



City Council Minutes

April 20, 2010 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting

City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at the Delta Junction City Hall. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren, JW Musgrove Sherman Stebbins, Lou Heinbockel (arrived at 5:03pm), Dawn Grossmann (arrived at 5:18pm)

Council member excused: Pablo Martinez

City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, City Clerk Pat White
Seven members from the community were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove moved to approve the April 20, 2010 agenda as presented; Stebbins seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Leith-Dowling explained word and sentence clarifications made to the April 6, 2010 draft minutes. Musgrove moved to approve the April 6, 2010 minutes as amended; Stebbins seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tana Wood encouraged attendance at the Christian Drama performances, April 24/25 at 6:30pm.

Shawn Truelove said he owns property near Granite Avenue and needed a clearer understanding of the section that is proposed for vacation.

Leith-Dowling said Truelove was given information before the meeting that satisfied his concerns.

CORRESPONDENCE

Deltana Fair Association – 2010 Alaska Gaming Permit Renewal

Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to Deltana Fair Association's application for a gaming permit; Hallgren seconded.

Hallgren said, because the annual American Cancer Society Fundraiser is so successful, other organizations have difficulty raising dollars. The Deltana Fair is equally worthy and totally local.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

John Lewis, representing the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), asked that a letter of support be sent to Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) requesting better 911 services in Delta Junction.

Hallgren explained Delta's history of dispatch in North Pole and Fairbanks and said the City of Delta Junction has provided the 911 phone lines for many years.

Discussion followed regarding the differences between 911 and E-911 and submitting a letter to FNSB.

Alaska Pipeline Project – See discussion after *Park/Recreation Report*.

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

- The EMT class is still ongoing and eight individuals have expressed interest in joining the Rescue Squad.
- A number of recent transports required assistance from Ft. Greely, including one from Arctic Man because adequately trained squad members were not available. Weekdays continue to be a challenge in scheduling volunteers during normal work hours.
- Delta Rescue operates off Deltana's mutual aid agreement and formalizing a written agreement with Ft. Greely will be one of the first tasks for the new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Assistant. Tvenge said a selection was made to fill the position, but the hiring requirements are not yet complete.
- All ambulances are operating and running fine.

Musgrove asked what happens when medical personnel are unable to respond to an emergency. Nuckols said outside assistance would be called in. The State would dispatch for a mass casualty situation and Delta relies on Ft. Greely to respond to a single-patient transport.

Fire Department – Lou Heinbockel reported Carin Bear was attending a training conference in Indianapolis, which she won in a competition at the Alaska Firefighters Conference.

Cemetery – Mary Leith-Dowling reported a walk-through at the cemetery would soon be necessary to identify damages that happened during the winter.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- A phone poll was taken on April 7 to ask permission for Heart Fur Animals to host an immunization clinic at the Community Center on June 5. The vote was 5 in favor and 2 against. [City Clerk note: The vote was reported incorrectly. Grossmann, Hallgren, Musgrove, and Leith-Dowling voted in favor and Martinez and Stebbins voted against. Heinbockel was not available by phone.]
- An informational meeting about the Delta Junction–Deltana All-Hazard Mitigation Plan will be held at the Community Center on April 27. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) identifies potential hazards and establishes protocol to deal with them. Mitigation is to identify hazards and deal with them before they can occur.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported:

- The Alaska Legislature adjourned the regular session with several Delta area projects included in the capital budget: a Rescue Squad ambulance, Public Works building renovation, school district wood chip heating system, solid waste and septic cell, street paving and road improvements, Fire Department water tender, Souhrada Road improvements, Rural Deltana Fire Department (RDVFD) deferred maintenance, and RDVFD energy efficiency upgrades. Tvenge said Governor Parnell has approximately 3 weeks to veto the projects.

Discussion followed regarding everything being zeroed out last year by Governor Palin, most of this year's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) being accepted by the new governor, and the \$3 billion worth of projects because few of them have been nixed.

Heinbockel said all the projects pale in significance compared to the \$64 million state-of-the-arts forensic laboratory in Anchorage.

- A Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) Grant application as been submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The objective will create an expanded use of the Community Center in availability of an Environmental Conservation Kitchen. Several letters were received from local agencies supporting the DEC-approved kitchen. Agricultural Marketing Service, a division of Farmers Market Promotion Program, will announce recipients of the grant funding on or before September 30, 2010.

Musgrove asked how much money it takes to build a DEC-approved kitchen.

Tvenge said the application is for \$100,000, which is the limit.

Musgrove questioned how much money goes through the Farmer's Market in one year.

Leith-Dowling said a DEC-approved kitchen could also support meal preparation for the proposed senior housing project.

Hallgren said if money were received, the grant would have to be looked at very closely. Making and selling jams and jellies at the Farmer's Market may be beneficial for private businesses, but it may be

costly to keep the annual certification. He questioned if it would increase insurance rates and what would be charged to use the facility once the kitchen is upgraded.

Tvenge said the costs would be passed on to the users.

Discussion followed regarding State certification that can be obtained through a class online, how local fundraisers are able to prepare and serve food, entering jams in competition at the local fair that are made in private kitchens, inspection requirements of the DEC kitchen being similar to restaurant inspections, and researching maintenance of a DEC-approved kitchen.

Stebbins questioned if future grants are available to replenish, replace, and repair restaurant-styled appliances because they are so pricey.

- The Alaska Small Cities Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) application has been submitted to the Alaska Energy Authority. The objective will be to reduce the city's heating fuel and electrical usage through boiler and lighting upgrades. It includes the City Hall boiler, all wall pack lighting, and some outdoor lighting at the landfill.

- Correspondence was received last week about a USDA Rural Development Energy Efficiency Grant available to businesses for energy upgrades. The City would administer the audit and businesses would pay the City 25% of the audit costs, in order for them to apply individually for an energy grant. Susie Sandy of Kelly's Country Inn thought several local businesses would be interested. A deadline for the grant application has not been announced and Delta Junction has been the only interested party that has inquired. Tvenge asked if he should get more information.

Hallgren said to research it because of the public interest.

Discussion followed regarding the grant that is available specifically to municipalities, costs for administrative service being recovered by local businesses, the City acting as a clearinghouse, the time involved to administer the grant, and researching more information about it.

- There is no shortage of rocks at the landfill. They are 5¢ per pound, 3¢ for military. Tvenge asked if free rocks could be a consideration.

Discussion followed regarding whether rocks are inhibiting the landfill operation, placing a rock near the Richardson Highway as advertisement, type (glacier-round) and size of boulders (500 to 30,000 pounds), offering rocks in exchange for garbage, other clever ideas to give them away: 10-Pounds-Per-Customer-Per-Year-Free, 5-Tons-Per-Person-Per-Year-Free, Take a Little Piece of Alaska, Adopt a Rock, and letting the scale house operator negotiate prices with the public.

Heinbockel said rocks would get stolen if they were put out near the highway with prices on them because people will think they are of value.

Hallgren said the rocks would be of value if they were in Fairbanks, but hauling them is expensive. They could be of value if a dike project or something similar is planned.

Lands – Pete Hallgren reported:

- The Ft. Greely Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) would meet at City Hall on April 21 at 6:00pm. He invited anyone interested to attend.

- Grant application for high speed wireless internet in Delta, a topic during the March 16 meeting, might be more useful for areas outside the city core that are not served by DSL. Hallgren said he had concerns about the fees associated with the fiber optics.

- Arctic Man, a populated “city” of 10,000 people, is set up (at Isabelle Camp near Summit Lake) every spring. One or more septic loads are hauled to the Delta landfill, but garbage is hauled to Fairbanks. Hallgren questioned why garbage is not delivered locally also.

Discussion followed regarding rates of hauling trash to Fairbanks compared to delivering it in Delta and getting hold of the trucking company to make arrangements for next year.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported the annual Open House will be April 24, 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Park / Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported ice should be melting off the outdoor multi-use rink and he asked about getting the basketball hoops installed.

Tvenge said Chris Morley is available. It is a matter of getting the truck in. He said the pavers advised using chalk to mark the court and to wait one year before striping it.

Heinbockel said those costs plus requests for improvements at the park should be considered in next year's budget process.

Leith-Dowling said there was a fire in the High School baseball field last weekend. The Maintenance Department at the school district would not loan a mower, so the High School coach borrowed one from a friend, which caught fire.

Discussion followed regarding repair of the lawnmower, previous history of burning the fields as part of the school's upkeep of the baseball field, user groups maintaining the ball fields, and purchase of a mower that is pulled behind an ATV.

Hallgren said specs for next year's lawn contract would need revised if the city owned a lawnmower.

Alaska Pipeline Project

Bryan Trimm, Alaska Pipeline Project (APP) Community Affairs Manager for Alaska, introduced himself and his companions, Lisa Gray – APP Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Alice Crow - Stakeholder Engagement Consultant with AECOM, and Brian Dunphy – APP Public and Government Affairs Manager. Trimm shared contact information and their website (www.alaskapipeline.com) for more information. He presented an overview of the Alaska Pipeline Project with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. A large gas treatment plant will be built in the Prudhoe Bay area to condition the gas for transport. All natural gas will be chilled so that it can be transported by buried pipeline, either by way of the Alberta Pipeline Option (734 miles in Alaska and 965 miles in Canada) or the Valdez Pipeline Option (805 miles in Alaska). Trimm explained the two options and said APP is committed to have a minimum of five in-state natural gas delivery points so local communities along the route have access to natural gas. He explained the project timeline and reasons why APP (ExxonMobil and TransCanada) believes they are better suited to build the gasline than the competitors, Denali – The Alaska Gas Pipeline Project (BP and ConoccoPhillips).

Hallgren said Delta Junction is celebrating fifty years since incorporating (initially as a 4th-class city) this summer and, with a population of 4,000 to 5,000 people, is the largest incorporated community along the pipeline to Prudhoe with the exception of Fairbanks. It is hopeful that a construction camp would be built in the area. Hallgren said an off-take would be beneficial because the military, local population, and businesses could support it.

Discussion followed regarding compressor stations, the open season process, contracting, training, and job opportunities, approximately 113 occupations and 10,000 jobs with APP by 2015, pros and cons of the two pipeline options, and the shippers and producers will decide which option is most cost effective, not APP, which is the pipeline provider, the transporter.

Brian Dunphy said results of the open season would not be known until the end of the year. Which of the two options, Alberta or Valdez, might be known by the General Election in November.

REPORTS continued

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported:

- The septic waste from Arctic Man weekend was not a whole lot, but at least it was taken to the local landfill.
- Butch Ellis does not anticipate having to purchase cover material.

School Liaison – Sherman Stebbins reported the Elementary School was broken into on Saturday evening, April 17, during daylight hours. He anticipates more incidents and plans to ask the school to secure the back playground and make it a no-trespass area because he feels the basketball court and other areas, including possibly the multi-use rink/court, are used to case the school buildings.

Discussion followed regarding the location of the Elementary School playground, schools being repeated targets of vandalism, recent pranks at another local business, and use of security cameras.

50th Birthday Celebration – Dawn Grossmann reported the budget proposal for the City's 50th anniversary might be ready for the next City Council meeting. Memorabilia items are being considered, but to avoid being in competition with other organizations, it might be best to have just hats, bags, and commemorative pins. Shirts could be limited to those who have been public officials.

Leith-Dowling said the City's 50th celebration only happens once in fifty years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS**Drafting a Resolution Opposing “An Initiative Creating an Alaska Anti-Corruption Act” Which Will Be On The 2010 Alaska Primary Election Ballot**

Leith-Dowling referenced a draft resolution that Alaska Municipal League (AML) recommended and said more information can be found online at www.stopthegaglaw.com or www.akml.org/gaglaw. She said the initiative creating an Alaska anti-corruption law would be on the Primary Election ballot, August 24, 2010. AML, National Education Association, Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB), and other groups need support in advertising opposition of the initiative. She asked for input. Grossmann said more is needed than just approving a resolution opposing the initiative because the far-reaching roots of it need to be explained. Sometimes people believe they are voting for something, when in fact they are actually voting against it.

Heinbockel suggested drafting it on City letterhead and bringing it back for approval.

Discussion followed regarding the anti-corruption initiative being misleading, an “expensive crisis” in Colorado, one of five other states that passed the initiative, and the purpose of the initiative, to get rid of corruption in local government.

Stebbins said the ballot could say, “Are you voting yes or no for this Alaska Anti-Corruption Act?” It sounds good within itself.

Heinbockel said voting against it would support corruption.

Hallgren said Alaska is an easy target because of recent corruption from crooked politicians. He believes the initiative is unconstitutional, is a shoddy piece of workmanship, and is highly deceptive. There are problems that need to be solved, but this initiative does not do it. It sounds good and it stands a chance of passing because people will not read it.

Survey ASLS No. 2009-39, ADL No. 22287 (Triangle Property where the Visitor’s Center is located) – Conveyance to the City of Delta Junction

Tvenge explained no action is necessary at this time regarding conveyance of the “triangle” property from the State of Alaska. It is simply information to show that the topic has resurfaced and is moving forward. Time has expired on the Reissue of Order for Delta Surveys to re-plot and submit it to the State for review. It is not known when conveyance will take place, but it will go back and forth before it comes back for City approval and acceptance.

Leith-Dowling said BLM accepted the plat in 1954.

Hallgren said the conveyance of property is for the Visitor's Center property, not where the Farmer's Market is located. \$4,000 was paid for the survey years ago.

Purchase Orders

PO#014230 to ACS in the amount of \$1,508.71 for April '10 phone service

PO#014231 to Amazon.com in the amount of \$696.18 for library reference books and DVDs

PO#014232 to Anchorage Daily News in the amount of \$505.00 for advertisement of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Assistant position

PO#014233 to Raymond Andreassen in the amount of \$2,500.00 for March '10 physician sponsor service

PO#014234 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$661.92 for April '10 911 phones and power

PO#014235 to Bank of America in the amount of \$520.99 for March '10 credit card services (annual Visa card fees, express postage for passport applications, Mettler Scale technician fee to help fix software problem at the landfill, landfill supplies – shop vacuum, tap set, rubber hammer, wrench holders, and vacuum cleaner filter, and refund on lodging in Oregon because Joyce McCombs cancelled her attendance at library conference)

PO#014236 to Crowley Petroleum in the amount of \$820.27 for March '10 diesel and heating oil at landfill and City Hall

PO#014237 to GVEA in the amount of \$4,569.47 for March '10 electricity

PO#014238 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$2,740.00 for March '10 legal research (vacating Granite Avenue)

PO#014239 to Joyce McCombs in the amount of \$1,422.85 for reimbursement to attend State Library Conference in Anchorage March 3/8

PO#014240 to Seekins Ford-Lincoln Mercury in the amount of \$662.85 for Medic III to replace EGR and oil coolers

Heinbockel asked to consider pulling purchase order 014238 because thousands have been spent and there is no commitment that Delta Industrial Services (DIS) will pay the associated expenses of vacating Granite Avenue, which is not to the City's benefit. The City Council already indicated willingness to go along with the investigation as long as DIS invested in the process.

Tvenge said DIS acknowledged they would pay legal fees after getting a quote from City Attorney Jim DeWitt and presently the amount is "right at the cap" of what they agreed to pay.

Discussion followed regarding recovering money that has been spent to date and taking risks on public requests.

Stebbins moved to approve payment of purchase orders 014230 through 014240 as presented; Grossmann seconded.

Musgrove asked Tvenge to get commitment to a ballpark figure from the property owners (Mike Crouch, Adam McNabb, George Sandlin) before they bail out.

Heinbockel said what has been invested to date needs to be paid.

Stebbins said a contract should have been written, but he is not concerned about the money because the City has leverage. If payment were not received, DIS would have sixty days to vacate the property.

Musgrove said a petition was signed, but without firm dollar figures of accrued costs and future costs. Regardless, Guess & Rudd must be paid.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with five (Hallgren, Stebbins, Grossmann, Musgrove, Leith-Dowling) voting in favor and one (Heinbockel) voting against.

Tvenge said he would contact Mike Crouch.

Musgrove asked if the new streetlights on Nistler and near the hockey rink reduced electricity bills.

Tvenge said the bills at the outdoor rink were higher this year, but the kilowatt-hours were surprising. \$119 was saved last month on Nistler Road compared to the same time a year ago. It is a 60% savings.

Heinbockel asked that the Alaska Small Cities Grant projects include the same type of lighting upgrades for the interior of the hockey rink because the money should be spent on skating equipment and kids instead of electric bills.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Leith-Dowling called for additional public comments with none being offered.

Stebbins asked about getting an appraisal for the acreage on Granite Avenue so that DIS is not shocked after they pay the legal expenses. Can the cart be put before the horse for a moment?

Heinbockel said all the adjacent property owners need to know the costs. He questioned a dilemma of vacating the property, not being able to sell it, and spending money that will not get any return.

Tvenge said the value of land in the area is known and the square footage is about an acre. He said he would talk to Mike Crouch and get the property appraised.

Heinbockel said once again, during seasonal breakup and as a result of the work done by DIS, the corner on 4th Street is flooded. DIS purchased two lots behind the Alaskan Steakhouse that were used for a man camp and they are filling them in and cleaning up the hazardous waste that was left behind.

Musgrove asked about the status of cleaning up the rifle range across the Richardson from the airstrip.

Tvenge said he was informed that Pat Green writes survey instructions for DNR and is working on it.

Musgrove asked about status of locating the owner of the gravel pit near Bergstad's Trailer Park.

Tvenge said the owner lives in Homer, was alarmed about the gravel pit being used for live fire, and gave permission to put up no-trespassing signs. The landowner / Homer resident was to contact the local resident about posting notices.

ADJOURNMENT

Musgrove moved to adjourn at 7:38pm; Heinbockel seconded. Motion carried.