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**City Council Minutes**  
**December 1, 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, December 1, 2009 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren,  
Sherman Stebbins, JW Musgrove, Pablo Martinez (arrived at 5:04pm)

Council members excused: Lou Heinbockel, Dawn Grossmann

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

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

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Hallgren stated an Executive Session to discuss some financial matters is necessary as soon as the agenda is approved. Leith-Dowling stated Ken Farrow would speak under *Public Comments On Non-Agenda Items* and she would present a contribution to Ted Hamilton, Fire Chief of the Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department under *Council Comments On Non-Agenda Items*.

Musgrove moved to approve the December 1, 2009 agenda as amended; Stebbins seconded. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Hallgren moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the City; Stebbins seconded.

Council recessed at 5:05pm to hold the session in the City Administrator's office. Present during the Executive Session were Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren, JW Musgrove, Sherman Stebbins, Pablo Martinez, and City Administrator Mike Tvenge.

Hallgren moved to reconvene the meeting at 5:13pm; Martinez and Musgrove seconded.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Martinez moved to approve the November 24, 2009 minutes; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Leith-Dowling called for public comments on non-agenda items.

Ken Farrow referred to a written request that he submitted to the Council earlier in the day, asking to reduce the rental rate for the Community Center on November 21 because of furnace problems that made the inside temperatures uncomfortable during the craft bazaar.

Hallgren said he, Stebbins, and Facility Maintenance Foreman Jeremy Williams attempted to identify the problem. The temperature in the main room dropped to 60° and the furnace required resetting several times. He suggested running ducting between the two furnaces so that heat can still circulate if one furnace is down.

Leith-Dowling suggested not charging the \$100 rent for the upcoming December 19 craft bazaar.

Hallgren said one person pays the rental fee and then sub-rents to vendors. He asked that the savings get passed on to the vendors who lost the business because of the uncomfortable conditions.

Farrow expressed appreciation for the decision.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Stebbins asked that City departments develop a calendar of scheduled holidays so that it can be published a year in advance. It should be revised annually.

Discussion followed regarding staff having the option to take the day off after a holiday, other businesses that do not take a four-day weekend, and posting the calendar on the City's website.

Mayor Leith-Dowling presented a check in the amount of \$15,000 to Ted Hamilton, Fire Chief of Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD) and Mike Paschall, President, Board of Directors.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Letter of Appreciation from Highway's End Farmer's Market

Leith-Dowling referenced a letter from Highway's End Farmer's Market Board of Directors thanking the City for the \$2,000 donation (on April 21, 2009) towards their fundraising efforts.

Musgrove stated next season's requests should be submitted during the normal budget process (in June).

## REPORTS

**City Administrator** – Mike Tvenge reported damages at the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena, from the break-in during Thanksgiving weekend, are being repaired. Glenn Wright of Delta Lock & Key is repairing locks and Morley Electric will repair damages to the electrical panel box and the system that operates emergency lights. Deductible is \$5,000 per incident, but the total costs are not yet known.

**Lands** – Pete Hallgren reported City Attorney Jim DeWitt is reviewing an easement that was drafted by GVEA to accompany Ordinance 2010-03, adopted November 24, 2009, granting public utilities in the Buffalo Center Townsite.

**Library** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the Delta Library Association Board paid for a full-page ad in the November 26, 2009 Delta Wind newspaper, thanking the community for raising \$130,000 to support the 2004 Rasmuson Foundation grant that required a dollar-for-dollar match. It also listed what was purchased and built with the money, the last being the paved parking lot.

Musgrove questioned annual library dues and if a lifetime membership could be offered.

**Park / Recreation** – Sherman Stebbins questioned the vandalism at the pavilion about one month ago.

Hallgren reported the ladies restroom door was broken.

**Public Works** – JW Musgrove reported Aurora Avenue (behind the library) is still open.

Hallgren said drifting is a problem when there is more snow.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Tvenge said the CIP list was revised at the last meeting on November 24. Dollar values for road improvements were estimated from the past two years of roadwork.

Discussion followed regarding Governor Sean Parnell's criteria for infrastructure, transportation, and education.

Musgrove referred to the End of Alaska Highway Arch and said it is embarrassing to ask for projects that do not fit into Parnell's criteria.

Hallgren referred to street paving/road improvements and asked Tvenge to talk to Deltana to see if they would tie in with the City to finish paving Souhrada Road, which would be helpful for school bus transportation and dust reduction. He referenced a new ambulance and asked to add major repairs, such as transmission replacement.

Discussion followed regarding Medic III being a "lemon" because of problems with the airbags and transmission and the cost of equipment (\$9,000+ gurneys).

Stebbins said he divided the CIP list according to wants and needs. Street paving provides opportunity for faster emergency response and a Public Works building will keep the grader and ambulances warm. He disagreed with asking for maintenance money for ambulances when the lemon should be retired.

Stebbins said the skidsteer loader is a necessity, but he felt the End of Alaska Highway Arch was not because tourists already know they are traveling to the end of the Alaska Highway. A water tender is more important than an arch and he considered the arch and airport security fencing of least importance.

Musgrove said snowmachines and four-wheelers cross the runway diagonally from Rapids Street. He referenced street paving and road improvements and asked how many people throw money into a kitty

to maintain Rapids Street. How many pilots kick in to maintain the airstrip? Likewise the ice arena, library, and Deltana Fire Department are actively involved in supporting themselves.

Hallgren said the arch is not a need, but it might be useful to businesses in town that depend upon visitors and tourists. The end of the Alaska Highway is unique to Delta Junction.

Discussion followed regarding the Fairbanks International Airport arch and need for better signage in Delta Junction.

Musgrove questioned building the arch in segments and paying for it from the general budget. He said he did not want to ask the legislature for the money to build it.

Hallgren said the arch could possibly fit into the cruise ship tax.

Leith-Dowling read the new list: 1) Street Paving / Road Improvements, 2) upgrade of the Public Works building, 3) Ambulance, 4) Skidsteer, 5) Fire Department Water Tender, 6) Airport Runway Security Fencing, 7) D8 dozer, and 8) End of the Alaska Highway Arch.

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Revision**

Leith-Dowling asked for public comment on the CEDS draft, which was revised on December 1, 2009.

Deborah Hayes, Director of Deltana Community Services Partnership Project (DCSPP), stated grant application depends on community support and the project being in line with economic strategy. She said senior housing is not identified on the 2004 CEDS plan, but a youth center is. It was removed in the revision and Hayes asked that it be put back on because, even though it has been woven into the library and hockey rink, DCSPP has data-driven information that the youth in this community want a Family Youth Center. Youth who are not interested in hockey and basketball need constructive activities.

Discussion followed regarding the youth center at the Baptist Church that was built by former mayor Roy Gilbertson, two other attempts to build youth centers, not enough funds to renovate the skating rink into a full youth center, reprioritizing items (youth center, columbarium, Post Office, middle school, and high school), and the need for a Mausoleum because of the cold climate.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Purchase Orders**

PO#013908 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$11,503.21 for Dec '09 group health insurance

PO#013909 to Crowley Petroleum in the amount of \$3,259.70 for Nov '09 heating and equipment fuel

PO#013910 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$1,174.66 for Nov '09 vehicle fuel

PO#013911 to Heritage General Contracting in the amount of \$7,104.71 for final invoice in construction of the Zamboni addition to the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena

PO#013912 to Morley Electric in the amount of \$13,569.00 for installation of outdoor rink lighting

PO#013913 to Morley Electric in the amount of \$4,740.00 for installation of LED streetlights

PO#013914 to NC Machinery in the amount of \$1,077.20 for four grader edges and bolts

PO#013915 to Simplex Grinnell in the amount of \$696.00 for annual fire alarm inspections

PO#013916 to Seekins Ford-Lincoln Mercury in the amount of \$16,470.13 for Medic I repairs from moose accident

PO#013917 to Michael Tvenge in the amount of \$550.00 for AML Conference travel and per diem

Musgrove moved to approve payment of purchase orders 013908 through 013917 as presented; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

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

Tana Wood said the End of the Alaska Highway Arch is not contradictory to the Governor's agenda because anything is worthwhile that keeps a town alive. Tourism is very significant and helps maintain a stable population. Businesses may not pay taxes, but they donate a lot to the community.

Michele Trainor asked about selling defunct equipment, particularly the old Zamboni.

Tvenge said it is on loan and Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) uses it for the "ice track."

Flower Cole stated she is heartbroken that bike paths were given less priority in the revised CEDS and are now one step from being dropped entirely. It is a health and safety issue as well as a form of transportation.

Discussion followed regarding exercise for the middle age group and moving bike paths from “unranked” to second tier priorities.

Musgrove said he really appreciates public attendance and active interest. He said even disagreements work into good discussions.

Leith-Dowling invited everyone to a fundraiser to support the senior housing project on December 12.

Hallgren said he is on the nominating committee and GVEA is soliciting candidates to represent the Delta-Salcha District. John Sloan is running for re-election, but GVEA requires at least two candidates on the ballot. Hallgren said information is available on the GVEA website (gvea.com).

Tvenge said Dave Zimmerman is tracking electrical use on Nistler Road with the new LED streetlights and there has been a 300 kilowatt savings in the last month.

Stebbins said maybe the savings on Nistler would cover the lighting for the outdoor skating rink.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Martinez moved to adjourn at 6:20pm; Stebbins seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, CMC

Approved: December 15, 2009