

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 20, 2018 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at City Hall. Mayor Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

City Council members present: Mayor JW Musgrove, Deputy Mayor Freda Degnan
Jennifer Brant, Lou Heinbockel, Audrey Brown (telephonically), Pete Hallgren (telephonically)

City Council member excused: Alan Levinson

City employees present: Administrative Assistant Flower Cole, Finance Officer Stephanie Prestwich
Library Director Joyce McCombs, City Clerk Pat White

Five people from the community were present at the beginning of the meeting. The meeting was *not* broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Heinbockel moved to approve the March 20, 2018 agenda as presented; Brant seconded.
Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with six in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Brown moved to approve the March 6, 2018 minutes as presented; Heinbockel seconded.
Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with six in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ellie Schneider – Request for City to Sponsor Relay for Life

Musgrove referenced a letter from Ellie Schneider, dated March 7, 2018, asking the City to sponsor this year's Relay for Life by waiving the \$150 fees to rent the Community Center for a Mexican dinner fundraiser. As a sponsor, the City of Delta Junction's name and logo would be added to the 2018 Relay for Life t-shirts. [The Delta Relay team will join Fairbanks to represent the Interior of Alaska June 8+9.]

Heinbockel moved to waive rental fees for use of the Community Center on May 5, 2018; Brant seconded.

Hallgren explained history of reducing rental fees 50% for non-profits and ending it in 2012 because of too many people abusing the policy. He asked to stick to the standard practice or not charge rental fees to any one person or group. However, trade for sponsorship would be a consideration.

Brown suggested amending the motion to waive fees in view of the City's sponsorship appearing on the Relay t-shirts.

Heinbockel and Brant agreed with the proposed amendment.

Discussion followed regarding not waiving the \$300 cleaning deposit and inspecting the facility between two separate user groups on a Saturday.

Heinbockel said there were times when the community had little income and no source of revenue. He would consider revising the policy because any non-profit that is contributing to the community should benefit from use of a community facility.

Motion passed on a roll call vote (to sponsor the Relay for Life in lieu of charging \$150 in rental fees) with six in attendance (Hallgren, Brown, Degnan, Brant, Heinbockel, Musgrove).

Chamber of Commerce – Community Cleanup ~ May 5, 2018

John Lewis, Chamber of Commerce Vice President, asked the Council to once again reduce landfill rates during the Chamber's annual Community Cleanup on May 5, 2018.

Heinbockel moved to approve the public notice draft about Community Cleanup; Brant seconded.

Discussion followed regarding probability for snow to still be on the ground in May, the Chamber making arrangements for roll-offs at the Triangle, history of offering reduced rates on household garbage delivered to the landfill and not charging for yellow-bagged garbage delivered to the Triangle, Alaska Statutes (46.06.080) pertaining to littering on public highways, and not waiving the \$5 minimum charged at the landfill, nor the \$10 charge for uncovered loads (Resolution 2008-09 approved March 18, 2008) or the \$25 fee to remove refrigerant from appliances (policy adopted August 15, 2006).

Craig Cugini, a Chamber advisory member, reported the Chamber faced conflicts in choosing a date and they are fully aware that they may need to adjust it because of the large amount of snow. They will also coordinate with local organizations to serve hotdogs at the Triangle during the event.

Heinbockel fondly recalled Earth Day in the early 1970s when Nistler school busses transported students to various locations. As a rookie teacher, he and a group of rowdy 11th graders were deposited in Big Delta, eight miles north of Delta Junction, to work their way back while picking up trash along the roadsides.

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

Response from DEC Regarding Brownfield Assessment or Cleanup of Old Shooting Range

Musgrove referenced a March 7, 2018 letter from Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Environmental Program Specialist Christy Howard. He reported the State of Alaska received five applications for a DEC Brownfield Assessment or Cleanup (DBAC) and Delta Junction's shooting range was at the top of the list. Ranking could change, but upon receiving notice from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Christy Howard hopes "to notify successful applicants no later than May 15, 2018." Musgrove explained the landfill was located along the Delta River, west of the Richardson Highway and State Forestry, and later moved to Tanana Loop Extension and then Windy Ridge, where it is presently located. Efforts were made to clean up the old dump, aka shooting range, no-trespassing signs were posted, and boulders were used to barricade the entrance, discouraging people from accessing the lead-contaminated area (2010-2012).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Airport Clearing

Musgrove reported several hurdles are necessary before any progress can be made with airport lot development. City Administrator Mary Leith is researching road widths and the amount of gravel needed. The City Public Works crew submitted cost estimates to do the work in-house. Musgrove suggested requiring stump removal and building graveled roads to accommodate a mower tractor. He would research bid specs with Leith and Councilman Alan Levinson.

Hallgren said he did not support increasing employee wages (to \$35/hour) because of the benefit package already received with current wages.

Heinbockel said the project cannot lose money. All expenses must be recovered when the lots are sold. Discussion followed regarding appreciating the City Public Works crew for work on West Second and the Clinic Road; and Heinbockel, Hallgren, and Brown all in agreement to remove stumps.

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 219400 to Buffalo Center Services in the amount of \$1,960.79 for equipment fuel and heating fuel for the Fire Department and Public Works

CK# 219401 to ACS in the amount of \$1,854.68 for phone and Internet

CK# 219402 to Airport Equipment in the amount of \$3,127.64 to rent a loader for two days and a pickup (February 13 through March 2)

CK# 219403 to GVEA in the amount of \$4,757.47 for electricity in February

Brant moved to approve checks 219400 through 219403; Degnan seconded.

Discussion followed regarding renting a truck while the City truck was in for repairs and renting a loader for two days to cut back snow berms left by State DOT equipment operators (CK# 219402).

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

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported City Administrator Mary Leith and City Attorney Jim DeWitt are working on Hayes Circle, airport covenants, and a crossing permit for Ray Andreassen to access East Taxiway.

Heinbockel said creating a revocable license to cross City property is unnecessary.

Musgrove said Andreassen's property abuts a 50-foot piece of City property. It does not front North Taxiway.

Heinbockel asked why the City does not give Andreassen the 50-foot windbreak.

Musgrove reported disposing of City property will require an appraisal and an ordinance. The City Council gave Andreassen permission to build North Taxiway (1998, 1999), so he could access the airport from his hangar, but took no action to compensate him for the costs.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported the runway is smooth for wheels and skis. Corey Groppe may remove snow before it turns to slush.

Finance – Stephanie Prestwich reported she received a draft of the final audit, but then received more changes from the auditors.

Musgrove recommended electronically transferring some of the interest generated annually from the Permanent Fund (City Code of Ordinances 1.37) to another interest-bearing account. The interest earned, approximately \$50,000 each year, would be allocated to replace worn landfill equipment.

Hallgren said he preferred to continue with the standard practice, to count on interest from the previous calendar year while drafting the budget, but rolling it back into the Permanent Fund principal when it is not used.

Discussion followed regarding discussing the topic during upcoming budget sessions.

Emergency Services / Public Safety – Freda Degnan reported Rural Deltana firefighters participated in the St. Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser for children's cancer research. They raised \$6,000 by shaving their heads, the most raised by any one team in the history of the fundraising event in Fairbanks.

Library – Freda Degnan reported:

- Joyce McCombs attended the Alaska State Library Conference in Anchorage March 7/11 and participated in an 8-hour pre-conference session on how to build an online virtual tour of the library. She will share the link as soon as the narration is recorded. It will be posted on the State Library website. The Delta Library was acknowledged as a 5-Star Library winner again and McCombs was recognized as the outgoing Audrey P. Kolb Public Library Service Award winner.

- The Library Board is preparing for the annual Open House fundraiser on April 21.

- Dervish, an Irish band, will perform at the Community Center on March 22. Admission is by donation. The concert is sponsored by the Library Association, the Fairbanks Concert Association, POGO Mine, Boeing, Fort Greely MWR, and the City of Delta Junction.

- Building lights were turned off.

Heinbockel asked to have at least one outside light in the back of the library.

Park / Recreation – Jennifer Brant reported:

- Furnace and septic problems surfaced at the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena over the weekend. Michael Zastavskiy, repaired the furnace's fresh air vent and Kel's Septic thawed and pumped the septic system.

- The Bantam team will compete for State championship this weekend.

Discussion followed regarding two snow blowers, one belongs to the City and one was donated for use at the rink, turning off appliances in the concession area and shutting down the rink, but keeping the skate shack open if the outdoor rink can be cleared of snow, and involving the school district to remove snow at the park ballfields in preparation of the baseball season.

LEPC / Emergency Preparedness / Public Health – Audrey Brown reported:

- Five LEPC members will attend the Spring Emergency Preparedness in Anchorage, April 10/14.

- Bookshelves were secured in the City Administrator's office as a safety measure against earthquakes.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported:

- The streetlight across from the Elementary School was replaced.

- He asked to sell the current plow and replace it with a sander that has a conveyor belt, not an auger.

- The landfill experienced a power outage today. Heinbockel expressed issues with GVEA's John Brown backup generator and lack of coverage during an emergency situation. (Local electrician recovering from surgery.) Should it happen again, Heinbockel asked to allow customers to get rid of their garbage free of charge because of the inconvenience of hauling it the long distance only to be turned away.

Brant asked to research a small portable generator to operate the scale house.

Heinbockel agreed because of the high risk of the septic system freezing when the scale house is unattended.

ADJOURNMENT - Degnan moved to adjourn at 7:16pm.

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved; April 3, 2018