



~~~~~  
**City Council Minutes**  
**October 21, 2014 ~ 5:00PM**

**Regular Meeting**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**  
~~~~~

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at City Hall. Mayor Pete Hallgren called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

City Council members present: Mayor Pete Hallgren, Mayor Pro tem Mary Leith, Sherman Stebbins
Corey Vanden Boom, Audrey Brown, Lonny Meeks, JW Musgrove

City employees present: City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Finance Officer Stephanie Prestwich, City Clerk Pat White

Three members from the community were present and the meeting was broadcast over the local High School radio, KDHS 95.5 FM.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leith moved to approve the October 21, 2014 agenda as presented; Musgrove seconded. Motion carried.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Brown moved to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2014 regular meeting and the October 14, 2014 special meeting as presented; Musgrove seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

REPORTS

Emergency Services – Audrey Brown reported information provided by Lauren Morton from Delta Medical Transport:

- DMT medics and EMTs responded to 35 ambulance calls between September 1 and October 14. Five calls resulted in no transport and the other 30 received advanced life support (ALS). Ten were trauma related.
- The Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department (DJVFD) did not receive any calls in September, but received one as of October 14. DJVFD supported Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD) as standby in three recent motor vehicle accidents.

Lauren Morton reported she, Fire Chief Vern Heintz, and his wife, Jen, are organizing the annual Halloween Open House that is hosted by DJVFD on Friday, October 31, 6:30 to 9:00pm, at the Fire Station.

Musgrove said he questioned how far south DMT travels for an ambulance call while researching an emergency plan for Pump Station 10. He learned that they have traveled as far south as Paxson and that 9-1-1 dispatch services respond within seconds even though the calls from PS10 are received in Anchorage.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported he provides the Flight Service with more frequent updates during the winter because of the snow.

Cemetery – Mary Leith reported the memorial wall arrived on October 15, but will be stored until spring.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- The Council meeting on November 18 will be postponed because of Council and staff attending the AML Conference in Anchorage November 17/21. City Council meetings in November will be the 4th and the 25th.
- City Hall, the Landfill, and the Library will be closed on Tuesday, November 11th in observance of Veterans Day. All three facilities will be closed on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28. The Landfill and the Library will be open on Saturday, November 29.

City Administrator – Mike Tvenge reported:

- Landfill expansion proposals for engineering and design firms will be received until 4:00pm, November 12. The pre-proposal meeting was held October 8 at the landfill; only one firm attended.
- Hector's Welding from North Pole was chosen to build the metal stairs for the Public Works building for a not-to-exceed cost of \$25,000. A \$27,994 quote was received from a local firm and Allied Steel failed in a second attempt to design the metal stairs. Tvenge said Heritage General Contracting is on schedule, within budget, and expected to complete the building project by November 30. The structure is presently being heated with the newly-installed boilers.

Hallgren said Hector's Welding offered the lowest price and quickest completion date.

- The trial regarding the (May 15, 2014) Clearwater Lodge fire and the (August 17, 2014) residential house fire will be held in the local courthouse perhaps in early November.
- A local resident requested a community well via email on October 15, 2014. Two businesses that offered water to the public are now closed and the State Parks offer water only in the summer. Tvenge explained that Delta Junction does not qualify for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding because of not meeting the low-income level. (To qualify communities must meet a low to moderate income threshold of 51% or higher. Delta Junction has a 22.9% low-to-moderate income level according to the 2010 United States Census Data.)

Musgrove said he would have to disagree on another money-losing project that requires subsidizing.

Discussion followed regarding additional responsibilities in administering grants and expenses associated with providing the general public with a water supply, resourcing a well with RDVFD or Deltana Community Corporation (DCC), and getting a better picture and understanding of how many local residents need water.

Finance – Stephanie Prestwich reported the auditors are scheduled to arrive on Monday, October 27.

School District – Corey Vanden Boom reported:

- Ten teams played in the Delta Invitational Volleyball Tournament that was held over the weekend.
- The Delta-Greely School Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday, October 23.

Discussion followed regarding recycling agenda paper packets and that the school's multi-fuel system is designed to burn wood chips only.

Library – Mary Leith reported:

- On November 6 Whit and Cindy Aillaud will present a slideshow about their hike of the Pacific Crest Trail.
- On November 14 local photographers, Sebastian Saarloos and Steve DuBois, will demonstrate how to film the Aurora Borealis.

• Internet at the library is running properly since John Johnston worked on the computer system on Saturday, October 18. (Problems surfaced after the phone company upgraded Internet capabilities last July.)

Public Health & Safety – Lonny Meeks reported:

- The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is currently rewriting their by-laws and reorganizing.
- The Ebola outbreak is reported to be the largest in history and Meeks urged people to become familiar with the epidemic, offering Centers for Disease Control and Prevention handouts that are available at City Hall.

Public Works – Sherman Stebbins reported:

- He is impressed with the interior of the new Public Works facility and multiple projects that are being finished.
- City Operator Corey Groppe has started to chip ice off streets.

Discussion followed regarding a possible ribbon cutting of the new Public Works building.

Community Outreach – Lonny Meeks reported there appears to be no more problems in broadcasting City Council meetings over the local radio and work on the City's website is progressing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Landfill Tipping Fees

Tvenge referred to diagrams and graphs, a spreadsheet, and a memo, dated September 29, 2014, and reported the Delta Junction Municipal Class II Landfill opened in July 2005, the tipping fee was \$117 per ton (.0585¢ per pound), and it has increased to the current rate of \$125/ton (.0625¢ per pound). He said it is cheaper to handle more garbage than it is to manage small volumes. Costs to handle one ton of garbage was \$135.50 in 2011, \$161.92 in 2012, \$178.13 in 2013, and \$244.10 in 2014. Tvenge said there is a noticeable (9%) decrease in volume delivered to the landfill annually in the past four years. Costs have been offset through a State of Alaska grant for operations, maintenance, and expansion of the north cell, but he is concerned with the cost increases for new tires and repairs as equipment ages.

Hallgren said the landfill is subsidized by \$100,000 each year. The City is in the landfill business to provide a necessary service to the community, but cutting costs to break even will result in not being able to provide the service.

Musgrove questioned whether increasing the price will decrease the tonnage that is delivered to the landfill. He asked what Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) charges.

Tvenge said FNSB charges \$190 per ton for solid waste that is generated outside of their borough.

Hallgren said it would be cheaper if hauling it to Fairbanks did not eat up the savings. He said \$78,000 is built into the FY2015 budget to subsidize landfill operations, plus \$150,000 is available in grant funds. He said landfill fees have not increased since July 2007 and a community-accepted rate increase needs to be agreed upon. Garbage delivered four years ago was four to six hundred tons more than what is expected this year, which is \$50,000 to \$75,000 in lost

revenue. Why is the landfill losing volume? It appears the commercial hauling tonnage has dropped and tonnage from individual haulers has increased. FNSB reported solid waste tonnage has dramatically increased at transfer sites along the Richardson Highway without any population growth to justify it. Possibly customers are hauling their trash to the transfer sites because they are dissatisfied with the local garbage business. Hallgren asked, "To what extent should the City subsidize the landfill on an annual basis?"

Discussion followed regarding lack of construction waste in the past few years, the certified scale providing accurate records of what is brought in and from what haulers, commercial haulers raising their rates to customers when and if the City increases tipping fees, commercial haulers picking up trash by volume and being charged by weight to deliver it to the landfill, and taxation / borough formation that was voted down in 2007.

Musgrove suggested turning the operation over to a private contractor who may opt to transport garbage to Fairbanks.

Stebbins questioned lost revenue, possibly \$50,000 to \$100,000, from the local septic hauler who received a permit from the State of Alaska to dump raw sewage on open farmland.

Vanden Boom asked if Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) could provide support.

Hallgren said input from the general public is needed before a recommendation is made to increase landfill rates.

Capital Improvement Projects

Tvenge said he received an inquiry from Senator Click Bishop's office about submitting a funding request to the Governor's budget by Thanksgiving. He said Senator and Senate District E Candidate Mike Dunleavy and House District 9 Candidate Jim Colver recently visited Delta Junction and both agreed that gravel or paving improvements for streets and roads were good ideas.

Hallgren said a proposal and a resolution will be brought before the Council on November 4. The Capital Improvement Projects (Legislative Wish List) will be worked on after the AML conference in November (17/21).

Purchase Orders

PO#017604 to ATT & Alascom in the amount of \$665.99 for October E9-1-1 power and service

PO#017605 to ACS in the amount of \$987.85 for October phone and Internet

PO#017606 to Alcan Auto & Truck in the amount of \$849.39 for tools and materials used in City buildings and streets (emergency exit light bulbs, air compressor, and patching for sidewalk at Library)

PO#017607 to Amazon.com in the amount of \$1,032.81 for Library books

PO#017608 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,163.97 for credit card purchases (staples for copy machine, registration for Stephanie Prestwich to attend AML conference in Anchorage, new website design installment one of three, airfare for Sherman Stebbins to attend AML conference, airfare for Pat White to attend AAMC conference in Anchorage)

PO#017609 to Buffalo Fuel in the amount of \$1,154.70 for fuel used at the Landfill (equipment and shop)

PO#017610 to CDW Government, Inc. in the amount of \$600.00 for local area network box used for Library computers

PO#017611 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$740.97 for parts (pipe elbow replaced on Zamboni, 4 ½" grinder and Sawzall kit used to install culverts, weed whacker blade used for street maintenance, and replacement of boiler igniter at the Landfill shop)

PO#017612 to Delta Lock and Key in the amount of \$1,428.08 for door knobs used at the new Public Works building

PO#017613 to Delta Rental Services LLC in the amount of \$1,050.00 to rent excavator for culvert installations

PO#017614 to Follet School Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$1,185.50 to renew Library software and scanner lease

PO#017615 to GVEA in the amount of \$2,739.01 for September electricity

PO#017616 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering in the amount of \$12,520.83 for August and September progress billing (construction of new Public Works building)

PO#017617 to NC Machinery in the amount of \$3,649.36 to replace four idlers on Skidsteer

Musgrove moved to approve purchase order 017604 through 017617 as presented; Meeks seconded.

Musgrove referenced purchase order 017617 and asked whether the Skidsteer is under warranty.

Tvenge explained that the tracks did not wear out. The purchase order reflects an upgrade to address the problematic track that slips off the rails.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Musgrove moved to adjourn at 6:18pm; Leith seconded. Motion carried.