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**City Council Minutes**  
**October 6, 2015 ~ 5:00PM**

**Regular Meeting**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**  
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The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at City Hall. Mayor Pete Hallgren called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

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

City Council member excused: Audrey Brown

City Council vacancy: Seat A – to be filled after today’s Municipal Election

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

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

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove moved to approve the October 6, 2015 agenda as presented; Saarloos seconded. Motion passed.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Saarloos moved to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2015 meeting; Brennan seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with five Council members present.

REQUESTED TO SPEAK

Hallgren thanked Brian Corty for providing information to the community about the status of local television.

Brian Corty explained efforts in the past year to broadcast television channels to the Delta population and difficulties transmitting from the Donnelly Dome tower, even though several different attempts have been made and Fairbanks stations send excellent receive signals. He said Bill St. Pierre, owner of Tanana Valley Television (TVTV), is hesitant to invest more money into the project, even if he could stack FOX, CBS, and NBC on the same transmitter, Fairbanks channels can get picked up from 100-foot towers in other locations around town, and there is confusion about circuits at the Donnelly Dome tower site that happened in the 1950s.

Hallgren said private television stations have maintained their channels and the City of Delta Junction has facilitated in transmitting them from the Donnelly Dome site for many years.

Corty said the equipment building and tower (platform) still remain, but every antenna has been replaced in the last year. Discussion followed regarding Hallgren’s success after purchasing an antenna booster and a satellite dish at his residence, the Donnelly Dome transmit site powered by a generator provided by the Air Force and the City paying its monthly electricity bill, and local television lacking the Emergency Access System (EAS), but the local radio station, 95.5 FM radio, having it.

Corty said a test site in the Remington area can receive all television channels without an amplifier and he would prefer to locate a tower near Mil-Tan Road. Why can private broadcasters not use the existing AT&T tower in the middle of town? Because space is at an extreme premium (\$3,000/month plus \$40,000 application fee). The City of Delta Junction does not own the broadcasting licenses, so why would the City invest in something they do not own? The City could apply for a television license, but the application process would not be available until June 2016. How will television advance in the near future? Corty said broadcasted television may not even exist here or anywhere.

REPORTS

Emergency Services – Sebastian Saarloos reported residents periodically show up at the Fire Hall with medical emergencies instead of dialing 9-1-1. It is not a problem during the daytime, but it is difficult to wake anyone on the second floor in the middle of the night. Wireless doorbells did not work and Interior Hardware suggested a two-gong system. He ordered approximately \$75 in parts. If City employees are unable to install the system Morley Electric could do it for \$300 to \$500 and maybe less.

Airport – JW Musgrove referenced melted snow and said one of Chuck Forck’s sayings was, “October snow does not fall on September snow.”

Cemetery – Mary Leith reported pre-dug winter graves were used, so more were dug. Private plot owners also requested winter grave preparations and Michael Zastavskiy built three new covers that are necessary to prevent moose from falling through. Leith said she asked for half of the cost of opening and closing graves and both parties (three graves) did not object to paying a deposit.

Discussion followed regarding prettying up graves in the spring after they’ve settled, keeping soil heated and ready to fill graves, and establishing a policy for preparing winter gravesites.

Mayor – Pete Hallgren reported Congressman Don Young would meet with the general public on October 12 at City Hall. He would highlight the federal PILT, which is the City’s main source of income.

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- The lift station, needed to prevent the septic drainage from freezing up at the Public Works building, is on its way.
- Jeremy Johnson, Local Government Specialist, Division of Community and Regional Affairs, visited with staff at City Hall on September 29 to discuss municipal government procedures and local issues. The meeting was very useful.
- Flags were put at half-staff to respect the victims of the Umpqua Community College shooting in Roseburg, Oregon on October 1, 2015.

Discussion followed regarding Senator Dunleavy’s visit on September 28, commenting about “a town willing to give up potential Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) funding” (City Council opted to divert any CIP funds to Career Advancement Center / Partners for Progress last year), positive public comments about the new park outhouses, locking them up before winter, creating a plan to close out the old outhouses, and paving inside the park next summer.

Saarloos encouraged the listening public to provide input on Capital Improvement Projects and said the new outhouses are a reality because of community involvement.

School District – Sebastian Saarloos reported the High School Soccer Team had one tie, but never lost a game during the season, and then they won the State Championship.

Library – Joyce McCombs reported:

- The Delta Library received a \$10,000 gift from Pogo Mine and it will be used to replace staff computers.
- Boeing, MWR, and the Delta Library Association will sponsor Martha Redbone at the Fort Greely Community Activity Center on October 11. Her concert will include soul, blues, jazz, gospel, hill country music.

Musgrove questioned progress on establishing an endowment fund.

McCombs reported board member from Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD) is scheduled to meet with the Foraker Group to discuss an endowment fund for the Fire Department and she will report what she learns.

Personnel – Mary Leith reported:

- Saturday, October 10 was the last day of employment for the temporary hires on the excavation project and the remaining grant funds will be used for seeding next spring.

Saarloos reported the landfill excavation project finished sooner because of depleted funding; hiring additional equipment and equipment operators.

Hallgren said the new cell is one-third to one-half dug, expected to take several years to complete, and it is fully within the perimeters of the grant.

Saarloos said one-third is dug almost all the way down.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Purchase Orders

PO#00151 to GVEA in the amount of \$2,806.26 for August electricity

PO#00152 to ACS in the amount of \$946.36 for September phones

PO#00153 to Bank of America in the amount of \$1,618.66 for credit card charges (Terry Addison pre-employment drug test, water filters for City Hall, \$336.00 - City Web site renewal, \$114.98 - Spyware renewal, Leith’s hotel and change fee for air travel to Ketchikan for AML Summer Conference in August, Saarloos airfare to Anchorage for AML Conference in November)

PO#00180 to ACS in the amount of \$167.60 for September Internet services

PO#00199 to Foremost Promotions in the amount of \$1,064.48 for giveaways at Halloween event at Fire Hall

PO#00200 to Delta Concrete in the amount of \$1,580.00 for contract services on streets (Bear Avenue, Tanana Street, 3rd Street, 4th Street, and Gibson Lane)

PO#00201 to Med-Tech Resource in the amount of \$1,882.04 for ambulance supplies for Delta Medical Transport

PO#00202 to Airport Equipment Rentals in the amount of \$60,848.47 for equipment rentals for landfill excavation project (\$58,523.47) and street maintenance (\$2,325.00)

PO#00203 to Alaska Industrial Hardware in the amount of \$688.99 for
PO#00204 to Alaska Municipal League in the amount of \$1,375.00 for Hallgren, Brown, Saarloos registration for AML Conference in Anchorage in November
PO#00205 to My Boiler Man in the amount of \$621.50 for boiler repairs and maintenance at City Hall and Landfill Shop
PO#00206 to Bristol Engineering Services in the amount of \$619.25 for contract service (landfill expansion project, #7 payment)
PO#00207 to Buffalo Fuel in the amount of \$10,803.00 for September heating and equipment fuel
PO#00208 to CXT Incorporated in the amount of \$120,841.02 for two outhouses at City Park
PO#00209 to Delta Professional Development in the amount of \$882.34 for spare tire for City dump truck (\$639), tire repair (\$68.50), and fuel (\$174.84)
PO#00210 to Heritage General Contracting in the amount of \$57,790.00 for contracted services to install outhouses at City Park
PO#00211 to Overhead Door in the amount of \$1,068.30 for door repairs at Fire Hall

Musgrove moved to approve the purchase orders as presented; Brennan seconded.

Discussion followed regarding the agreement with Delta Medical Transport about ambulance supplies (PO#00201), keeping the Delta Rescue Squad ambulances ready for emergency situations, possibly disposing of another one in the near future, and questioning why electricity was high at the rink (\$360) during the month of August (PO#00151).

Saarloos asked to review electricity charges since January and compare them to when Morley Electric installed new LED fixtures at the rink. He said he is curious to see the comparisons (January to January) because of the new lighting and the motion sensors that automatically turn the lights on and off.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with five present (Degnan, Brennan, Saarloos, Musgrove, Hallgren).

Certificate of Deposit at Mt. McKinley Bank

Hallgren moved to renew the Certificate of Deposit at Mt. McKinley Bank for 12 months at 0.18% interest rate; Saarloos seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with five present (Musgrove, Brennan, Saarloos, Degnan, Hallgren).

City Per Diem Rate and Travel Reimbursement

Leith reported Delta Junction pays 44¢ per mile for travel reimbursement, whereas other municipalities are paying 56¢, 57¢, and 57.5¢. She asked to consider increasing mileage because it covers wear and tear on personal vehicles, not just the cost of fuel. She also asked to increase per diem because of the cost of eating out.

Musgrove moved to follow the City Administrator and Finance Director's recommendation to increase per diem from \$44.00 per day to \$60.00 and mileage from 44¢ per mile to 56¢; Saarloos seconded.

Hallgren reported he paid \$1.99 for a gallon of gas in Fort Worth on October 4, \$3.36/gallon in Fairbanks on October 5, and he noticed it was \$2.99 in Delta today.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with five present (Brennan, Saarloos, Degnan, Musgrove, Hallgren).

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

McCombs said she appreciated Interim Mayor Pro tem Sebastian Saarloos checking in at the library.

ADJOURNMENT

Musgrove moved to adjourn at 7:33pm; Hallgren seconded. Motion carried.