



**City Council Minutes
March 15, 2016 ~ 5:00PM**

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

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at City Hall. Mayor Pro tem JW Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

City Council members present: Mayor Pete Hallgren (telephonically), Mayor Pro tem JW Musgrove, Freda Degnan
Audrey Brown, Lou Heinbockel, William Brennan (5:17pm through 6:02pm)

City Council member excused: Sebastian Saarloos

City employees present: City Administrator Mary Leith, City Clerk Pat White

Five community members were present at the beginning of the meeting. The meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Heinbockel moved to adopt the March 15, 2016 agenda; Degnan seconded.

Musgrove reported:

- ✓ *Jennifer Brant - Delta High School Softball Team* was moved to the April 5 meeting
- ✓ *The Executive Session* would be discussed immediately after *Approval of the Previous Minutes*

Motion carried.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2016 meeting; Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Session – Airport Subdivision Tree Theft

Degnan moved to enter into an Executive Session; Musgrove seconded.

Musgrove cited Alaska Statutes 44.62.310 (c)(1), “matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government unit” and attorney-client communications as reasons for an Executive Session.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with four in favor (Brown, Degnan, Hallgren, Musgrove) and one opposed (Heinbockel). Council members exited the Council chambers at 5:07pm and moved to the City Administrator’s office. Present during the Executive Session were City Administrator Mary Leith, City Attorney Kristin Bryant (telephonically), Mayor Pete Hallgren (telephonically), Mayor Pro tem JW Musgrove, and Council members Audrey Brown, Freda Degnan, Lou Heinbockel, and William Brennan (arrived at 5:17pm).

Upon returning to the main conference room at 5:52pm, Brown moved to end the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting; Heinbockel seconded.

Heinbockel moved to accept the counter offer from the defendant to return no less than 12 cords of illegally removed firewood that is dry, cut, and split plus pay \$500.00 to the City of Delta Junction; Hallgren seconded.

Brown clarified that the City’s initial request for compensation of trees stolen (at the airport subdivision) was \$10,000.

Hallgren reported the complaint filed by the City was for \$10,000 plus treble damages. The defendant admitted taking the wood and claimed that the City is “not really out anything because the property needed to be cleared anyway.” Hallgren asked to settle the dispute and move forward in developing the airport subdivision.

Brennan asked that the motion declare the wood is in good condition and that it be delivered and stacked at Ptarmigan Heights Senior Housing Complex pending court judgement; Heinbockel, as the maker of the motion, agreed.

Brown asked how much wood was taken from the airport property.

Leith reported former City Administrator Mike Tvenge estimated last spring that 40 cords were taken from one area.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with four in favor (Heinbockel, Hallgren, Brennan, Musgrove) and two opposed (Degnan, Brown).

Brennan was excused at 6:02pm.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

John Lewis – Emergency Operations Plan Revision

Lauren Morton spoke on behalf of John Lewis and said she and seven other students evaluated the City of Delta Junction's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) with what they'd learned in an emergency management course. It was graded and assessed by FEMA personnel and they received an "A" on the project.

White stated John Lewis is reviewing the EOP as an interested citizen, not as a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and he will involve Council and other parties when he can present an updated document.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tom Gorman – Request for Discounted Boulders

Tom Gorman referenced his letter to the Council, dated March 9, 2016, and reported the Tanana River froze over for the first time in 45 years. Water backed up in a small slough and eroded a tremendous amount of soil and trees in front of his house that was built 30 feet above and 150 feet away from the river bank. The slough was normally dry six months out of a year. The State of Alaska issued four different permits, concrete pillars were placed into the bank, and two crews are currently using hydraulic equipment and bulldozers. Area residents and neighbors are helping, he has paid out \$10,000, \$15,000 is yet outstanding, and he was told that total cost would be in the six figures. Gorman said he has access to riprap near Donnelly Dome. Landfill rock is not riprap, but it will serve as the big rock needed to fill the 600-foot bank, estimated to need at least 2,000 cubic yards. Gorman asked the Council to donate rock or reduce its purchase price to support him in saving his house. Transportation will be an additional expense separate from the cost of the rock.

Musgrove said Gorman's situation is similar to homes in Sutton that were destroyed last summer. He questioned whether the river bank could be preserved and if Gorman's house will still be standing in ten years.

Gorman said they were successful in revamping the flow of the river at the crest and the engineer recommends building a higher barrier to protect the riverbank now that the water has receded.

Discussion followed regarding monetary value of landfill boulders, considering a discount for this emergency situation, and charging for landfill employees to oversee loading rocks during business hours only.

Heinbockel moved to charge \$1,000.00 for an unlimited amount of rock plus \$150/hour if City personnel do the loading; Degan seconded.

Discussion followed regarding numerous concrete river weights leftover from construction of the Alyeska Pipeline.

Hallgren clarified that rocks are not to be gifted or resold and the City Council reserves the right to stop the agreement at any time or after any amount of rock has been hauled away. He asked to ensure that the river weights are still on city property. He specified no time, except that he did not want the agreement to extend over a ten-year period.

Heinbockel suggested a six-month time frame and renegotiate thereafter.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with five in attendance (Hallgren, Heinbockel, Degan, Brown, Musgrove).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gravel Pit Inside City Limits

Leith reported she has not received any communication from Mandy Willingham, Division of Mining, Land & Water, since issuing a letter, dated March 7, 2016, detailing stipulations that were discussed at the February 2, February 16, and March 1 meetings (pertaining to DMLW's proposed expansion of the Delta Townsite Pit, 2.043 acres to 29.6 acres, inside the city limits).

NEW BUSINESS

Lawn Maintenance Contract

Leith explained putting the lawn contract out for bid and options of renewing it for an additional two years. She asked for Council input before advertising the contract.

Discussion followed regarding the pay schedule (once per month), which was the reason why last year's contractor opted to not sign the renewal, and revising the contract each year. [Bid opening = 3:00pm, April 15, 2016]

Heinbockel moved to put the contract out for bid; Brown seconded.

Heinbockel suggested asking the new contractor how they wish to be paid, once or twice a month.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with five in attendance (Degan, Brown, Hallgren, Heinbockel, Musgrove).

Public Works Building - Allied Steel Settlement

Leith, referencing a longstanding dispute since September 2014, reported nothing has progressed in the past two weeks and the City Attorney is awaiting response from Allied Steel. [The \$17,000 steel stairs were part of the new Public Works construction contract, but they were not built according to design. Hector's Welding in Fairbanks was paid \$23,719 in November 2014 to design and build them, to end delays in the building project.]

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 218262 to Aetna in the amount of \$18,866.45 for March health insurance

CK# 218263 to GVEA in the amount of \$4,318.67 for February electricity

CK# 218264 to Environmental Compliance Consultants in the amount of \$2,664.48 to clean out and repair sump pump at Fire Hall

CK# 218265 to NC Machinery in the amount of \$2,847.66 for dozer repairs at landfill

CK# 218266 to Buffalo Center Service in the amount of \$1,272.15 for road equipment fuel and tires for utility trailer

CK# 218267 to Buffalo Fuel in the amount of \$5,537.04 for February heating and landfill equipment fuel

Heinbockel moved to approve check numbers 218262 through 218267 as presented; Degnan seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with five in attendance (Brown, Heinbockel, Hallgren, Degnan, Musgrove).

REPORTS

City Administrator – Mary Leith displayed a colored map of the landfill excavation project that Corey Groppe created to use as a resource and she explained what has been done and what is projected to be accomplished during the upcoming season. She reported:

- She met telephonically for this year's first meeting with U.S. Army Garrison-Alaska, Alaska Fire Service, and the Bureau of Land Management to discuss joint fire mitigation. Meetings will be held weekly. (Multiple prescribed fires will be conducted in the Donnelly Training Area, Yukon Training Area, and Fort Wainwright Main Post between March 12 and May 31.)

- Advertisement for a new/unused pickup truck was posted on March 11. Full specs are available at City Hall and the City's Web site (ci.delta-junction.ak.us). [Bid opening = 4:00pm, April 7, 2016]

- The local area has two viable refuse businesses and Leith asked to consider putting garbage collection out for competitive bid.

- Large signs have been posted on the Fire Hall and the Public Works building.

- Records retention will be a topic at the next meeting (April 5, 2016).

Discussion followed regarding getting rid of unnecessary documents, digitizing some records, preserving historic records, and either buying a commercial shredder or contracting it to an on-site shredding business.

School District – Lou Heinbockel reported the Delta Boys Varsity Team won the Regional Basketball Tournament for the first time since the early 1990's after being seeded fifth.

Emergency Preparedness / LEPC – Audrey Brown reported:

- The Pillow Case Project at the Elementary School was held on March 9. Students learned about evacuations, checking smoke detectors once a month, practicing home fire drills twice a year, earthquake precautions, etc.

- She and Public Health Nurse Elena Powers attended a planning meeting for Fort Greely's earthquake exercise on April 18/20 and possibly through April 22. She explained scenarios and asked for volunteers to play dead or injured. Those participating in the training will wear vests.

Library – Mary Leith reported:

- The Book Club is presently teleconferencing with an author.

- The Delta Library Association is building 100+ baskets for the annual Library Open House on April 23.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 7:07pm; Degnan seconded. Motion carried.