



**City Council Minutes
November 1, 2016 ~ 5:00PM**

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

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at City Hall. Mayor Pete Hallgren called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

City Council members present: Mayor Pete Hallgren, Mayor Pro tem JW Musgrove, Freda Degnan, Lou Heinbockel
City Council members excused: William Brennan, Audrey Brown
City employees present: City Administrator Mary Leith, Finance Officer Stephanie Prestwich, City Clerk Pat White
Three members from the community were present including Council applicant Jennifer Brant. Approximately one hour of the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Heinbockel moved to approve the November 1, 2016 agenda; Musgrove seconded. Motion passed with four voting.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

White reported several edits to the October 18 draft minutes.
Musgrove referenced *Pioneer Park Property* (page 2 of the October 18 minutes) and said City Administrator Mary Leith would inquire about what happens to the exchange of money should the property revert to the State of Alaska (if it is no longer used for public purposes).
Musgrove moved to approve the amended minutes from the October 18, 2016 regular meeting; Degnan seconded. Motion passed with four voting.

APPOINTMENT TO FILL SEAT E VACANCY

Hallgren reported Sebastian Saarloos' resignation was accepted on October 3, 2016 and one letter of interest was received from Jennifer Brant, a qualified resident and precinct voter. Upon appointment Brant would serve until the next regular election. The remainder of the three-year term (2015-2018) would be on the October 3, 2017 ballot as a one-year term.
Heinbockel moved to appoint Jennifer Brant to Seat E; Degnan seconded.
Motion passed on a roll call vote with four in attendance (Musgrove, Degnan, Heinbockel, Hallgren).
White administered the Oath of Office and Brant took a seat at the Council table.
Discussion followed regarding Brant accepting responsibilities for *Park/Recreation* reporting.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

John Lewis reported Cross Road Medical Center (CRMC) in Glennallen and Interior Alaska Medical Clinic (IAMC) in Delta Junction serve many underinsured and uninsured residents. He asked the City Council to support Cross Road Health Ministries' efforts in applying for a Section 330 Community Health Center Federal three-year grant. The funding will expand the level of medical services provided at IAMC (opened March 2014).
Heinbockel moved to issue a letter to support Cross Road Health Ministries' grant application; Degnan seconded.
Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with five in attendance (Degnan, Musgrove, Heinbockel, Brant, Hallgren).
Lewis reported a pharmacist has been hired and IAMC will open a pharmacy soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption of Ordinance 2017-02, An Ordinance Adding New Section 1.25.035 and Amending Sections 1.10.050 and 1.25.040 of the Delta Junction Municipal Code of Ordinances to Clarify the Powers and Duties of a Deputy Mayor in the Absence or Disability of the Mayor or a Vacancy in the Office of Mayor

Heinbockel moved to open the public hearing portion of Ordinance 2017-02; Musgrove seconded.

Hallgren referred to his October 13 memo and explained replacing current code: 1) changing what the local Council calls ‘Mayor Pro tem’ to ‘Deputy Mayor’ and 2) adding an order of precedence in the absence of both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. He also explained new sections: 1) absence or disability of the mayor and 2) vacancy in the office of the mayor. Hallgren called for public comment with none being offered and he asked for Council input.

Heinbockel said the verbiage presented is currently followed; it simply needs to be codified.

Heinbockel moved to close the public hearing; Musgrove seconded.

Musgrove moved to adopt Ordinance 2017-02, adding a section to the Delta Junction Municipal Code of Ordinances and amending two sections to clarify powers and duties of a Deputy Mayor; Heinbockel seconded.

Hallgren called for any objection to the current Mayor Pro tem becoming Deputy Mayor with none being offered.

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

Authorized Airstrip

Musgrove explained concerns from a local resident about Butch Brant landing an airplane inside the City limits. Code of Ordinances Chapter 4.40, Aircraft Flights and Landings, was adopted October 15, 1974 (Ordinance 74-04) and repealed/replaced September 16, 1975 (Ordinance 76-16). The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires a form be filed for any new construction, alterations, and deactivations of airports. Butch Brant does not intend to establish an airport; he only wants to park his airplane in his backyard over the winter. His runway would not need to be registered with the FAA. Musgrove recommended approving Brant’s runway for occasional use for one year and to add it to an accumulative list of authorized runways within the City boundaries, of which there appears to be two, the D66 Airport next to the Richardson Highway and an airstrip paralleling the Delta River at the end of Buffalo Lane.

Jennifer Brant asked to abstain from voting because of potential conflict of interest. She said she has no financial gain in the matter, but Butch Brant is her father-in-law.

Hallgren asked for any objection to Brant recusing herself from voting.

Heinbockel said he agreed with avoiding the aura of impropriety.

Hallgren quoted City Code §4.40.010(c), “The City Council may designate authorized airports or heliports and their flight patterns within the city.”

Musgrove moved to accept Butch Brant’s runway as a temporary, private airport for one year; Heinbockel seconded.

Musgrove reported two documented situations in the 1970’s when the City Council denied a request to locate a heliport at Bergstad’s Trailer Court (September 17, 1974 minutes) and they approved taking off and landing on the airstrip next to the Delta River (October 21, 1975). He said he agreed with abiding by the Ordinances and addressing reasonable requests from the public when necessary. He reported Brant’s airstrip does not meet FAA specs of an established airport. Landing and departure paths are in a sparsely populated area, it has its limitations, but it is safe.

Discussion followed regarding pilots using Sager’s airstrip to land and refuel, whether to delete City Code 4.40, and ownership of the D66 airstrip.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with four in favor (Degnan, Heinbockel, Musgrove, Hallgren) and one abstaining (Brant).

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 218641 to Heritage General Contracting in the amount of \$7,200.00 for replacing well line at Landfill

CK# 218642 to John Johnston in the amount of \$2,797.70 for computer installation at Library and City Hall

Musgrove moved to approve check numbers 218641 and 218642 as presented; Brant seconded.

Heinbockel reported poor engineering was the cause of extensive work on the water line at the landfill.

Musgrove asked for more information about high-dollar projects that get paid from the general budget.

Discussion followed regarding water line problems in other facilities, obtaining a sketch of the \$7,200 project (#218641), no requirement to put the project out for bid, and seeking “old time expertise” within the community.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – Pete Hallgren reported:

- The Council authorized a ten-year, non-exclusive license for the Delta Junction Trails Association (DJTA) to utilize the unconstructed right-of-way on the Liewer Community Trail (Resolution 2015-03, dated November 4, 2014) and they supported DJTA efforts to restore the Bluff Cabin Trail (Resolution 2016-04, dated November 3, 2015). Referring to his October 26, 2016 letter supporting lighting and other improvements for the Liewer Community Trail, Hallgren said he would extend the ten-year Public Recreational Easement (license), dated November 12, 2015, through February 28, 2029 upon DJTA’s award of grant funds. His October 27, 2016 letter confirmed the City’s support of the Bluff Cabin Trail.

- He and Senator Mike Dunleavy attended a presentation at Fort Greely on October 28 about possibly offering National Defense Cadet Corps or Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs at the local school.
- Anyone interested is encouraged to submit applications for the Gerstle River Test Site Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) by January 10, 2017. Applications are available at City Hall.

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- Surveying was required at the airport subdivision because some of the flagging was gone, but Talus Enterprises has begun clearing and arrangements were made to dispose of debris at Forestry's brush site on the Richardson Highway. Project completion date is December 2016.

- The U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alaska Fire Service (AFS) will conduct prescribed burns in the Donnelly Training Area and the Gerstle River Training Area. Ignition could start as early as November 4 and burning may continue through November 30 as weather conditions permit.

- The 2005 Ford F350 truck sold for the minimum bid (\$2,000) during its Silent Auction surplus sale on October 31. There were a few interested parties, but only one bidder.

- Delta Medical Transport is not using the Delta Rescue Squad ambulance since theirs is repaired and operational.

Finance – Stephanie Prestwich reported BDO auditors arrived early October 24 and left around noon on October 28.

Hallgren said several recommendations were made, including one that pertained to check signing (Councilman Lou Heinbockel was added at the October 18 meeting).

Discussion followed regarding difficulty locating a less expensive health coverage policy for City employees that provides the same level of medical benefits, married-with-kids costing \$35,000/year, high cost and high deductibles associated with the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare), and PRM Consulting Group collecting data from Alaskan municipalities to conduct a health care feasibility study.

Emergency Services / Public Safety – Lou Heinbockel asked about disposing of the fire engine that Juneau donated to the City in 2001 (after the Betty Crocker truck was totaled).

Discussion followed regarding its relationship to ISO ratings and progress on the agreement with Delta Medical Transport to use the Delta Rescue Squad ambulance.

Library – Freda Degan reported:

- Close to 200 people attended the *Women of the World* concert at the Fort Greely Activity Center on October 22.

- More than 60 people attended Whit and Cindy Aillaud's Pacific Crest Trail presentation on October 28. Their hiking gear, maps, and samples of trail chow were on display and Alaska Flour Company owners Jan and Bryce Wrigley shared vegetable barley soup, muffins, and brownies of the type the Aillauds took on their 400-mile, 40-day journey.

- Library Director Joyce McCombs is finishing financial and narrative reports of all library activities in FY2016 for the Alaska State Library. The information is shared with the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, the federal office that helps fund library programs and provide national E-rate subsidy for library Internet connections.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported volunteers packed what snow fell.

Park / Recreation – Jennifer Brant reported:

- The Delta Skating Association has new and old representation at the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena. The new board, focused on safety, replaced eight rink boards, tightened base bolts, and replaced top caps on both indoor and outdoor rinks. They painted goals, adjusted nets, and repaired the garage door on the west end of the building. They are now flooding the rink to prepare for the skating season. DSA expressed appreciation for City firefighters, Vern Heintz and Mike Zastavskiy, and City employees, Corey Groppe, Rob Bevard, and Mary Leith.

Discussion followed regarding the Zamboni undergoing repairs, forming an agreement with Whitestone to use their Zamboni, Fort Greely disposing of the City's spare Zamboni, and finding a backup in lieu of purchasing a new one.

Leith reported more repairs were identified once the Zamboni was in the shop and parts were ordered. Estimated repairs to the 2004 Zamboni will be \$2,500 to \$3,000.

- Three or four people will attend training at the Carlson Center on November 10 about operating a Zamboni.

- A new goal is to locate a couple 20-foot Conexes, one for kit-a-kid gear and one for skate sharpening.

Discussion followed regarding history of skating in Delta before the indoor ice arena was built (1993).

Heinbockel reported the old pit outhouses at the park were secured; not accessible by the public.

Public Health & Safety – Mary Leith reported Darleen Supplee will be at the Senior Lounge on Saturday, November 5 to discuss services for local senior citizens. The small office in the Community Center, currently used for storage, might be adequate space for their coordinator's office.

Leith was excused at 6:51pm.

Additional Reports – Pete Hallgren reported the November 15 Council meeting would be postponed to November 22 because of the AML conference in Anchorage.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Craig Cugini reported:

- A Fort Greely firefighter passed away on October 30. Services will be held at the First Baptist Church on November 5 following a funeral procession on the Richardson Highway.
- The 75th anniversary celebration of the Alaska Highway/Fort Greely Airfield is scheduled for June 3, 2017 with an alternate date of June 10. Softball, beach ball, 5K or 10K competitions are considerations for the Delta-Greely community event as well as some sort of concert. Anyone interested in organizing the celebration is asked to contact Debbie Joslin, Chamber of Commerce President. Committees will be established by December to allow for six months of planning. Anyone with knowledge of engineers who worked on the Alaska Highway is asked to provide their contact information.

ADJOURNMENT

Musgrove moved to adjourn at 7:06pm; Heinbockel seconded.

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: November 22, 2016