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**City Council Minutes**  
**December 21, 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, December 21, 2010 at the Delta Junction City Hall. Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

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

City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, EMS Assistant Angela Lentz  
Maintenance Foreman Jeremy Williams, City Clerk Pat White

Five members from the community were present.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Leith-Dowling called for amendments to the December 21, 2010 agenda with none being offered.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

White explained minor word and sentence changes that she made to the draft minutes.

Grossmann moved to approve the December 7, 2010 minutes as amended; Porter seconded.

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

White reported Mike Kingston framed portraits of City Council members posing in front of the gazebo outside of City Hall on December 7. He gave one to each of them as Christmas gifts and he also made a larger one to keep at City Hall. White reported Kingston took photos of the lunar eclipse on December 20 and she asked if it could be put in the time capsule. (There will not be another total lunar eclipse until December 21, 2485.)

Discussion followed regarding putting Kingston's signed photo in the time capsule and when the eclipse was visible.

Leith-Dowling stated the community is very appreciative of Kingston for his efforts in preserving Delta area history. He helped with 50th anniversary events and the DVDs of photos taken in the past fifty years, as well as continually helping at numerous fundraisers and events. She said she appreciated Kingston's willingness to help in community events.

Ken Farrow, Executive Director of Alpha Omega Life Care Inc., referenced his December 21 memo and asked for input and solutions to raise revenue for food distribution programs because Alpha Omega is no longer able to subsidize them. Farrow said he does not have a vested interest in controlling the programs, but he is interested in keeping them alive. Close to 2,000 individuals and families were served in 2010 and 41 tons of groceries were brought to the Delta community with as much as 8,000 pounds per trip. In the course of the year there were 765 volunteer hours plus 5,000 miles put on the delivery truck. The program has grown over time, as has the size of the delivery vehicle. Farrow said the service would be shut down if they do not receive support by January.

Porter offered to help solicit interest.

Discussion followed regarding other agencies that could possibly take over, eligible Delta residents being forced to pick up food boxes in Fairbanks, the cost of travel to Fairbanks, 92 families being served in the last delivery, what other businesses would charge to transport the food to Delta, inability to accept donations from food recipients, being eligible for food boxes is unrelated to being eligible for public assistance and food stamps, and money needed immediately for vehicle repairs.

Farrow presented the *Quaker Benediction* to Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, which she read. "When the song of the angel is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers, to make music in the heart."

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Gaming Permits – Nenana Ice Classics

Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to the gaming permit renewal submitted by Nenana Ice Classics; Stebbins seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

## REPORTS

### Rescue Squad – Angela Lentz reported:

- An EMT I class will begin January 1 for Rural Deltana firefighters (RDVFD), City firefighters (DJVFD), and Delta Rescue Squad EMTs. There is discussion to host a second EMT I class and open it to the public. An EMT II class will be offered the end of January or early February and at this time, six squad members and two Ft. Greely EMTs will attend.

- The Rescue Squad is requesting permission to apply for the Code Blue Grant to purchase a four-wheeler and four-place trailer. The application is due December 30, 2010. Lentz asked, "Why is the equipment needed?" and answered, because Alaska State Troopers (AST) get involved in Search-and-Rescue situations only, but it is the squad members that respond to backwoods emergencies using their own personal equipment. Lentz explained the squad responded to four or five calls during hunting season that required four-wheelers and a boat.

Discussion followed regarding purchasing used equipment if grant funding is not pursued, surviving as a squad for 30 years without multiple pieces of equipment, Delta Rescue Squad's huge geographical area, concerns with volunteer responders on off-road rescues, Lentz researching how other small communities handle isolated rescues, and when the National Guard is called in.

Musgrove said he has concerns with purchasing a trailer and not having a city-owned vehicle to pull it.

Tvenge said Interior Region EMS Council (IREMS) has already leased a snowmachine and a toboggan to the Delta Rescue Squad through a Code Blue Grant.

Heinbockel said he has no problem in providing snow machines, toboggans, four-wheelers, or trailers because the volunteers are willing to help anyone in need, but he does have concerns about theft and where they will be stored. The crash response vehicle had some firefighting capabilities, but it is now the city's maintenance truck. He suggested working with Rural Deltana.

Mike Paschall said RDVFD has a 4WD rescue truck.

Discussion followed regarding checking with AMLJIA to clarify if volunteer vehicles are covered, taking advantage of available funding that would benefit the community, estimating the costs of four-wheelers, six-wheelers, and trailers, supporting volunteers by applying for the grant, mutual aid from Rural Deltana and Ft. Greely, and researching purchase of a response vehicle.

Heinbockel moved to pursue the grant, not to exceed \$18,000.00 with the city's share of up to 20% (\$3,600.00); Porter seconded.

Stebbins said he would donate his time and expertise to install accessories and set up the vehicle.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with seven (Porter, Hallgren, Grossmann, Stebbins, Heinbockel, Musgrove, Leith-Dowling) voting.

Heinbockel said he was confronted about a situation in which a patient needed medical transportation to Fairbanks. Delta could not provide the service, so Tok did.

Lentz explained the circumstances and why Tok responded. Ft. Greely cannot transport out of the area and they are also limited to transporting military dependents and active military, not retired vets.

Discussion followed regarding private organizations operating ambulance services and possible scenarios of working with neighboring ambulance services.

### Fire Department – Dawn Grossmann reported:

- Donation-request letters were mailed to 114 businesses and 374 residences on December 13/14 and to date, \$2,020 has been collected from businesses and \$1,275 from residences.

- Angela Lentz' title is Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Assistant. Grossmann asked to change it to Emergency Services (ES) Coordinator.

Leith-Dowling called for comments and hearing none, agreed to change Lentz' title.

**Airport** – JW Musgrove reported volunteer pilots would replace some cones and Silas Hill has packed the snow.

**Mayor** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported:

- A packet of information from the Headquarters Alaskan Command (ALCOM) is available online ([www.jpisceis.com](http://www.jpisceis.com)) or copies can be made at City Hall. Leith-Dowling identified some of the proposed changes and plans to modernize and enhance the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC), all land, air, and sea training areas used by the Army, Navy, and Air Force in Alaska. She said a Scoping Meeting is scheduled at the Alaskan Steakhouse on January 19, 2011, 6:30 to 8:30pm and public comments can also be submitted by February 4, 2011.

Hallgren asked that Tvenge review the 2006 written agreement with U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK).

- Employees were given IGA gift cards, \$50 to full-time employees and \$25 to part-time, in time for the employee Christmas party on December 10. Leith-Dowling said the decision was made without input from the full Council and she has received numerous appreciative phone calls and cards. Discussion followed regarding the expense not requiring a full Council vote and notifying the full Council when impromptu decisions are made.

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported City Hall would be closed on Christmas Eve (Friday, December 24) and New Year's Eve (Friday, December 31). The landfill will be open on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and closed on Christmas Day (Saturday, December 25) and New Year's Day (Saturday, January 1, 2011).

**City Administrator** – Mike Tvenge reported on several pending projects:

- It has not yet been determined who, the City or DGSD, will administer the grant for the school district's woodchip boiler.
- Soliciting for a new ambulance is getting close.
- Replat of Granite Avenue should be ready to present at the first or second meeting in January.
- The State DNR is making progress on the airport subdivision.

**Library** – Mary Leith-Dowling reported;

- Joyce McCombs went to Anchorage last week for training on high-speed Internet connections and was given \$13,991 in new computer equipment for the library.
- The Chamber of Commerce Gingerbread House competition is on display through December 23.

**Public Health & Safety** – Nickole Porter asked if security cameras could be put on the Legislative Capital Project List because of safety concerns and vandalism, particularly at the rink and the intersection of the school district. She said she has knowledge of what works in the Alaskan climate, without a power supply, etc.

Musgrove said he is not opposed to pursuing the research.

Hallgren said he is interested in learning more, especially where surveillance is needed. He said he was unhappy with the system that was set up at the landfill.

**Additional Reports by Council** – Lou Heinbockel reported Delta Concrete was contracted for road maintenance. It cost \$900 for 3 ½ hours of grader work and 4 ½ hours on a plow truck. There was no wear and tear to city equipment and there were no additional fuel expenses.

Musgrove said he hated to farm out everything and not depend on city employees, but he felt the contract work was a good use of public money.

Hallgren said the local government's purpose is to provide services, not to employ people.

Discussion followed regarding history of keeping the streets maintained and managing priorities.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **FY2012 Capital Project / Legislative Wish List**

Tvenge referred to his memo, dated December 15, 2010, that listed capital projects that were discussed at the December 7 meeting. He added a dollar amount and asked to discuss and prioritize the list.

Discussion followed regarding the importance of having storage space for equipment, renovating the Public Works building or replacing it, meeting building codes, purchasing a building that is already constructed, installing up to seven more poles behind the school (Secondary Complex), opposite the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena on North Clearwater, replacing mercury bulbs with LED, combining security devices with street lighting, park outhouses being more important than bike paths, partnering with Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) on the bike path project and then dropping the bike path entirely from the Capital Project List, and difficulty in replacing lights bulbs in cold weather.

Tvenge said street paving and road grade improvements include rehabilitation of existing gravel roads.

Leith-Dowling said to include crack sealing to extend the life of the roads.

Heinbockel stressed the importance of upgrades to the Richardson Highway, seven miles south toward Ft. Greely. He said a new bridge, widened road, and bike paths are needed and he explained a possible situation of a school bus crossing the Jarvis Creek Bridge at the same time a convoy of Stryker vehicles are crossing.

Discussion followed regarding Senator Begich's project priorities (supporting infrastructure, energy efficiency, and public safety), building bike paths when roads are built, DOT's decision to prioritize passing lanes north of Delta on the Richardson Highway instead of upgrading road conditions south of Delta, and Jarvis Creek Bridge upgrades still on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).

Hallgren asked to broaden the request for outhouses at the park to make other improvements, including a decent electrical system at the pavilion.

Porter said the pavilion needs a sanitary environment in order to serve food in the concession area.

Decent lighting is also needed.

Heinbockel said to pave walkways at the park so that they are ADA (Americans Disability Act) compliant.

Discussion followed regarding the poor quality of water at the park and the final list of Capital projects:

- 1.) Street paving, crack repair, and rehabilitation,
- 2.) Public Works building renovation or replacement,
- 3.) Outhouses near the Little League ball field and playground and paved ADA-compliant walkways, and
- 4.) Community street lighting and security plan.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2011-05, An Ordinance Amending Title III, Public Health and Safety, Chapter 3.20, Fire Subscription Fees and Charges for Non-Subscribers**

Leith-Dowling recommended postponing introduction of the rewritten ordinance to allow time to read the proposed draft.

Hallgren moved to table the agenda topic until the next regular meeting (January 4, 2011); Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **Purchase Orders**

PO#014749 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$649.65 for Dec '10 911 phones and power

PO#014750 to Bank of America in the amount of \$3,959.61 for credit card charges (Tvenge, Grossmann, and Hallgren lodging in Juneau for AML conference, airfare for two Rescue Squad members to attend training at the Alaska EMS Symposium in Anchorage, Rescue Squad training booklets, repair parts for ambulance garage door, paper supplies and coffee for Rescue Squad, McCombs travel to Anchorage for broadband training, library books, CDs, and DVDs, and janitorial cleaning supplies)

PO#014751 to City of Fairbanks in the amount of \$10,207.26 for 911 dispatch service, July 2010 through June 2011

PO#014752 to Crowley Petroleum in the amount of \$7,086.75 for Nov '10 heating oil

PO#014753 to Guess & Rudd in the amount of \$942.18 for legal services to revise platting guidelines

PO#014754 to ACS in the amount of \$1,526.09 for Dec '10 telephone services

PO#014755 to GVEA in the amount of \$3,504.37 for Nov '10 electricity

Musgrove moved to approve purchase orders 014749 through 014755 as presented; Grossmann seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with seven (Musgrove, Heinbockel, Stebbins, Grossmann, Porter, Hallgren, Leith-Dowling) voting.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mike Paschall asked to contact mutual aid providers, Rural Deltana and Ft. Greely, for their opinion on charging for fire service calls.

Stebbins asked to call a meeting with DJVFD and Ft. Greely to decide how to bill when multiple agencies respond to a scene. Would fees be split?

Hallgren said to let Tvenge meet with them and make a recommendation.

Heinbockel said the Council must decide if they are or aren't going to charge for firefighting services.

Musgrove said to include an opt-out clause so homeowners can refuse service.

Heinbockel said it could be similar to the waiver that allows patients to refuse medical transports.

Musgrove said legislation is needed to allow communities to collect subscription fees.

Hallgren asked to authorize Tvenge to make inquiries with the Chamber of Commerce about rates of privatized housing at Ft. Greely because local landlords are concerned with being undercut by a profit-making organization.

Porter said housing costs at North Haven Communities is comparable and there is a waiting list.

Heinbockel said the Chamber has taken an active position in the past to bring as much of the economy to local businesses. He said PX and Commissary privileges should benefit active duty and retired military, but not the civilian sector.

Musgrove questioned rumor about the local school district doing away with the Thanksgiving holiday.

Michele Trainor said she was aware that the elementary school leaned away from Halloween, calling it *Harvest*, but she knew nothing about changes to Thanksgiving.

Heinbockel wished everyone in attendance a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 7:28pm; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White, CMC

Approved: January 4, 2011