are stout and will set in an outside diameter pipe that will act as a sleeve.

Public Health & Safety – Pablo Martinez said the Rescue Squad now has four functioning ambulances and he hopes they are happy with the new one.

Tvenge said the newest ambulance would be Medic I.

School Liaison – Sherman Stebbins reported the school year will start on time and the contractors have put in a lot of overtime and hired local labor to make it happen.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**NEW BUSINESS****Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2010-02, An Ordinance Amending City Code of Ordinances, Title II, Elections**

White said changes remove Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) requirements and add provisions for a tie vote of a referendum or initiatives and a description of *majority*.

Martinez moved to introduce and hold the first reading of Ordinance 2010-02, An Ordinance Amending City Code of Ordinances, Title II, Elections, and to set the public hearing and second reading on September 1, 2009; Musgrove seconded.

Discussion followed regarding more time to review the ordinance and possibly taking not action to put it off for a third reading.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2010-03, An Ordinance Amending City Code of Ordinances, Title III, Public Health and Safety, Chapter 3.07, Prohibited Hunting of Big Game, Section 3.01.011, Regulation of Firearms

Heinbockel moved to introduce and hold the first reading of Ordinance 2010-03, An Ordinance Amending City Code of Ordinances, Title III, Public Health and Safety, Chapter 3.07, Prohibited Hunting of Big Game, Section 3.01.011, Regulation of Firearms and to hold the public hearing and second reading on September 1, 2009; Martinez seconded.

White stated City Attorney Jim DeWitt suggested pushing the legislature to create a controlled use area.

Heinbockel referenced the 2009-2010 Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet and said the Board of Game (BOG) adopted what the Palmer-Wasilla area wanted. He feels, now that the precedence has been set – that the BOG does listen to public safety concerns, the City of Delta Junction should request the local Fish & Game Advisory establish the city limits as the area be “closed to hunting except that big game may be taken with a muzzleloader, shotguns with slugs and bow and arrow only, with weapon-specific certification.” Heinbockel said, as an individual, he will propose a limit in taking big game within boundaries that will be bigger than that of the city limits. It will require cooperation from the State and BOG, but must start with the local Fish & Game Advisory. The boundaries of the Delta Management are obsolete and should be changed. He said it makes no sense, twenty-five years after the fact, for a biologist to decide antler-restricted animals could not be hunted on the west side of the Richardson Highway from Delta to Donnelly Creek and then the same area can be opened to shoot four hundred cows. Regulations can be based on safety. He used the Anchorage municipality as an example and referred to an August 17, 2009 report from Channel 2 News, stating, “It is illegal to discharge any firearm, air rifle or air pistol in Anchorage.” Heinbockel said he would not be able to attend the September 1 Council meeting, but he would vote in favor of the ordinance as it is written.

Tim Webb said he thought the local Fish & Game would meet a consensus and he planned to propose something similar regarding boundaries.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Library Budget Adjustment

McCombs referred to an August 14 memo from Zimmerman, requesting an increase to the FY2010 budget. She said Ft. Greely funds will pay for the 52” television (\$1,638) and they, the military, also paid \$2,500 toward the needed Internet filtering software (\$4,359.88), so only \$1,860 is needed. The Army must have an invoice by August 30 and money cannot be carried over into the new contract.

Heinbockel moved to increase the library FY2010 budget by \$1,900; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Streetlight Replacement Options

Tvenge stated streetlights are part of the Alaska Department of Commerce street paving and lighting grant. He referenced a map showing poles along Nistler Road, some with light emitting diode (LED) fixtures, some with high pressure sodium (HPS) light fixtures, no-fixture poles, poles with school-owned HPS fixtures, and future poles with LED light fixtures (on North Clearwater Avenue). He said it is dark enough to compare the difference between the new LED lights with those that are HPS. Options are to replace old HPS lights with LED and replace poles with new wooden or steel ones next year. Material and labor costs for wooden utility poles estimate \$2,000 each (pole and above ground service). Material and labor for steel light poles with a concrete base and underground service are estimated to cost \$10,000 each.

Heinbockel said replacing poles would be very expensive and to use wooden poles if it is done. They also need to be on the same side of the street.

Discussion followed regarding which streetlights belong to the City and DGSD, GVEA’s policy because they do not appear to be replacing 25-year old poles, buried lines, lighting improvements at the library and City Hall, three new LED lights (250 watt equivalent) on Nistler Road, and one LED streetlight (150 watt) on the corner of Nistler and North Clearwater, which was a loaner light.

Martinez moved to replace remaining (8) streetlights on Nistler Road with 250-watt-equivalent LED fixtures; Heinbockel seconded.

Tvenge said it would cost approximately \$15,000 to install 8 LED lights.

Discussion followed regarding five proposed poles on North Clearwater Avenue and taking the winter to evaluate it because they will require wiring and more labor.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Discussion followed regarding the purpose of lighting streets and if fewer poles are needed with LED lights.

Library (13) and Community Center (3) Concrete Parking Bumpers (16 x \$95 = \$1,520)

Tvenge said he would inquire if funds can come out of the paving grant to cover the parking bumpers at the library and Community Center, but he planned to charge each department budget.

Discussion followed regarding whether or not concrete parking bumpers should be a budget item.

Stebbins volunteered to help install them.

Leith-Dowling said the library plans to paint theirs before snowfall.

Heinbockel moved to authorize the City administration to spend up to \$1,600 to purchase 16 concrete bumpers to be installed no matter where the money comes from, department budgets or the paving grant;

Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Purchase Orders

PO#013664 to ACS in the amount of \$1,712.38 for Aug '09 telephone service

PO#013665 to Alaska Wildland Support in the amount of \$4,187.98 for Aug '09 park and cemetery lawn maintenance contracts

PO#013666 to Amazon.com in the amount of \$898.06 for library books, DVDs, and audios

PO#013667 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$649.65 for Aug '09 911 phones and power

PO#013668 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,103.28 for July '09 credit card charges (City Hall notary journals, Butch Ellis' annual Hazard Waste Certificate, battery replacements for emergency exit lights at Community Center, lawn mower replacement, Fire Hall air compressor pump replacement)

PO#013669 to Becker Arena Products, Inc. in the amount of \$846.11 for outdoor rink dasher boards

PO#013670 to Crowley Petroleum in the amount of \$3,150.64 for July/Aug '09 heating fuel

PO#013671 to Delta Medical Fire & Safety Supply in the amount of \$610.00 for ambulance supplies (4 boxes of catheters)

PO#013672 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$523.60 for 2 tires for John Deere tractor

PO#013673 to Delta Sanitation in the amount of \$657.34 for Aug '09 dumpster services

PO#013674 to EFOOTBRIDGE in the amount of \$5,288.00 for second half of payment for basketball backboards at the outdoor rink/basketball court

PO#013675 to GEOAPPS, Inc. in the amount of \$833.20 for revising 911 mapping book

PO#013676 to GVEA in the amount of \$1,769.41 for July '09 electricity

PO#013677 to Interior Building Supplies in the amount of \$3,575.70 for paint used at park pavilion and dugouts and various tools used to install outdoor rink dasher boards

PO#013678 to John Johnston in the amount of \$1,000.60 for library computer workstations

PO#013679 to Paving Products, Inc. in the amount of \$38,484.65 for final paving contract balance

PO#013680 to Wal-Mart Super Center in the amount of \$1,638.00 for Sony 52" TV for library

PO#013681 to Wingfoot Commercial Tire in the amount of \$20,000.00 for 4 loader tires

Martinez moved to approve payment of purchase orders 013664 through 013681 as presented; Musgrove seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Stebbins asked about addressing correspondence received on August 17 regarding the Big Delta gravel pits being an unsafe swimming area.

Discussion followed regarding volunteer efforts to safeguard the gravel pits and ownership of them.

Heinbockel said the City has no authority to do anything. The only safe place for children is Quartz Lake, where the State put in sand and marked the area, even though there is no lifeguard on duty. He said maybe the Alaska State Parks should take over use of the gravel pits.

ADJOURNMENT

Martinez moved to adjourn at 7:06pm; Heinbockel seconded. Motion carried.