

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
December 19, 2017 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at City Hall. Mayor Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

City Council members present: Mayor JW Musgrove, Lou Heinbockel, Alan Levinson
Audrey Brown (telephonically), Pete Hallgren (telephonically)

City Council members excused: Jennifer Brant, Deputy Mayor Freda Degnan

City employees present: City Administrator Mary Leith, Administrative Assistant Flower Cole
Finance Officer Stephanie Prestwich, City Clerk Pat White

Three area residents and four out-of-town guests were present. The meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Brown moved to approve the December 19, 2017 agenda as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Heinbockel said research is needed before voting on *Public Works – Tire Machine and Lift* (page two).

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Brown moved to approve the December 5, 2017 minutes as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Heather Cavanaugh, Alaska Communications Director of External Affairs and Corporate Communications, explained plans to bring faster broadband to Delta. Douglas Telephone Company began over 100 years ago and presently employ about 600 people. ACS's statewide network now has two routes of fiber optic cables between Fairbanks and Anchorage, both capable of backing up each other, two redundant subsea lines that connect Alaska to the rest of the world, and fiber in multiple parts of Alaska. They partnered with Quintillion Networks to bring fiber to schools, libraries, health centers, and other facilities in five northwest Alaskan communities. Vivian Tanner, ACS Director of Field Operations, reported they are focused on connecting local, state, and government customers/consumers with the continental United States.

Cavanaugh said cost has been the roadblock in delivering faster Internet to remote areas, but ACS recently secured Federal funding through Connect America Fund, a program to bring high-speed broadband to every home in the United States. ACS will guarantee faster Internet; 10 Mbps download and one Mbps upload, if not better. Cavanaugh referenced a map showing five sites of existing equipment plus seven new locations, of which they need landowners identified. They are looking forward to establishing lease agreements to either install new towers or share a tower that already exists, preferably the latter. She explained new technology, fixed-point high-speed wireless Internet, whereby fiber is connected to a tower and fed to an antenna that brings private spectrum into the home. It is fiber based, so it can be upgraded faster with less expense.

Discussion followed regarding ACS hopeful to begin building in 2018, towers smaller than typical cell towers (80 to 150 feet), not stopping service to customers who currently have better high-speed Internet, resorting to title searches to identify property owners, no local ordinances prohibiting towers, and Alaska Communications not providing technology for wireless cell phone service.

CORRESPONDENCE

Alaska Communications - Access to ARCGIS files of Delta area parcel maps

Leith referenced a December 11, 2017 request from Alaska Communications for a digital copy of ARCGIC files that Letha Burcham maintains. She explained that ACS managed addressing and mapping of Delta and its surrounding area until the City successfully took over the project in 2004.

Cavanaugh said Alaska Communications does not need property owner names; just parcel information (street name and mile marker).

Heinbockel moved to share files with Alaska Communications as proposed; Hallgren seconded.

Discussion followed regarding addresses made available to first responders, land ownership not tracked because of no need to assess property (no local taxes), and consulting GVEA for power once site locations are chosen.

Levinson questioned ACS' intentions since getting out of the wireless business three or four years ago. Two companies have offered service in Delta for the last two years, so why is ACS returning now?

Cavanaugh said there was a five-year gap, but they now have secured funding, which is many millions of dollars in Delta and one to two hundred million statewide.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# **219248** to Clear Idea Accounting in the amount of \$4,562.50 for FY17 audit preparation services

CK# **219249** to Airport Equipment Rental in the amount of \$2,270.84 for oil change and maintenance of road grader, fuel, and new wiper blades

CK# **219250** to Alaska Wear and Steel in the amount of \$1,890.00 for new grader blades

CK# **219251** to Environmental Compliance Consultants in the amount of \$4,569.00 to manage Glycol cleanup at landfill

CK# **219252** to Alcan Auto & Truck, Inc. in the amount of \$1,779.87 miscellaneous vehicle part replacements and tools

CK# **219253** to IGA in the amount of \$1,596.70 for food contribution to flu shot clinic, food served at Council meetings, and Christmas gift certificates for employees and volunteer firefighters (\$1,350.00)

CK# **219254** to Aetna in the amount of \$18,186.92 for December group health insurance

CK# **219255** to Golden Valley Electric Association in the amount of \$4,488.85 for November electricity

CK# **219256** to ACS in the amount of \$1,584.42 for November phones and Internet

CK# **219257** to Wells Fargo Credit Card in the amount of \$5,742.21 for credit card charges

CK# **219258** to Buffalo Center Service in the amount of \$2,396.03 for equipment and DJVFD truck fuel

Heinbockel moved to approve paying bills, checks 219248 through 219258 as presented; Hallgren seconded.

Discussion followed regarding fees to service the road grader including \$125 per hour in labor (CK# 219249).

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

Public Works – Tire Machine and Lift

Prestwich reported the deadline to use remaining \$117,600 funds in the Public Works building grant is June 30, 2018 if a one-year extension is not requested.

Heinbockel said he would like more research because he believed only the Ford pickup with plow can benefit from purchasing a lift and a tire machine/balancer (\$11,988 estimate plus \$3,500 to install 220V plug-ins). The dump truck, grader, and sander truck would not. He would rather support local businesses that own lifts and tire balancing machines. He asked to pursue purchase of a Public Works vehicle for about \$35,000.

Levinson suggested reviewing what was spent on mechanical work that could've been avoided if the Public Works had the requested lift and tire machine/balancer.

Discussion followed regarding using the machine and lift for ambulances and the riding lawn mower also, recent scenario in which an employee used his personal truck to haul the Skid-steer while the City truck/plow was out of commission (November 22 - December 12), compensating 53.5¢ per mile, and drafting a better plan to adequately reimburse employees for using private vehicles while performing City-related work.

Musgrove said a work vehicle should have been rented instead of relying on the employee's personal truck.

REPORTS

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- Hayes Circle was built off Hayes Street in the early 1970s, but the 60-foot street was built overriding the eastern 20-foot utility easement. Delta Surveys proposed reducing the right-of-way (60 feet to 40 feet) and utility easements (20 feet to ten feet) after Hayes Circle property owners met on December 6. Leith said she is hopeful to introduce an ordinance to resolve the dilemma on January 16.

- Ralph Mathews requested any questions pertaining to Airport Subdivision Phase 2 be addressed to him (rmat@alaska.net or 907-457-3032).

- She attended a teleconference today with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Ecology and Environment, Inc., Parks Service, and Delta Junction Trails Association. They discussed lead deposits found in the soil at the old landfill (across from Forestry). How much gravel must be removed? Can it be paved instead (and sealed)?

- She framed the official letter (of incorporation) from Presiding District Magistrate Hugh H. Connelly. December 20, 2017 marks 57 years from the date of the letter, December 20, 1960.

Heinbockel said he lived in Delta Junction in 1965 while in the Army. The community voted down a sales tax by a resounding “no” and, 57 years later, it is still “no.” He explained past history about several attempts to institute a sales tax, \$500,000 in pipeline impact funds awarded by the State of Alaska and used to pay for a police department, police officers, police dog, two cars, a jail, machine guns, and a lime green tender, and several Council members resigning (December 1975/January 1976) when a sales tax was voted down again. Leith reported the keys to the handcuffs are still in the City safety deposit box.

Heinbockel said the Alaska State Troopers confiscated the machine gun. The police dog ate the interior of the Dodge Station Wagon, which was previously used as an ambulance.

Library – Mary Leith reported in Freda Degnan’s absence:

- Library Journal has once again given their highest 5-Star Award to the Delta Community Library. The award is based on circulation, electronic book and audio check outs, visits per capita, Internet use, and program attendance. Delta is number one nationwide in its category and budget range, \$200,000 to \$399,000. Four other Alaskan libraries received awards: Craig (five stars), Haines and Unalaska (four stars), and Homer (three stars).

- Library Director Joyce McCombs attended a meeting on December 14 at the School District office with Musgrove, Leith, Superintendent Laural Jackson, school principals, Lieutenant General James Dickinson, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Foote, Fort Greely Garrison Commander. Both LTG Dickinson and LTC Foote expressed appreciation for the outreach and asked how Fort Greely can continue support to the community through events, facility use, and activities on post.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported the runway was packed by volunteers and more snow is expected. He expressed appreciation for volunteers who diligently maintain the runway.

Park / Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported Fort Greely (Fort Wainwright) will not take responsibility for disposing of the City’s Zamboni that was loaned to them. The City Council did not give permission and had no knowledge of Fort Greely’s plans to surplus the spare Zamboni.

Discussion followed regarding the latest correspondence, November 14, 2017 letter from Colonel Roseanne M. Bennett, U.S. Army Staff Judge Advocate from Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER), \$45,000 estimated to replace a used Zamboni, contacting legislators, and discussing options at the January 2 meeting.

LEPC / Emergency Preparedness – Audrey Brown reported:

- The Local Emergency Planning Committee cancelled the November meeting and the next one will be on January 8, 2018. There have only been a few meetings held in the past year.

- A Public Information Officer (PIO) is vital to the National Incident Management System. Brown took a two-day FEMA course through Homeland Security in November, of which she received an invitation from the Fairbanks North Star Borough after a three-day course last April. She took a two-day course prior to that.

Public Health – Audrey Brown reported kits to properly dispose of outdated or unused medications are available in various places around town. Contact the Delta Public Health Center (895-4292) for more information.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel and Brown wished everyone a Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and a prosperous New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 6:42pm; Brown seconded.