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**City Council Minutes**  
**May 4, 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, May 4, 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, Pablo Martinez
Dawn Grossmann, Sherman Stebbins, JW Musgrove, Lou Heinbockel (arrived 5:05pm)
City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman
Facility Maintenance Foreman Jeremy Williams, City Clerk Pat White
Six members from the community were present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Martinez moved to approve the May 4, 2010 agenda as presented; Grossmann seconded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Martinez moved to approve the April 20, 2010 minutes as presented; Hallgren seconded.

PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tana Wood stated National Day of Prayer, which is “another right that we have,” is at noon on May 6 in the large conference room at City Hall.

Musgrove said Donnelly Dome is completely covered with snow and there is a lot of water, some from Donnelly and some from the normal runoff. It is crossing gravel pits on the south side of the Alaska Highway, which is a precursor to possible annual flooding.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Pablo Martinez reported the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Assistant position was filled and Mike Tvenge is looking into Aurora, the statewide EMS data collection system.

Tvenge said there are 8 new EMTs that have joined the squad.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported the State Forestry contract-helicopter arrived 4 or 5 days ago and Palmer’s regional response center is gearing up because spring is a critical time for fires until it greens up. Musgrove said he went to a trade show in Anchorage and climbed into one of the C17 airplanes that are used in the Arctic Edge exercise out of Eielson. The pilots said they come to Delta because it doesn’t take a long time to get here and they do not have to fight 747s and other aircraft that are in the Anchorage areas to make their approaches and get their night flying in.

Discussion followed regarding much of the local economy being based on the military’s presence, change in the flight pattern, and reprimanding pilots for sonic boom activity.

Cemetery – Mary Leith-Dowling reported preparations are underway for this year's first burial.

Mayor – Mary Leith-Dowling reported DOT has scheduled a public informational meeting on May 7 to meet with Granite Construction Company, who was awarded the contract to pave MP 1412 to 1422 of the Alaska Highway, and Pruhs Construction Co. LLC, who will pave the downtown Richardson Highway, between MP 265 and 267. Resurfacing is to start in mid May and finish by the end of July.

Discussion followed regarding medians being paved and why flowerpots can no longer be put there.

City Clerk – Pat White asked permission to close the office on May 6 during National Day of Prayer.

Discussion followed to post notice of City Hall being closed during the noon hour.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported:

- He attended a Hazard Mitigation meeting on April 27 with Zimmerman, Hallgren, Martinez, and members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to define natural or manmade hazards and how to mediate them. Should there be a disaster some hazards will already be recognized and Delta Junction and Deltana, one of the 10 small communities chosen, would be eligible for federal funding. Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E&E) is contracted by the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) and will work throughout the year to establish a Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Delta area has potential flood, wind, and fire hazards.

Hallgren said E&E would develop a plan based on local input.

Martinez said five teleconferences will be scheduled and the plan must be completed by May 2011. It will be presented to the community for final approval before it is incorporated into the state plan.

Discussion followed regarding community involvement, progress reporting, requirements of participation, and the plan not infringing on personal rights.

- Governor Parnell has not seen Senate Bill 230 yet, so Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) in the Delta area have not been scrutinized. He has twenty days plus Sundays to make a final decision or the projects could pass with no decision.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported:

- Around \$7,000 was raised during the Library Open House on April 24. Three hundred sixty eight people attended and thirty-nine people renewed membership or joined for the first time. Leith-Dowling said a raffle was not done and is the reason why the income was down this year.

- The Library will change to summer hours on May 15: Sunday, noon to 5:00pm, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00am-6:00pm, Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00am-8:00pm, and Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm. The library has little activity after 6:00pm on Fridays.

- About fifteen people attended "The Hollywood Librarian" on April 30. The documentary film tells a story about the battle librarians across the country have in keeping their libraries running.

Grossmann asked about getting a raffle permit for the City.

Discussion followed regarding how a permit could benefit volunteer organizations and functions that fall under the City government (Library, Delta Skating Association, Fire Department, Rescue Squad), proper handling of money (turned into the City and donated back to the fundraiser), and whether or not local governments must be notified of license renewals.

Park / Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported the vandalism in the pavilion restrooms has been taken care of and the water will be turned on May 6, in time for the first home games this weekend. A dumpster is positioned near Kimball Street.

Stebbins said he would like a standing reward of maybe \$500 that leads to arrest and conviction, something that can be a deterrent against vandalism, the City of Delta Junction Crime Stoppers.

Hallgren said he would look into it. The City Attorney could flesh it out so that the City Administrator can use his discretion.

Stebbins said it would be nice to result in arrests so that the vandals perform community service and clean up their own mess.

Heinbockel said an article in the local newspaper reported that Chris Morley volunteered to put up the basketball hoops and nets at the multi-use rink/basketball court. He said it would have cost a lot of money and, if nothing else, Morley Electric deserves to be recognized with a letter of thanks and appreciation.

Tvenge said he would send letters to all the contributors who helped install the outdoor court.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel referred to a May 4, 2010 email correspondence from Frank Maxwell at DNR regarding blocking the easement that accesses the shooting range. He said he wished to deposit some boulders to deter shooting and dumping trash.

Musgrove asked if any earth moving is permitted.

Tvenge said litter can be picked up, but DNR prefers no equipment be used because of the contamination. The State started to take care of it last summer. Several groups have inquired about cleaning it up. One lady used her station wagon and hauled several loads to the City dumpster.

Musgrove offered to use his backhoe to haul off appliances because he feels it is embarrassing to have the State pick up old refrigerators.

Stebbins said he would probably continue to use the shooting range until a no-trespassing sign is posted. He carries portable targets and packs out what he takes in. He checked out the trash on his 4-wheeler and is amazed that it spreads over one-quarter mile behind the range to Delta Concrete's protective berm. The old dump had been used for twenty or thirty years and there are 5 or 6 cars, paint cans, and torn down houses.

Musgrove said it is hazardous to shoot in the middle of town. He suggested posting signs and bringing in boulders to actually do something.

Heinbockel explained a scenario about two women picking berries in the same vicinity of the shooting range. He said many years ago the range was safe, but it has been abused. He and several other local residents have cleaned it numerous times.

Stebbins said he has concerns about people establishing other areas into shooting ranges, but not necessarily about shooting near the airstrip because he has fired pistols and shotguns at the federal range near the end of the airfield in Fairbanks with Alaska Airlines jets flying directly overhead.

Musgrove said it is fine under controlled circumstances, but you can never tell where a bullet will go when it hits a rock.

Discussion followed regarding trash between Jarvis Creek and Big Delta, thirty or forty river weights that were leftover from Alyeska (to hold down the pipeline) that were deposited to stabilize the bank of the Delta River, history of the dump, and using rocks to block the area that are big enough that they cannot be rolled out of the way.

Additional Reports by Council – JW Musgrove asked about feedback from Delta Industrial Services (DIS) about vacating Granite Avenue.

Tvenge said legal fees are \$4,020 and Mike Crouch is fine with it. He is waiting for proof of ownership from two other property owners and expects it to be on the next agenda. Tvenge said the property is about one acre and a broker said land in that area has been selling for \$10,000 an acre.

Hallgren asked that the Granite Avenue property be appraised at the same time the over-the-counter property is.

Stebbins said improvements that DIS made to the property should be included in the appraised value because the business has profited by using it and is reason why he feels it is valued more like \$20,000 or \$25,000.

Heinbockel said the appraisal fees should be passed onto DIS also because they have asked for the street to be abandoned. The City should not pay anything for the process.

Tvenge said it is clear that the costs incurred will be passed on.

Martinez asked about getting a certified engineer's opinion about 4th Street. He questioned where the water would flow if DIS paves a parking lot, how much it would cost to maintain 4th Street, especially if DIS continues using their heavy equipment, and how long it would last.

Heinbockel said he foresees DIS maintaining 4th Street, whether it is left gravel or paved, because they are the overwhelming users of it. If paved it will require better standards because of their heavy equipment. Their activity is reason for the most recent flooding. The City spent \$8,000 in 2004 to repair it and it needs it again.

Hallgren said the City provides service and in many ways are fortunate for industrial use, but there is a fine balance of constructing and maintaining streets as in this situation.

Tvenge said Crouch requested engineering on 4th Street from M2C1.

Stebbins said 4th Street gets flooded because of the way DIS designed their property. The Steakhouse property will flood if the City raises 4th Street.

Tvenge said it must be designed to ditch and culvert it to move toward the Delta River.

Heinbockel said because of the recent unusual rain for this time of year there was a lot of water in the Richardson Highway culvert between DIS and the Steakhouse. He said DIS did an outstanding job in cleaning up the mess on the bunkhouse property that they purchased.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS**Resolution 2010- 06, A Resolution Opposing “An Initiative Creating an Alaska Anti-Corruption Act”**

Leith-Dowling said Alaska Municipal League (AML), Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB), and National Education Association (NEA) are against the initiative because of having to give up rights as government or school employees.

Hallgren moved to introduce Resolution 2010-06; Heinbockel seconded. Hallgren said he read the initiative and feels some parts are excellent, but he had to scratch his head on other parts. He questioned whether anyone, including their families, that is awarded a City contract or receives funding from the City of Delta Junction (DMJX, RDVFD, Deltana Fair, Delta Sportsman's Association) would not be allowed to take part in government issues. He said he favors the resolution.

Leith-Dowling said she suspects the initiative will end up in the courts if it passes.

Discussion followed regarding tweaking the draft and unregistered voters signing petitions.

Hallgren moved to approve Resolution 2010-06 opposing an initiative creating an Alaska Anti-Corruption Act as amended; Heinbockel seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Final Approval of Over-the-Counter Replat – Blocks 26 + 27, Delta Junction Townsite, North Addition

Tvenge said a public auction will be advertised and whatever does not sell will be sold over the counter. He and Sebastian Saarloos walked through the area on April 30. Property lines are brushed and it is easier to locate them. The new lots have yet to be appraised.

Martinez moved to approve the final plat for the Delta Junction Townsite, North Addition; Musgrove seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Preliminary Approval - Pliska Subdivision

Sebastian Saarloos reported one approach to the Richardson Highway, located between Lots 1 and 2, would be the sole access for all four lots of the Pliska Subdivision. Comments are pending from GVEA and will show on the final plat.

Mark Pliska, owner of property, said one lot (2.57 acres) would be donated to the church. The rest of the subdivision was surveyed, but there are no other plans besides building the church.

Expense Budget for 50th Anniversary Celebration

Grossmann referenced the 50th Anniversary Celebration expense sheet and reported the planning committee's goal has been to keep the birthday celebration contained to a reasonable amount of activity and incorporate improvements at the park in time for the picnic. There is a potential sponsor, but the preliminary expense sheet does not reflect it. Emphasis has been to purchase from local businesses. Grossmann said approval of the budget is not requested, but \$3,000 cash up front is needed to cover immediate expenses of advertisement, invitations, and ordering commemorative pins. Once the pins are ordered, the logo can be used for advertising and ordering t-shirts and other items. She said money is available in general funds. The budget will be fine-tuned before presenting it for approval.

Heinbockel moved to approve spending up to \$3,000 of the preliminary expense budget; Martinez seconded.

Hallgren said he does not necessarily agree with everything in the budget, but is impressed with the framework. He said he hopes the potential sponsor could donate toward the whole project and allow the City to make the decisions in how it is to be spent. The birthday celebration is an opportunity to showcase our town and this will be the only one for a very long time.

Martinez agreed and also expressed appreciation for the work involved in the planning. He said some improvements are needed at the park, particularly latrines that will last without being destroyed. The present outhouses are over thirty years old. He asked to fix what needs repaired, including straightening the fence.

Tvenge said some projects could be included in the 2011 budget.

Heinbockel said the 2011 budget would not come into play until July 1.

Discussion followed regarding bringing a revised budget back on May 18, selling t-shirts and hats or giving them away with commemorative pins, selling 50th t-shirts without conflicting with Fair sales, local

contributions and purchasing, Mike Kingston's participation, giving t-shirts to volunteers and tournament champions (instead of trophies), acknowledging volunteers and contributors, advertising for sponsors and support from the community, not knowing how many people will attend the picnic and therefore not being able to project how much food to order or how many porta-potties to reserve, the budget process, and possible Pogo participation in the celebration.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Stebbins asked to scratch the 6-yard dumpster expense (\$266) because he would donate use of his three-quarter ton truck instead.

Heinbockel said he hopes for good public turnout for the picnic and if it is successful, he suggested investing in a time capsule to be opened in fifty years, prior to the 100th celebration.

Discussion followed regarding using the lime green tanker for a time capsule and items to put in it (pictures, FY2011 budget, a check deposited in an interest-earning account at the local bank).

White said it would take time for people who have lived in Delta Junction for the past fifty years to share their photos (for the DVD collection to be played at the fair booth) and favorite songs over the past fifty years (for music at the picnic). White asked City Council members to go through their photos too.

Everyone is encouraged to contribute photos, whether people have made Delta their home fifty or sixty years ago or ten or twenty. She said Grossmann would write an article for the newspaper.

Discussion followed regarding getting photos and business advertisements from school annuals and a letter that Helen Warren, Jack Warren's wife, received in 1960 that delayed her retirement until the Post Office could be moved from Big Delta to Delta Junction.

Hallgren said the celebration is centered on the City of Delta Junction's incorporation, but it clearly is an area wide celebration for the whole community.

Grossmann said the 50th celebration has been advertised as a community event.

Purchase Orders

PO#014261 to Aetna WHO-AAS in the amount of \$10,822.88 for May '10 group health insurance

PO#014262 to Crowley Petroleum in the amount of \$3,493.01 for April '10 heating oil

PO#014263 to Delta Industrial Services in the amount of \$1,185.73 for services to reinforce base and weld broken racks on the landfill's gravel screen "grizzly"

PO#014264 to Interior Building Supply in the amount of \$722.00 for equipment, materials to replace hot water boiler circulating pump at City Hall, paint to mark vehicle parking on floor at the Fire Department, mop, dustpan, and broom for Public Works building, rubber gloves to clean walls at park pavilion, and parts (drill bits and bolts) to put up basketball poles and hoops at multi-use rink/BB court

PO#014265 to Mathews Land Surveying in the amount of \$4,527.50 for surveying services to draft and vacate easement of new airport lots

PO#014266 to NC Machinery in the amount of \$1,142.07 for grease and shims for D6 dozer and pinion gear replacement that turns/rotates grader blade

PO#014267 to Carin Bear in the amount of \$1,498.77 for reimbursement to attend firefighter conference in Indiana

PO#014268 to Yukon Equipment in the amount of \$540.68 to replace drive chain that turns blades and change out broken front rock shield on John Deere tractor

Musgrove moved to approve payment of purchase orders 014261 through 014268 as presented; Martinez seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel said he is tired of trying to defend the rifle range and supports cleaning it up and shutting it down. He asked Jeremy Williams if he had any input.

Williams said to keep in mind the vehicle loads because of the weight restrictions.

Heinbockel questioned the military diverting water from flowing through Eddy Drop Zone.

ADJOURNMENT

Martinez moved to adjourn at 7:03pm; Grossmann seconded. Motion carried.