

**City Council Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 1, 2018 ~ 5:00PM**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**



The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at City Hall. Mayor Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

City Council members present: Mayor JW Musgrove, Deputy Mayor Freda Degnan  
Alan Levinson, Lou Heinbockel

City Council members excused: Pete Hallgren, Audrey Brown, Jennifer Brant

City employees present: City Administrator Mary Leith, Library Director Joyce McCombs  
City Clerk Pat White

Six people from the community and four out-of-town guests were present when the meeting started. The meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Heinbockel moved to approve the May 1, 2018 agenda; Degnan seconded.

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

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Heinbockel moved to approve the April 17, 2018 minutes; Levinson seconded.

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Chris Maestas, Garrison Public Affairs Officer, invited everyone to a concert on June 2, 5:00 to 9:00pm. Entertainers, Kellie Pickler and Waka Flocka, will perform outdoors behind the Fort Greely Community Activity Center. The concert is free to troops and the whole community.

**REQUEST TO SPEAK**

**Arctic Edge 2018 Update**

Tim Croft, Alaskan Command, Director of Joint Training and Exercises, reported the U.S. and her allies are committed to defending the arctic homeland. He explained planning, executing the boots-on-the-ground tactical training in March and more exercises in the next several years, building relationships prior to an emergency situation, and troop sizes possibly doubling by 2020.

Tommie Baker, U.S. Air Force Alaska Command Public Affairs, reported Red Flag – Alaska 18-1, an air combat exercise, would begin on April 26 and run through May 11. 18-2 and 18-3 exercises would follow in June and August. Interior Alaska residents should expect increased military air traffic. Concerned citizens can call 907-377-2116 or leave a message at <http://www.eielson.af.mil/Contact.aspx>. Training updates will be posted at [www.eielson.af.mil](http://www.eielson.af.mil).

**Request to Purchase City Property** (moved from last item of *New Business* – page 2)

Heinbockel moved to discuss *Request to Purchase City Property* under *New Business*; Degnan seconded

Brooks Smith explained a 200-foot radius next to his property off Reeve Road that he would like to acquire.

Musgrove said selling the property would require time, research, and multiple legal hoops. Building a reasonable driveway with a culvert across the City-owned right-of-way is doable as long as it meets emergency responder requirements.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Recovery of Spare Zamboni** (See continued discussion under *Additional Public and Council Comments* –pg 4)

Leith referenced a letter received from the Department of the Army, dated April 23, 2018. She asked whether to accept the military's offer of \$5,720, the amount received when the Zamboni was auctioned.

Heinbockel said he is not willing to vote without a full Council. The Delta School District deeded the title to the Zamboni to the City and then loaned it to Fort Greely the same month. It may not be worth \$15,000 in an auction, but it is worth more than \$5,720.

Musgrove suggested postponing action to the May 15 meeting and discussing options in an Executive Session.

### **Airport Subdivision Covenants**

Musgrove reported he reviewed covenants from airports across the country to create a minimal list of restrictions for the airport subdivision. It has been reviewed by City Attorney Jim DeWitt. The covenants will require an ordinance per City Code of Ordinances 5.10.090(c). Musgrove asked Council for input to finalize the covenants.

Discussion followed regarding Airport I covenants included in Airport II covenants, opposition toward restricting discharge of firearms, and introducing the ordinance at the May 15 Council meeting with possible public hearing and adoption on June 5, 2018.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **City Purchases over \$1,000**

CK# **219463** to Construction Machinery in the amount of \$6,963.18 for loader repairs (bucket stuck in up position)

CK# **219464** to Wells Fargo Credit Care in the amount of \$3,716.69 for miscellaneous charges (postage - \$189.55, truck fuel - \$173.38, Elena Powers, Flower Cole, and John Lewis airfare to LEPC Spring Preparedness Conference in Anchorage April 10/13 - \$573.30, electricity in March at Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena - \$1,117.00, framing of Council pictures - \$322.01, email service and computer virus protection at City Hall - \$94.99, City Hall office supplies - \$262.23, American Library Association annual membership renewal - \$175.00, John Johnston hotel accommodations while maintaining library computers in March - \$119.00, Mary Leith hotel accommodations in Anchorage while attending AMLJIA Safety Conference in March - \$366.24, vehicle registration renewals for ambulance and trailer - \$30.00, library materials - \$293.99)

CK# **219465** to BDO USA LLP in the amount of \$20,103.00 for FY17 audit, final billing

CK# **219466** to Letha Burcham in the amount of \$1,020.00 for contractual work (mapping/addressing) for February through April  
Degnan moved to approve checks 219463 through 219466 as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with four in attendance (Heinbockel, Degnan, Levinson, Musgrove).

#### **RFP – Audit Firm**

Musgrove referenced a Request for Proposal that Prestwich, Leith, and past City Administrator Mike Tvenge drafted and said it will be discussed at the May 15 meeting.

Leith asked for input, so edits are made before the bid is advertised on May 18.

Discussion followed regarding hopefully obtaining more reasonable rates by conducting a periodic bid process and new companies that do municipal audits in Alaska.

#### **Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2018-02, An Ordinance for the City of Delta Junction, Alaska Providing for a Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019**

Heinbockel moved to introduce and hold the first reading of Ordinance 2018-02, providing for a budget for the fiscal year 2019 and to set the public hearing and adoption for June 5; Degnan seconded.

Discussion followed regarding scheduling a budget work session on May 22 at 5:00pm.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with four in attendance (Levinson, Heinbockel, Degnan, Musgrove).

#### **Resolution 2018-02, A Resolution to Continue Participation in the AMLJIA Loss Control Incentive Program for the City of Delta Junction**

Leith explained benefits of continued membership with AMLJIA, accruing points for attending safety meetings that are held the first Tuesday of every month, recently purchasing five \$60 first aid kits through the safety savings account, “buying” traffic cones in the past (safety saving account) to use at the landfill, \$100,000 paid annually to insure City buildings, and AMLJIA representatives periodically inspecting buildings.

Heinbockel moved to adopt Resolution 2018-02 as presented; Degnan seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with four in attendance (Degnan, Levinson, Heinbockel, Musgrove).

**Request to Purchase City Property** (moved to page one)

**REPORTS**

**Mayor** – JW Musgrove reported Equipment Operator Corey Groppe and Maintenance Rob Bevard are presently managing the landfill since Richard Mitchell retired from the Landfill Equipment Operator position the end of April. Musgrove said he negotiated with Bevard to work six days/week at the landfill, including Saturdays. He would be given extra gas money also.

Leith said a part-time employee for maintenance responsibilities would be hired before Labor Day weekend. Discussion followed regarding cover material for the landfill, whether taxiways in Airport Subdivision II will be done in-house, and planning to replace the rink furnace, move doors, repair the sidewalk at City Hall, etc.

**City Administrator** – Mary Leith reported:

- Scale inspection, in two weeks, will be scheduled on a day that will not shut down the landfill operation.
- Surveying of Pioneer Park has been initiated and the Pioneers will contribute a reasonable amount toward obtaining deed to the property. An appraisal will be done at the beginning of FY19.
- Action was taken (June 6, 2017) to allocate \$50,000 from the FY17 budget to a sinking fund for major repairs and/or replacement of landfill equipment. The auditors recommended not moving money before the audit was finished. Now Mt. McKinley Bank requires permission from the City Council to open a new account. Discussion followed regarding Leith providing options and tabling the topic.

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported National Day of Prayer will be at noon at the Community Center on May 3. GVEA's annual member meeting will also be held at the Community Center on May 3, starting at 5:00pm.

**Emergency Services / Public Safety** – Freda Degnan reported:

- A (July 2016/June 2017) budget was received from the Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD) to accompany their April 2 request for \$12,000. It will be part of budget discussions.
- The Alaska State Troopers, Department of Fish & Game, and RDVFD attempted to save a young moose that had fallen into a culvert in a local resident's backyard. They were unsuccessful.

**Library** – Freda Degnan reported:

- More than 300 people attended the 27th annual Library Open House. The Library Association Board netted more than \$6,000 after expenses.
- The Library Board will vote on May 22 to purchase programs, concerts, events, and materials (books, incentives, reward parties for summer readers, crafts and books of Preschool Story Hour and Baby Laptime, and a set of the Battle of the Books) with Open House funds. A portion of Open House proceeds have been put into savings for the past two years to pay for a new addition to the children's area.
- The thousands of dollars the Library Board raises each year are not part of the annual library budget and are used for speakers, programs, and events brought to the local area. Library Director Joyce McCombs expressed appreciation for the Library Association Board, past and present, and for monetary contributions and volunteer hours.
- Ten elementary classes have signed up for the annual field trips to the library, which begin on May 10. Students walk to the library, listen to a story, learn about the library and summer reading programs, and receive bookmarks, stickers, and a new book for their classroom library. They will meet Shona Hilton, new Youth Services Coordinator for the Elementary Summer Reading Program, Jill Prestegard, who will run the Youth Program, and Leah Wrigley who will return for the summer as a part-time library aide. One hundred students are expected to participate in this year's summer reading programs.

McCombs reported the Relay for Life will host a Cinco de Mayo dinner at the Community Center on May 5.

**Airport** – Alan Levinson reported runways and taxiways are clear of snow. A few new planes are parked at the airport.

Musgrove said the ski-strip stays soft for a while because it is shaded by trees and there is an underlying semi-permeable layer that retains moisture.

**Fort Greely Liaison** – Craig Cugini, Deputy Garrison Commander, reported Holly "Cargo" Harrison is hiking 14,000 miles from the bottom of South America to Prudhoe Bay. Cargo is expected through Delta Junction any day. His trek is to bring awareness to *Heads Together*, a campaign to end stigma around mental health issues, which is spearheaded by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

**Park / Recreation** – Mary Leith reported Paving Products is working with M2C1 to pave paths at the park from Kimball Street to the pavilion in the center of the ballfields.

Heinbockel asked to inquire about expanding paving to include requests submitted by Laura White (discussed at the April 17 meeting), pave the parking lot at City Hall, and replace the sidewalk at City Hall.

Musgrove said he and Heinbockel would review the paving contract and/or discuss it during the budget cycle.

**Public Works** – Lou Heinbockel reported Jarvis Creek is flowing under the bridge, which means Aufeis (sheet-like mass of layered ice) is not directed toward town.

#### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Al Edgren reported Steve McCombs and Joanne Singer retired from the Delta State Forestry office. McCombs was employed for many years, starting out as an Emergency Firefighter. Chris McPeck will replace McCombs as dispatcher. Joanne Singer was employed for 19 years as Office Manager, but her position was downgraded to seasonal. Their retirements will leave a huge hole at the Delta Forestry office. Changing subjects, Edgren said the Zamboni was a working piece of equipment that Fort Greely used to maintain their ice rink, supporting their skating program and an active broomball program. The agreement with Fort Greely was that the Zamboni would be maintained and stored indoors. There was nothing wrong with the Zamboni. Its value is at least \$30,000. Referring to April 23 letter from the Department of the Army, Edgren said the Army admitted wrongdoing. He asked to negotiate and settle for at least \$30,000, not the \$5,720 they received when they auctioned it. A replacement Zamboni will cost a lot more. The City Attorney does not need to write the letter. Heinbockel said the school district paid \$80,000 for the Zamboni, extra blades, and a sharpening machine (1983). They gave title to the City in exchange for part of a loan (2005) and that \$15,000 is what he would accept as a final settlement.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Degan moved to adjourn at 7:03pm; Heinbockel seconded.

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: May 15, 2018