



**City Council Minutes
July 19, 2016 ~ 5:00PM**

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

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at City Hall. Mayor Pete Hallgren called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

City Council members present: Mayor Pete Hallgren, Mayor Pro tem JW Musgrove
Lou Heinbockel, William Brennan, Sebastian Saarloos

City Council members excused: Audrey Brown, Freda Degnan

City employees present: City Administrator Mary Leith, Finance Officer Stephanie Prestwich, City Clerk Pat White

Two members from the community were present and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Saarloos moved to approve the July 19, 2016 agenda; Brennan seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel moved to approve the July 5 minutes as presented; Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with five in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE

New LEPC Membership

Hallgren referenced a letter from Public Health Nurse Elena Powers, dated July 15, 2016, and he recited services that will be affected by State budget cuts that eliminated the second PHN position at the local Public Health Center. Referring to Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) membership, Hallgren explained frequent turnover and three new member applications. LEPC approved Lauren Morton's application last November, Freda Degnan's in January, and Stephen Staska's also in January. [Marisa Hopper served as Alternate Public Health on the LEPC between August 2015 and March 2016 before taking another job in Fairbanks. The State terminated her position in Delta after it was vacated.]

Heinbockel moved to approve appointment of new LEPC membership applications as presented; Saarloos seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with five in attendance (Heinbockel, Musgrove, Brennan, Saarloos, Hallgren).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Award of Crew Cab Pickup Truck

Hallgren reported two bids were received for the pickup truck, but legal advice is necessary before awarding it.

Discussion followed regarding two different delivery dates, whether the existing City truck could be used instead of renting one (\$1,695/month), and awarding the pickup truck on August 2, if a special meeting is not called sooner.

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 218483 to ACS in the amount of \$1,527.73 for phone and Internet

CK# 218484 to Airport Equipment in the amount of \$16,471.49 for equipment rentals

CK# 218485 to GVEA in the amount of \$3,030.86 for electricity

CK# 218486 to Wells Fargo in the amount of \$5,608.22 for credit card charges (Stephanie Prestwich flight to Alabama and Chicago plus training in Alabama, library materials, Rob Bevard hotel for training in Anchorage, and shipping for washing machine supplies at Fire Station)

Brennan moved to approve check numbers 218483 through 218486; Saarloos seconded.

Discussion followed regarding total costs to construct West Second Street showing in the FY16 budget reconciliation, which will be introduced on August 16 and adopted on September 6.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with five in attendance (Musgrove, Brennan, Saarloos, Heinbockel, Hallgren).

REPORTS

Airport – JW Musgrove reported:

- Members of the Delta Pilots Advisory Committee mowed the two runways.
- The ski-strip is rough and bumpy because of an underlying semi-permeable layer that holds water, resulting in ruts and frost heaves. It will require disking half the runway one year and disking the other half a couple years later.

Discussion followed regarding Musgrove researching potential farmers who would plant and harvest hay on the runway.

Mayor – Pete Hallgren referenced an email he sent to Representative Jim Colver and Senator Mike Dunleavy on June 24 regarding current possible legislation to increase mining taxes. He asked the local legislators to consider ways to protect Pogo's annual contribution to the City, whether donations to municipalities could be used to offset tax increases.

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- The settlement check from Allied Steel was received.
- Pogo's annual contribution (\$150,000) and Pogo's grant for the Street Lighting Project (\$10,000) were received.
- Four potential bidders attended a pre-proposal meeting at the landfill today for the hydro-seeding project. One more is scheduled for next week. The bid opening is scheduled for 3:00 on July 27.

Finance – Stephanie Prestwich reported she finished quarterly grant reports today.

Lands – Sebastian Saarloos reported:

- The old rifle range property on the Richardson Highway was recorded in September 2015, but a patent has yet to be issued. The Visitor Center plat recorded in December 2015 and a title report was issued in May 2016. Both properties are in the process of being deeded to the City from the State of Alaska.
- He volunteered to install Channel 17's digital transmitter once it arrives.

Library – Sebastian Saarloos reported:

- About 130 very enthusiastic people attended The Rockin' Furies concert at the Community Center on July 18. It was one of the best concerts ever held. The band was overwhelmed with local response and their willingness to sing along. They mingled with the audience afterwards, signed autographs, talked guitars and fiddles, and sold CDs.
- New staff computers, courtesy of Pogo Mine, will be installed and files transferred within the next month or so.
- Four reward parties were held last week for the Summer Reading Program. The elementary children read 1,122 books. The teens totaled 828 hours. Seven of the nine graduates from Preschool Story Hour started the program when they were three years old. Library Director Joyce McCombs praised library staff for helping with the reading program.
- McCombs filed the annual Public Library Assistance Grant application, which will increase from \$6,250 to \$6,900 because several libraries around the state either closed or chose not to apply.
- The Library Association purchased three mobile laptop carts with some of the proceeds from the annual fundraiser in April. The carts have been in constant use since they were assembled last week, eliminating patrons from having to balance laptops on their knees or hunch over the coffee table when all the other tables are full.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported: Sludge from the south pit has been removed and buried and the pit will start being used during the winter months. The Public Works crew cleaned up Richardson Highway frontage near the Public Works building. A birch tree was knocked over in front of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Heinbockel asked to set a goal to finish developing the airport subdivision and to build Remington Road to the crosswind runway (ski strip).

Brennan expressed concern about conditions of the ballfields at the park; the appearance of the whole perimeter of the park, one-quarter inch birch saplings taking over the fences, infields void of topsoil, and places in the chain link fence near dugouts that are held together with thick wire. Brennan asked the City to maintain the fields, to charge occupants, and to do away with the current agreement of users being responsible to maintain the ballfields.

Discussion followed regarding establishing a date to finalize airport lot development (August 1, 2017), the general public associating user fees with taxation, investigating chemicals being used on Fourth Street to control dust, whether chemicals could be sprayed to rid of park weeds, and whether the Fire Department could burn the overgrowth along the fence line.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

John Lewis explained the need to reschedule the Homeland Security leadership training on August 27.

Discussion followed regarding rescheduling training (dealing with a bus-related accident and running an Emergency Operations Center) to Saturday, September 24.

Tim Holoday asked why only Ford bids were received for the new work truck.

Heinbockel said bid specs were simplified and mailed to dealerships in Fairbanks and Anchorage, but it is not known why only Ford dealers responded.

ADJOURNMENT - Saarloos moved to adjourn at 6:13pm; Musgrove seconded.