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**City Council Minutes**  
**July 6, 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, July 6, 2010 at the Delta Junction City Hall. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.

Council members present: Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Mayor Pro tem Pete Hallgren (telephonically until 5:57pm), Dawn Grossmann, Lou Heinbockel, Sherman Stebbins, Pablo Martinez, JW Musgrove  
City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman  
Librarian Joyce McCombs, City Clerk Pat White  
Six members from the community were present.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Martinez moved to approve the July 6, 2010 agenda as presented; Stebbins seconded.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Musgrove moved to approve the June 15, 2010 minutes as presented; Martinez seconded.

**PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Jennifer Brant, fast Pitch Softball coach, asked permission to set up tents at the park during the 10U and 12U softball tournaments throughout the Deltana Fair weekend. There will be approximately 15 out-of-town teams.

Heinbockel asked about the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Brant said that she is hopeful that there will not be any and she will post our ordinance regarding it on the flyer that the coaches will be distributing to all the parents of participants.

Stebbins also wanted to point out that there will be no pets allowed in the park.

Hallgren expressed concern if port-a-potties would be needed.

Brant said she plans to give a heads-up to the first responders of the tournament and will have her teams do a sweep of the camping area to help insure that no tent stakes are left behind.

White asked that two extra port-a-potties be added just in case there is a problem with the restrooms already on site.

Brant thought that having two near the playing fields and another two near the camping area would be sufficient.

Heinbockel moved to give permission for camping at the park and to host a softball tournament on July 30 and 31; Stebbins seconded.

Discussion followed regarding the other softball tournament being held in July and the use of alcohol in the park.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Tvenge asked Brant if she had all fields covered for the weekend.

Brant said that they would be using 3 of the 4 fields and is hoping to get some heavy equipment to go over the fields to get them ready for use.

White asked if the softball association was paying for all the work.

Brant answered that it was being paid for by donations. She said that she will designate the soccer field as the location for camping.

## REPORTS

**Fire Department** – Dawn Grossmann reported that Vern Heintz is operating chief at this time and they are working on replacing Chief Bear. They held a clean up day at the fire department and Stebbins hauled the debris to the landfill.

Stebbins asked if City Council has input on who will be the new fire chief.

Heinbockel said that the Council has in the past acted on the advice of the fire department and generally accepted their recommendation.

Heinbockel moved to accept Fire Chief Bear's letter of resignation with regret; Hallgren seconded.

Hallgren also wants a formal resolution to thank her for her service.

Grossmann agreed that the whole event that prompted her premature resignation was regretful but suggested letting all the volunteers know how much the Council appreciates them and all the work they do. The Council should acknowledge the countless hours Bear put in; the department will have a hard time finding someone to fill her shoes.

Leith-Dowling said that part of the problem the department is stressing over is the feeling that none of them have the same kind of hours to give in order to hold things together.

Musgrove said he is disappointed in events that led up to Bear's resignation and hope we can stand behind future chief better than we did for Bear. The council had numerous correspondences from her detailing the problems that led up to that resignation and we did absolutely nothing. We've got one member of the greater community that is primarily responsible for numerous problems and that has not been directly addressed.

Heinbockel said he would vote against his own motion. He does respect Pastor Bear's very definite concern that we have no more than six or eight volunteers trained to be out there. He thinks that we are down to that number; the Council should take a real hard look at what authorities consider a safe way to operate the fire department. He said he thinks we don't have enough volunteers with the skills, training, knowledge and the ability to drive our equipment and do it in a safe fashion. He continued by saying that if that is the way we are told it is, he will support shutting the fire company down, locking the doors and walking away from it. In the ten or twelve years he has been on the council, there have been two fatalities in this community both of which, our employees, died as a result of activities with the fire company. He said he wants no more of that. If we can't get more than 6 or 8 people to be trained and active maybe we should not be in business.

Tvenge said that he talked to the State Fire Marshall's office and gave them a report of our current status. He stated that the subject of how many we need to operate was not brought up but he will ask what the safe number is. He says he knows that the number of responders per occurrence or incident affects insurance ratings. He is not sure if 2 or 3 are deemed unsafe. With the automatic aid agreement, we have more showing up. At the last fire on Quartz Avenue 17 showed up.

Heinbockel asked without 3 on the truck, how safe is it?

Stebbins asked how safe it is to shut down the fire department and tell all our volunteers not to respond.

Heinbockel said we are losing; at the first of the week we had eight, we now have seven.

Grossmann said that our aid agreement means that we are not the only fire department that rolls.

Discussion continued regarding recruitment of volunteers and training standards.

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

**Airport** – JW Musgrove said that a volunteer, Dave Webber, from outside the city limits came by and did some mowing along the east taxiway. Jack Morris, Treasurer of Delta Pilot's Association, made out a check in the amount of \$4000 for the contribution for the annual Airport Liability Insurance and operations.

**Mayor** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported that the next council meeting (July 20) may not be able to start at 5:00pm. Pogo has invited Zimmerman, Tvenge, and Leith-Dowling to represent the City and take a tour of the mine facilities. She said that since they hope to meet the bus at the mine road rather than in Fairbanks they should finish between 4:00 and 5:00pm.

Discussion followed regarding starting the meeting on July 20, 2010 at 6:00pm.

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported passport fees would increase, effective July 13, 2010. Passport books for adults (age 16 and over) will increase from \$75 to \$110, and minors (age 15 and under), \$60 to \$80. Adult cards will increase from \$20 to \$30, and minors, \$10 to \$15. City Hall's acceptance facility fees will remain at \$25 per application.

**City Administrator** – Mike Tvenge reported that Frank Maxwell, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), has been working with the City on the municipal entitlements that Robert Layne had started before he retired. Some of those include the land north of the trespass rifle range and another parcel on the east side of the highway. He said that he also talked with him about the Pioneer Park and what can be done. He said Maxwell will send us the information on procedures to dispose of the land. Maxwell thinks the best scenario will be a long-term lease. Otherwise it will have to go to public auction at fair market value. Terms could be written into the lease agreement as to what happens if the Pioneers relinquish the property at some point. Liability insurance on that parcel is covered with through AMLJIA because any land we lease or own is included in general liabilities.

Tvenge also said that George Horton, DNR, has come to a preliminary decision on the easement on the east end of the runway. Now the process will go through a public notice with the state and once there is no objection we will be notified so that we can go through our public vacation protocol. Horton hopes to have something completed by the end of the year.

Last Friday the Legislative grant documents from the Dept. of Commerce Community and Economic Development arrived for the ambulance, landfill and water tender. The wood fired boiler grant for the school was given to City to administer. He said he would like to sign a letter of agreement to hand it back over to the school to administer. The grant was for \$800,000+.

Tana Wood said that the original grant from the State was automatically reduced because we are on the proposed rail belt.

Musgrove said garbage is once again accumulating at the old firing range and asked why the City couldn't put up a sign and post notices that it is no longer a rifle range. We should post notices on the bulletin boards and in the newspaper and then we could notify the troopers that it is not a rifle range. This is an extreme public safety problem. When you have a bullet hole in a beer can you know that those two are not supposed to go together. We know people recreate and forage there; the least we can do is put up a sign that says to be careful. We have got to do something before someone gets shot.

Leith-Dowling reminded Musgrove that it is state property.

Musgrove replied that the State gave us permission to block it off; we should be able to do something.

Tvenge said that the State asked us what we wanted to see happen; did we want to discontinue the rifle range? Do we want to clean it up in order for Forestry to use it as an access across the river?

Musgrove asked to at least put up a sign.

Heinbockel said he agreed.

Hallgren said he agreed that we should put up a sign that it is no longer a range for shooting.

He also wanted to talk about the rental policies for City facilities. He is confused by the "90 days" and thinks it should be listed as 3 months. He also questioned asking for a \$300 deposit for the tile side of the community center as he thinks it may be too high. He said he feels, after looking at the land appraisals, the appraiser has them priced at lower than we would have sold them for originally, and that he has no problem with that.

Hallgren was excused at 5:57pm.

Discussion continued on the rifle range and placement and wording of signage.

Heinbockel directed Tvenge to have City crew put up some signs.

Stebbins asked about ATV usage of paved roads.

Discussion followed regarding State and City laws prohibiting ATV's using paved roads for other than to gain access to a trail.

Heinbockel asked the school board members in the audience whether they would permanently set the school's one-way signs instead of having them in the barrels and being blown about by the wind.

**Finance** – Dave Zimmerman reported he had received the payment from Alaska Department of Forestry on the rental of the hockey building during the Gillies Creek fire in the amount of \$11,550. There will be another payment coming.

**Library** – Joyce McCombs reported that an evening movie will be shown for summer readers utilizing the big screen TV. The theme this year is all about water so they are showing Swiss Family Robinson. The show will be from 7:00pm-9:00pm and the library is providing the popcorn. Friday is Pirate Day so the movie ties in nicely. She also announced the arrival of two Gates computers which is the second half of their Gates Foundation Grant. A printer is also coming, but from a separate grant.

The Library Board donated \$500 toward the stage for the Community Center.

She has just filed the paper work for the Public Library Assistance Grant that we receive each year from the State Library in the amount of \$6,300.

On Thursday, July 15, the President of the Alaska Library Association is coming to Delta. He will be teleconferencing the Alaska Library Association Executive Council meeting from our library. He is bringing the jade gavel that has been with the state library association for decades; Harold Stock is making a birch case to store it in. She added that there have been a lot of 200-body days and the upcoming month of July is the busiest.

Leith-Dowling suggested that we put some gravel pads in along the back side of the library along Aurora Avenue so that patrons wanting to use the Wi-Fi can park in the rear to take the pressure off of the front parking situation.

McCombs said she would like to give Jeremy Williams the credit for that as it was his idea to have a Wi-Fi parking area.

**Park / Recreation** – Lou Heinbockel said that the summer kids are doing a nice job on the clean up in the park.

Tvenge said there was some finishing work to be done on the pathways.

**Public Works** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported she has received requests for street grading for Gibson Lane and Hughes Street (which runs between Eielson and Reeve).

Martinez remarked that since the construction on the Highways has started the connector road from the Co-op and the fire station is being used a lot and has need of attention.

Heinbockel said that all our roads would be done before winter sets in.

Tvenge said that there is some paving grant money left. The money we asked the state for this year was specifically for improvements on the outlying roads. We did not get that money this year.

Stebbins said he asked Burcham about the state highway right of way and found that it is 150' from center line. Contractors should have more respect for businesses that really depend on the summer traffic and there are some places that are being bypassed because of all the equipment being staged in the right of ways. Trucks and RV's cannot access the parking lots so business is cut off. He is upset with the scattering of the equipment all over town in the right-of-ways.

Tvenge said that he asked that the equipment be localized into one area at night, but it didn't happen.

Musgrove said he thought that the businesses should not have built so close to the right-of-way.

Heinbockel said that it will all be over in a week and that he had been impressed by how well they had kept traffic moving through town and in and out of businesses.

**School Liaison** – Sherman Stebbins reported that the School Board appointed Duncan Ware as interim Superintendent. A search for a permanent Superintendent will be starting soon. Construction continues at the school; they hope to have the new heating system done before school starts. He clarified by saying the new diesel fired boiler will be inside and connected to the outside wood fired boiler. The diesel boiler will only be used for back-up.

**50th Birthday Celebration** – Dawn Grossmann reported: Business letters were sent out to out-of-town businesses and an additional \$900 was received. The total cash contribution at this time is \$4800.

Lockheed Martin has stepped up and said they will help by producing tote bags with our logo and have expressed an interest in volunteering their help at the picnic. There has been a request to sell shirts and hats at picnic. We have sold more than half of the shirts and more than 400 have signed up to attend the picnic. We also have more music than time we have time to play. We have garnered a couple of town characters to pass the microphone and tell stories of the early days. The committee is working on a float and the goal is to see how many previous and current council members to ride on float.

Grossmann asked Stebbins about the basketball give away.

Stebbins said that he had contacted Michelle Trainor to get the winners at the City Hall at a particular time for a photo.

Grossmann thanked Mike Kingston for the new mayor photos and for scanning the photos for the DVD to give away at the fair. It is very exciting how it is all coming together. White has done a tremendous amount of work. She added that an additional order for tee-shirts and sweat-shirts will be sent in.

**Additional Reports by Council** – Lou Heinbockel said he is really glad to be here (after a short hospital stay in Fairbanks).

Tvenge said that gravel has been donated by DIS (Delta Industrial Services). They have donated equipment (forklift & bucket lift) and are committed to do whatever it takes to get project at the park done in time for the picnic. That included getting the pavilion repairs done also.

Heinbockel asked if they are paying the costs associated with the vacation of Granite Avenue.

Tvenge said they have sent a check for what was invoiced to them. The State is now questioning our right to vacate the street and he would talk about that later.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **New Prices for North Delta Townsite Lots**

Tvenge referred to the listing of the new 5 parcels as well as the disposal of land information. We need to set a price for new parcels and any terms and conditions that go along with that sale. He explained that the costs of the surveying and appraisal were divided evenly and added to all five lots appraised value to come up with a suggested value. The Council needs to set a minimum bid price for the auction.

Leith-Dowling said we also need to set a date and advertise for 30 days prior to auction.

Tvenge said the auction terms were typed on the bottom for reference.

Heinbockel said he doesn't feel that there is a great demand for raw property at this time. Let's set the minimum bid as the total new lot cost and put it up for auction.

Tvenge said the Council must create a resolution to set up for an auction. We need to decide who will hold the auction. By ordinance it can be a broker, the Mayor or the City Manager.

Heinbockel asked if it had to be an outcry auction or could it be by sealed bids.

Grossmann said sealed bid allows more to participate.

Martinez said he felt a sealed bid would enable the City to have a better record of the auction and in the case of a controversy, you have all the paperwork.

Tvenge verified that the Council wanted the auction to be by sealed bid, \$500 in a cashier's check or money order is due at time auction with the balance due in 10 days.

Leith-Dowling said to put it together as a resolution for the next City Council meeting on July 20 and the date can be set at that time.

Leith-Dowling called for a recess at 6:46pm and reconvened the meeting at 6:56pm.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Revision of Rent Policy for Community Center and City Hall Conference Rooms**

Leith-Dowling referred to a revised rent policy. Burcham divided it into two separate sheets for ease of use. A committee comprised of Leith-Dowling, Musgrove, Tvenge and Zimmerman worked on the revisions.

Heinbockel moved to accept the committee's recommendation of the revised rent policy; Stebbins seconded.

Zimmerman said we have allowed people to use the meeting room counter in City Hall for food service.

Leith-Dowling said food and drink preparation should not be allowed.

Discussion followed regarding the amendments to the revised rental policy.

Heinbockel moved to approve the committee's recommendation on the rental policy with the amendments; Stebbins seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent with six in attendance.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#014378 to AED Superstore in the amount of \$9,430.05 for 7 LifePak AED (Automatic Electronic Device) defibrillators for Rescue Squad

PO#014379 to Alfax Furniture in the amount of \$1,159.00 for freight on portable stage to be used at the Community Center

PO#014380 to Amazon.com in the amount of \$612.90 for InFocus projector to be used at City Hall

PO#014381 to Arctic Fire & Safety in the amount of \$790.00 for 2 cases of fire suppressors for FD

PO#014382 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$661.92 for June '10 911 phones and power  
PO#014383 to Bank of America in the amount of \$4,444.42 for credit card charges (300 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary hats and heating element for hot water heater in City Hall kitchen)  
PO#014384 to Crowley Petroleum Distribution in the amount of \$2,260.00 for June '10 diesel fuel and oil used at the landfill  
PO#014385 to Delta Lumber in the amount of \$1,045.44 for 4 corner posts used to repair Kiwanis gazebo at the park  
PO#014386 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$758.01 for June '10 mower and vehicle fuel  
PO#014387 to Government Computer Sales in the amount of \$1,790.00 for 2 Dell computers for the library  
PO#014388 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$1,160.00 for May '10 legal services (vacating Granite Avenue)  
PO#014389 to Moore Medical in the amount of \$1,322.27 for ambulance supplies (thermo-strips, syringes, wipes)  
PO#014390 to The Pin Center in the amount of \$1,560.00 for 1,000 50th Anniversary commemorative pins  
PO#014391 to Peter S. Sorenson in the amount of \$1,500.00 for supervision of Kiwanis gazebo repairs  
PO#014392 to Street, Guinn Appraisers in the amount of \$1,000.00 for appraisal of North Delta Townsite lots  
Martinez moved to accept purchase orders 014378 through 014392; Grossmann seconded.

Musgrove asked about fire suppressors.

Zimmerman said it is the foam used for fire suppression.

Tvenge said it is in 5-gallon buckets and carried on the trucks.

Heinbockel questioned PO#014388 and whether DIS had paid.

Tvenge said the previous invoice had been reimbursed by DIS. He added that the State cannot tell us if we, as a municipality, have the power to vacate a street. It has gone all the way to the Attorney General and they still do not have an answer for us. Guess & Rudd says we do.

Leith-Dowling said the whole thing would not have come up unless it was requested.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with six in attendance.

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

Sherry Heinbockel said that with Chief Bear's resignation you have lost one of the most dedicated, well-trained, educated fire chiefs you have ever had. She was one of only two EMT III's in our area.

Grossmann said there is no one that is capable of putting in the hours that Bear gave.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Musgrove moved to adjourn at 7:12pm; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

Letha Burcham, Acting City Clerk

Approved: July 20, 2010