



**City Council Minutes
February 16, 2016 ~ 5:00PM**

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

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at City Hall. Mayor Pete Hallgren called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

City Council members present: Mayor Pete Hallgren, Mayor Pro tem JW Musgrove, Lou Heinbockel
William Brennan, Sebastian Saarloos, Audrey Brown, Freda Degnan
City employees present: City Administrator Mary Leith, Library Director Joyce McCombs, City Clerk Pat White
Seven members from the community were present and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove moved to adopt the February 16, 2016 agenda as presented; Brennan seconded. Motion carried.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Saarloos moved to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2016 meeting; Musgrove seconded.

White reported correcting a couple grammatical errors in the draft minutes.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Elena Powers, Delta Public Health Nurse, explained a request from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Division of Public Health (DPH) for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines terms to establish a Point of Dispensing (POD) site with community stakeholders/partners for emergency medical prophylaxis in the event of a declared public health emergency. A public health emergency is an incident that poses a threat to the health of the community, i.e. naturally occurring large-scale disease outbreaks, natural disasters, or acts of terrorism using nerve, chemical, or biological agents. Powers said the POD, also known as Mass Antibiotic Dispensing (MAD) clinic, is based on a worst-case scenario, a large-scale terrorist attack using aerosolized anthrax, which requires treatment within 48 hours of exposure. A POD is typically included in a community's Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and is designed to move a lot of people through a process of being screened, medicated, and educated in a short amount of time. The Delta-Greely High School was selected as the primary POD site and the Community Center / City Hall / Library the alternate site. Powers distributed handouts and explained how entities from federal, state, and local levels coordinate roles and responsibilities in carrying out a response to a declared emergency.

Discussion followed regarding a well-run Mass Dispensing Clinic (MDC) conducted in Delta in 2007, possibly using the POD plan as a preparedness exercise to dispense flu vaccines on an annual basis, serving at-risk seniors or homebound residents, and the draft MOU reviewed by Alaska Municipal League/Joint Insurance Association (AMLJIA) who recommended additional language pertaining to declaring a public health emergency, and expanding the initial plan and available resources by utilizing the whole "administrative campus" (Community Center, City Hall, and Library) instead of just the Community Center as the alternate site.

Musgrove moved to approve the MOU between the ADHSS-DPH, Delta-Greely School District, and the City with minor changes as deemed necessary by the administration; Saarloos seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you letter from Manley Hot Springs Volunteer Fire Department

Hallgren referenced donating the 2004 E450 ambulance to Interior Region Emergency Medical Services (IREMS) in November 2015 and Dan Johnson from IREMS and Fire Chief Terry Russell from Manley Hot Springs Volunteer Fire and Rescue picking it up in January. He said he appreciated the thank-you letter and recalled a similar situation when the Juneau Borough Assembly donated a fire engine to the Delta community in 2001.

DEC Wastewater Discharge Permit for Pogo Mine

Hallgren referenced the February 11, 2016 letter from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water and said the “early notification of wastewater discharge individual permit for Pogo Mine” does not require action from the City Council, but it is an opportunity for local and tribal government leaders to participate in the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program’s decision to reissue Pogo Mine’s permit, which expires April 30, 2016.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gravel Pit Inside City Limits

Leith reported Mandy Willingham sent an email (February 8) with bulleted items that summarized Council comments made at the February 2 Council meeting regarding the State Department of Transportation’s proposal to expand their gravel pit, but Willingham did not include public comments. Leith said, should the City allow the proposed expansion, City Attorney Jim DeWitt advised repealing Code §4.45.010 or creating an exception. Either way would require an ordinance process. Willingham would like to be part of the decision making because those involved in moving forward with the expansion foresee needing more than one five-acre area (as suggested at the Feb. 2 meeting).

Discussion followed regarding Hallgren and Saarloos favoring an exception, the State obtaining title to the property (Patent #1221054 on July 6, 1961 and Patent #1230322 on January 9, 1963) and the City adopting an ordinance to prohibit construction of gravel pits (August 25, 1980), Brown’s concern about dust and noise, Brennan questioning City jurisdiction over State-owned property, and Saarloos’ concern about “the next person asking for an exemption,” the gravel pit near the airport that pre-existed the ordinance, and pits behind the Jarvis and AMC (Alaska Motor Coaches) buildings.

Leith reported DNR and DOT would like wording in the ordinance to allow five acres to be active and open anywhere within the bounds of the material site, meaning a three-acre pit in one spot and a two-acre processing area somewhere else within the site at the same time. As cells are depleted they will be stabilized and reclaimed as needed. Reclamation will include smoothing or grading side slopes and covering depleted pits with a thin covering of stockpiled overburden (vegetation and soil) and/or seeded with native plant species. It will not include filling the pits back in.

Heinbockel said he could not support granting the variance because it will result in a “30-acre scar,” but he would support a five-to-seven-acre plan in exchange for title of the remaining 23 acres. He opposed expansion of the gravel pit and he urged the City Council to take a position about what happens within the City’s borders. The DOT material site is in one of the few zoned areas inside the city limits and he expected more commercial development in the foreseeable future.

Musgrove said he had concern about construction versus operation because the existing gravel pit was to be used for operation and it was actually used as a construction site. “What’s to say it won’t happen again?” Musgrove also suggested researching why a City-platted street is on State-owned property.

Brown agreed with pursuing Heinbockel’s suggestion to exchange land for a five-to-seven-acre plan.

Leith repeated the biggest priorities: 1) protect the southern boundaries and industrial area from flooding by enlarging the 100-foot buffer to 150 feet, 2) acquire title to the property west of the GVEA right-of-way, 3) require provisions to address dust and noise abatement, 4) Hallgren draft a special-use permit (variance), 5) limit DOT operations to five acres at any given time, and 6) accommodate DOT’s need for material, but not if it is made available to private contractors. Discussion followed regarding efforts by the military to prevent Jarvis from flooding, DOT not filling in the holes, water surfacing in existing holes, and bringing back an ordinance authorizing DOT to use the area for material.

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 218225 to Delta Concrete Products in the amount of \$1,750.00 for concrete blocks for dirt pile near Public Works building

CK# 218226 to BDO USA LLP in the amount of \$11,112.00 for annual audit, final payment

CK# 218227 to GVEA in the amount of \$4,709.06 for electricity

CK# 218228 to Aetna in the amount of \$18,866.45 for health insurance

CK# 218229 to Buffalo Fuel in the amount of \$7,007.53 for heating fuel and landfill equipment fuel

Musgrove moved to approve checks 218225 through 218229 as presented; Brennan seconded.

Discussion followed regarding the high cost of electricity at the Fire Hall (#218227), Delta Medical Transport benefiting by operating their private enterprise out of the fire station, the community benefiting from their rapid response, reviewing the electrical usage clause in the 2015 *Contract for Professional Services*, and electricity rates increasing 25% to 50%.

Brown reported kilowatt hour rates in Delta Junction average what other major communities pay.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

REPORTS

Mayor – Pete Hallgren reported the Division of Community and Regional Affairs issued a letter stating 1,100 people lived inside the City’s boundaries in 2015, which is essentially the same as the previous year. Including city residents, approximately 4,500 people lived in the entire area in 2015.

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported she has completed designs for the Public Works and Fire Department signs. Discussion followed regarding the status of the Public Works septic system (lift station not yet functioning) and the ground lifting around the edges of the new outhouse that was installed on Deborah Street last September.

Finance – Mary Leith reported in Stephanie Prestwich's absence and referenced quotes given at the January 19, 2016 Council meeting. Prestwich factored in inflation and contracting the projects and estimated it to cost \$568,000 to close Cell One and \$744,000 to close Cell Two.

Discussion followed regarding insufficient sinking (closure) funds affecting the annual landfill inspection rating, building the closure account, which presently has approximately \$350,000, not knowing until April or May whether the Legislature will forgive the \$50,000 prison debt (a special request separate from Capital Improvement Projects – January 5, 2016), closure of the landfill being a future unfunded liability, possibly facing an increase in the PERS (Public Employee Retirement System) employer match, and assurance of receiving Federal PILT, which will be \$989,000.

School District – William Brennan reported the next School Board meeting will be held on February 4, 5:30pm.

Brown expressed appreciation for those involved in hosting and facilitating the American Legion speech contest on February 15 at the Delta High School. She said it is an excellent exercise and students receive scholarships.

Library – Sebastian Saarloos reported:

- Joyce McCombs and Library Board member, Flower Cole, will host an information table at the Fort Greely Open House and Family Information Night on February 26, 4:00-7:00, at the Community Activity Center. They will provide information about library programs, Delta Library Association memberships, and library events.

- Raven Correspondence School will host a "Read In" and serve pizza on March 1, 10:00-2:00, at the Library to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday.

McCombs reported she, Leith, and another Historical Society member attended an online webinar last week about preserving local archival papers and artifacts.

Personnel – Pete Hallgren reported he is scheduled to attend a webinar that will be helpful in reviewing the City's drug policy.

Saarloos reported he was appointed to the AML Board to represent District 6 and he will plan on going to conferences.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel referred to earlier discussion about closing the landfill (*Finance Report* – top of page) and said the cells get covered as they get filled, so he questioned why a million dollars was needed. Changing subjects, he said he felt the current septic pit at the landfill is not draining properly.

Discussion followed regarding investigating problems with the septic pit, ongoing septic problems with City facilities, and stockpiling material for road maintenance in front of the Public Works building.

Emergency Preparedness / LEPC – Audrey Brown reported Fort Greely will host a full-scale, three-day exercise on earthquakes in April and she would assist Elena Powers with the Point of Distribution Plan (discussion on page one).

Discussion followed regarding an early morning fire on Deborah Street that could have been more serious had the three fire departments not responded as quickly.

Additional Council Reports – Pete Hallgren expressed appreciation toward the Chamber of Commerce for the fireworks display during the Festival of Lights weekend.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Hallgren reported a long-standing dispute over the stairs and landing in the new Public Works building and a settlement offer from the steel building manufacturer, Allied Steel, would be discussed in an executive session.

Executive Session – Settlement Offer for Staircase at Public Works Building

Saarloos moved to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a potential settlement with Allied Steel, the immediate knowledge of which would be detrimental to the finances of the City of Delta Junction; Brennan seconded. Motion carried.

Council members exited the Council chambers at 6:58pm and took an approximate five-minute break before moving to the City Administrator's office. Present during the Executive Session were Mayor Pete Hallgren, Mayor Pro tem JW Musgrove, Audrey Brown, Freda Degan, Sebastian Saarloos, Lou Heinbockel, William Brennan, and City Administrator Mary Leith.

Musgrove moved to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 7:25pm; Brown seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Musgrove moved to adjourn at 7:26pm; Degan seconded. Motion carried.