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**City Council Minutes**  
**January 19, 2010 ~ 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, January 19, 2010 at the Delta Junction City Hall. Councilman Lou Heinbockel called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Council members present: Lou Heinbockel, JW Musgrove, Dawn Grossmann, Sherman Stebbins
Council members excused: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren, Pablo Martinez
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

Musgrove moved to approve the January 19, 2010 agenda as presented; Stebbins seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Stebbins asked that the January 5, 2010 minutes reflect his comment about possibly creating a full-time position of \$60,000 or \$70,000 per year sometime in the future by combining what is paid for the part-time Emergency Services Assistant and the money that is paid to Dr. Andreassen, as Physician Sponsor. He said a highly qualified person could perform all of the duties of both positions. Stebbins moved to approve the January 5, 2010 minutes as amended; Grossmann seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Heinbockel called for public comments on non-agenda items with none being offered. Heinbockel paid tribute to David Kamrath, a former Council member, who passed away on January 11 in Bend, Oregon. He said, "even though David moved out of Delta, his heart never left Delta." Kamrath returned frequently to Delta, if for no other reason, to badger Heinbockel over City issues. Heinbockel said Kamrath served on the City Council between 1987 and 1990 and one of his interests was the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena. Many controversies during that time are the same as they are today.

CORRESPONDENCE

Liquor License Renewals – Pizza Bella Restaurant and The Alaskan Steakhouse

Grossmann moved to show no opposition to liquor license renewals for Pizza Bella Restaurant and The Alaskan Steakhouse; Stebbins seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent. Discussion followed regarding opposing a liquor license renewal, defending the reasoning for opposing it, and current liquor issues in Bethel, Alaska.

Chamber of Commerce – Request for use of park for Festival of Lights fireworks

Musgrove moved to grant permission to the Chamber of Commerce to host the Festival of Lights fireworks at the City Park on February 13, 2010; Grossmann seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Discussion followed regarding the time (7:30pm) of the fireworks display, the Chamber being \$100 short of their \$5,000 goal, and the “birdfeeder syndrome” pertaining to handouts.

Heinbockel said the City is often viewed as having deep pockets and he would feel much better with the community putting on the fireworks show without asking the City for funding.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Mike Crouch, President, Delta Industrial Services, Inc. (DIS), stated he brought up Granite Avenue right of way at the September 15, 2009 City Council meeting, at which he was asked to submit a proposal. He referred to his letter, dated January 4, 2010, and asked for a license or a permit to utilize the street right of way. (Part of the platted street runs between Delta Industrial properties.)

Heinbockel said abandoning Granite Avenue ROW has been brought up in the past. A similar request from Helen Orcutt, Stanford Apartments, was discussed last September. She was granted a license and was given permission to build a septic system under the platted road.

Discussion followed regarding terms of the license issued to Orcutt and possibly duplicating them.

Crouch said DIS wants to pave a parking lot and part of the street runs through their properties. To date the only improvements have been gravel.

Heinbockel asked to address the topic at the February 16 meeting to allow the administration time to discuss it with City Attorney Jim DeWitt. He said there is no current funding available for 4th Street. Improvements would be very expensive and most of the heavy traffic is from DIS.

Crouch said they do not plan to pave 4th Street. They want to raise the elevation of their parking lot so that it can join 4th Street if and when it is paved. Crouch said DIS customers and the neighboring business, Alaskan Steakhouse, would benefit from 4th Street being paved.

Musgrove said he believes paving 4th Street would serve only DIS because the Steakhouse does not need it. The license granted to Orcutt to build a septic system does not take control and occupy Granite Avenue. Crouch’s proposal would. Musgrove said, depending on the time of the year, traffic exiting the car wash becomes a hazard as it approaches the Richardson Highway.

Crouch said a lot of car washes have a slight incline that drains water off vehicles as they exit.

Musgrove suggested engineering the area so that Granite Avenue is not built up to cause problems in the future.

Tvenge said it would be wise to engineer the streets so that someday they can be paved.

Musgrove said the request is to essentially turn the property over to DIS as opposed to granting an easement license as in Orcutt’s case. DIS would assume ownership. There is nothing wrong with it; it just needs to be understood.

Grossmann asked about adjoining property owners in the area.

Crouch said Adam McNabb owns property, previously owned by Nick and Fran Colombo, on both sides of Granite Avenue. McNabb supported vacating the street when he signed the initial request.

Musgrove said the proposal is not unusual. Spenard Building Supply (SBS) owns both sides of a paved city street in Anchorage. They use it to access their lumberyard and the public is not restricted from using it.

Stebbins asked if DIS would be willing to use their equipment if upgrades were planned for 4th Street.

Crouch said Granite Avenue is presently a flat gravel pad and part of the request is not that it has to be paved, but that DIS be included in the planning so that the finished product benefits both the City and DIS. They are open to development off 4th Street because it is a growing industrial park and other businesses could develop their properties if it is paved.

Musgrove said Granite Avenue could be a valuable access road to the whole commercial area, but the security fence would have to be removed. He said there are no resources to fix past history, but the City Council must act appropriately. Granite Avenue should be vacated if DIS wants ownership of it.

Heinbockel provided history of the area and said vacating the road might be considered now that it is more developed. It will take agreement from all property owners. He said he does not foresee use of Granite Avenue in the next forty years and he is supportive in treating it the same as with the license issued to Helen Orcutt.

Tvenge said he would research a license to use the right of way.

REPORTS**Rescue Squad** – Michael Nuckols reported:

- Twelve people completed the Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) course, which was held January 9/18. He said one-third to half of them expressed interest in joining the Rescue Squad.
- Twenty-four people attended the Fire & Rescue Holiday Dinner on January 15.
- New officers were elected on January 5, but no one wanted to take the Squad Chief position. He said he would continue to serve as Acting Squad Chief until someone takes the position.
- Ft. Greely assisted on a recent local transport because squad members were unable to respond.
- They are still waiting for transmission repairs to Medic III.

Don Frazier said most automotive companies rebuild transmissions; they do not replace them with new transmissions.

Tvenge said he would inquire about warranty, even if the transmission were rebuilt.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Carin Bear referred to the Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department (DJVFD) Annual 2009 Report and said they responded to twenty-nine fire calls, eight that were inside the city limits and fifteen were automatic aide to Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD). She said the city's annual Fire Department budget is \$74,000.

Heinbockel said he does not understand why fire services are not billed out, since every homeowner pays a premium for fire insurance. He questioned what it would take for DJVFD and RDVFD to start billing so that everyone is treated the same. It could generate funds and provide financial support. Presently it is a windfall for insurance companies because they never get billed for services that they anticipate paying.

Grossmann said she would ask RDVFD and Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) about billing.

Bear said she receives a lot of inquiries about the distance between homes and the nearest fire station.

Musgrove said he would hate for residents inside the city limits to call Deltana for help because the City charges for services and Deltana doesn't.

Bear said Rural Deltana already responds to fire calls inside the City limits through the mutual aide agreement and DJVFD gives twice as much as is received from RDVFD. If the mutual aide changes, it could affect area grants.

Musgrove said the answer is for the State Legislature to allow municipalities to charge a voluntary subscriber fee that is not considered insurance.

Tvenge said Representative John Harris is working on the "Insurance Inclusion Clause" with the State Board of Insurance. Alaska Municipal League (AML) may get involved because many communities are faced with the same circumstances. Tvenge said the most recent fire calls in November and December were to subscribers who are excluded from being billed per current Code of Ordinances (Chapter 3.20, Fire Subscription Fees and Charges for Non-Subscribers).

Heinbockel said he opposed charging for services for many years because neighbors help neighbors and do not expect to be compensated for it. The bottom line is that it is an expensive service, which is continually expanding and includes annual support of \$15,000 to RDVFD and creating the new Emergency Services Assistant position. Charging for services has never been about gouging people in their time of need.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported he and Ralph Mathews gathered data on January 18 for the new airport lots. Information is necessary to request vacating a section line easement to access the lots and that process will take a minimum of one year. He said the topic would be brought back in February.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported:

- Theo Hallgren repaired and upgraded City Hall computers so they run smoother and faster.
- There was a break-in at the City Park and a bonfire, built in a trashcan in the women's restroom, caused substantial smoke damage. The locks were repaired.
- KUAC FM radio equipment, which failed almost two months ago, will be reinstalled this week.

Finance – Dave Zimmerman reported:

- He completed a 6-month budget report with actual expenses through December 31, 2009.

- Festival of Lights fireworks expenses last year was \$6,600 and the City paid half of it. \$3,300 was budgeted for FY2010, \$3,000 was approved for the February 2010 event, and \$300 is left.
- Notification was received that the City has been approved to apply for \$31,700 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and it can be used for general overhead expenses.

Stebbins asked if it could be deposited in the Permanent Fund account.

Discussion followed regarding terms of withdrawing money from the permanent fund account and possibly considering another method of savings (CD, AMLIP, money market).

Lands – Pat White reported a meeting is tentatively planned for the end of January to create a platting checklist.

Park / Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported the Little League building was vandalized again, even though there is nothing to steal.

Tvenge said a pile of snow by the outdoor rink is blocking the equipment gate door and would be removed on January 20.

Heinbockel said the location of the hockey building was a controversy in the late 1980s because some wanted it at the park and some wanted it at the fairgrounds.

Personnel – Pat White reported Elvira Zidrashko has been invaluable in helping research and organize information. She was employed as a library aid and has filled in on several occasions at City Hall.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported Butch Ellis has been removing snow, but it is slow.

Tvenge said the hydraulic hose has been ordered and the grader should be operating again by January 22. The D6 dozer pads were received and Ellis, Mitchell, and Williams will do the work in-house.

Additional Reports by Council – Dawn Grossmann referred to a memo, dated January 4, 2010, regarding the upcoming 50th anniversary of the City's incorporation in 1960. She said the Deltana Fair is scheduled for July 30/31 through August 1, 2010. New Fair Manager is Eileen Williams. In line with the City's 50th anniversary, the Fair Board's goal is to have fifty members. Grossmann distributed forms, stating individual membership is \$25/year, business is \$50/year, and lifetime is \$250. A privilege for lifetime membership is a permit to park *inside* the fence. Grossmann suggested starting or ending a weeklong birthday celebration with the fair. There could be a kick-off picnic at the park, a number of activities and events, and then it could be culminated when the fair ends.

Heinbockel said he hoped the 50th anniversary would coordinate with the Deltana Fair because a lot of younger people return home at that time.

Grossmann said the planning committee has not chosen a date for the event yet.

Discussion followed regarding a community-wide picnic, advertising for public input on the planning committee, and researching a 50th logo design to get t-shirts and silver coins made.

Stebbins and Grossmann offered to help with the planning committee.

Heinbockel called for a recess at 6:30pm and reconvened the meeting at 6:42pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GVEA Utility Easements in the Buffalo Center Townsite

Musgrove moved to approve the easement document for the GVEA ROW in the Buffalo Center Townsite as presented; Grossmann seconded.

Heinbockel said the easement document (to accompany Ordinance 2010-03, approved November 24, 2009) is in its final draft form.

Stebbins said his concern was having “non-exclusive” language in the document so that a gas company can lay pipe if there is ever an opportunity in the future.

Tvenge said GVEA staff worked with City Attorney Jim DeWitt to finalize the document.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with four (Musgrove, Grossmann, Stebbins, Heinbockel) voting.

NEW BUSINESS

Airport Subdivision – Conceptual Design

Heinbockel stated design of the new airport subdivision would be discussed at the February 2 meeting.

Purchase Orders

PO#014019 to ACS in the amount of \$1,639.71 for Jan '10 telephone service

PO#014020 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$655.78 for Jan '10 911 phones and power

PO#014021 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,392.64 for credit card charges (W-2 forms and envelopes, battery backup, address labels, coin bags, and color printer drum replacement for City Hall, two office desk chairs for City Hall, HAZWOPER renewal cards for Facility Maintenance Foreman Jeremy Williams and Landfill Equipment Operator Richard Mitchell, and glycol for library, fire hall, Rescue Squad and landfill heating systems)

PO#014022 to Construction Machinery in the amount of \$1,493.95 for 15 teeth and pins and air filters for landfill loader bucket

PO#014023 to Crowley Petroleum in the amount of \$8,634.83 for Dec/Jan '10 heating fuel oil

PO#014024 to GVEA in the amount of \$5,472.56 for Dec '09 electricity

PO#014025 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$760.88 for Dec '09 legal services (GVEA easement for Buffalo Townsite, Emergency Services Assistant job description)

PO#014026 to Theodore Hallgren in the amount of \$1,140.00 for office computer repairs

PO#014027 to Heritage General Contracting in the amount of \$1,024.45 for repairs on Community Center heating system

PO#014028 to Raymond Andreassen in the amount of \$5,000.00 for Dec/Jan Rescue Squad physician sponsorship

Musgrove moved to approve payment of purchase orders 014019 through 014028 as presented; Stebbins seconded.

Musgrove asked if Andreassen's payment (014028) was on auto-pay.

Zimmerman said bills are paid when they are received.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with four (Stebbins, Grossmann, Musgrove, Heinbockel) voting.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Flower Cole asked to plow Aurora Avenue for the Festival of Lights fireworks because Aurora provides a huge area for public parking. The fireworks are "right there" and there is no other place to park.

Heinbockel said it is a reasonable request.

Musgrove agreed as long as there is not ten feet of snow.

Cole said people really do use that access road, especially to avoid having to get back onto the Richardson Highway. She said she does understand issues about snow drifting, but would appreciate keeping Aurora open.

Heinbockel said he would check with Butch Ellis about bringing in the loader. It is not a big snow year yet, so it may not be a problem.

Stebbins asked if the repairs to the Community Center heating system are done.

Heinbockel said the furnaces were replaced not too many years ago. He suggested getting a quote or bid and hiring on an on-call basis and that he did not think there are enough trained furnace repairmen in Delta Junction since Bob Geise retired.

Stebbins said anything that has a fuel-delivery system requires a repairman that is licensed and bonded.

Heinbockel said recent repairs at the Community Center were not done by a diagnosis, but by a process of elimination.

Musgrove said the heating systems at the Community Center, library, and school are complicated. They are not just heaters.

Heinbockel said someone could make a good living repairing furnaces in this community.

ADJOURNMENT

Musgrove moved to adjourn at 6:57pm; Grossmann seconded. Motion carried.