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**City Council Minutes**  
**October 13, 2015 ~ 5:00PM**

**Special Meeting**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**  
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A special meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at City Hall. Mayor Pete Hallgren called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

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

City employees present: City Clerk Pat White

Seven members from the community were present at different times and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove moved to approve the October 13, 2015 agenda as presented; Brown seconded.

Hallgren asked to add *Public Comments* and Musgrove asked to also add *Council Comments on Non-Agenda Items*.

PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dawn Grossmann asked 1) for a date in which Representative Jim Colver could discuss concerns before the Legislative Session begins the first of the year and 2) public comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) about basing F-35A aircraft at Eielson Air Force Base. Representative Colver intends to submit comments before the October 20 deadline. Grossmann said the aircraft would not be flying low over Delta, but the proposed increase in sonic booms is expected to be "two more per month."

Hallgren reported he submitted an official letter on behalf of the City Council (April 8, 2015) during the scoping period, supporting the F-35 aircraft at Eielson. He also acknowledged general public concerns about sonic booms and suggested moving all training further away from the community.

Grossmann said that is essentially what the public shared with Representative Colver, support of locating the aircraft at Eielson, but concern for livestock.

Discussion followed regarding Hallgren submitting another letter before October 20, Representative Colver attending the December 1 Council meeting, Grossmann hosting Colver's office in the Colombo Building, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 3:00-6:00pm, and Congressman Don Young's meeting with local residents at City Hall on October 12.

CERTIFY ELECTION RESULTS – October 6, 2015 Municipal Election

White reported 91 ballots were cast in the October 6, 2015 Municipal Election, 88 at the polls and three via absentee/early voting, equivalent to a 13% voter turnout.

• Lou Heinbockel received four write-in votes for Seat A. There were 14 other valid write-ins that totaled 21 votes. George Pursey received four write-in votes also, but declined to accept the seat.

• Freda Degnan received 80 votes for Seat D and there was one other valid write-in vote.

• Sebastian Saarloos received 84 votes for Seat E and there was one other valid write-in.

• William Brennan received 81 votes for Seat F and there was one other valid write-in.

Musgrove moved to certify the election results as presented; Brennan seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with six voting (Saarloos, Degnan, Brennan, Brown, Musgrove, Hallgren).

SWEAR IN NEWLY-ELECTED OFFICIALS

White administered the Oath of Office to the four newly-elected Council members. Heinbockel took his seat at the Council table with incumbents, Degnan, Saarloos, and Brennan.

[Lou Heinbockel was first appointed January 20, 1976 and served through May 1976. He served consecutive terms between October 1982/1988 and October 1999/2011, filled a vacancy October 2013/ 2014, and was again elected to a three-year term through October 2018. Freda Degnan was appointed to Seat D on June 2, 2015 and was elected to a one-year term through October 2016. Sebastian Saarloos was elected to Seat C in October 2011 and served until September 2013, appointed to Seat E on August 4, 2015, and was elected to a three-year seat through October 2018. William Brennan was appointed to Seat F on August 18, 2015 and elected to a two-year term through October 2017.]

ELECT MAYOR PRO TEM

Saarloos nominated JW Musgrove as Mayor Pro tem; Brown seconded.

Hallgren called for objections to close the floor for nominations with none being offered.

Hallgren moved to elect JW Musgrove by acclamation; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote (Brown, Brennan, Degnan, Saarloos, Heinbockel, Musgrove, Hallgren).

Hallgren explained election of a mayor equal in length to a Council member's term (§1.25.020) and the City Council electing a Mayor Pro tem each year to preside at Council meetings in the absence of the mayor (§1.10.050). He thanked Saarloos for serving as interim Deputy Mayor (Mayor Pro tem) since September 8, particularly because Hallgren and City Administrator Mary Leith were out of town at the same time on previously planned vacations.

Discussion followed regarding Musgrove serving nine consecutive years on the City Council since first being appointed on August 15, 2006.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

Hallgren called for input regarding Council reporting / interests.

Discussion followed regarding Brown creating a new category, *Emergency Preparedness / LEPC*, accepting *Public Health & Safety*, and giving *Emergency Services* to Degnan, Degnan applying as the alternate Elected Local Official with the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee), rolling *Cemetery* and *Park / Rec* in with *Public Works* and Heinbockel accepting it, Saarloos accepting *Lands* from Hallgren and also taking on *Library*, Brennan taking on *School District* reporting, and eliminating *Community Outreach* altogether.

Musgrove said *Park / Rec* can get separated from *Public Works* should it ever become too much to oversee.

Heinbockel said he will defer to City Administrator Mary Leith on cemetery reporting because she has overseen it for many years and will no doubt continue to do so.

Hallgren expressed concerns about the local radio station, KDHS 95.5 FM, being able to broadcast during a power outage because it is a fair prediction that there will be one in the next five years.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Al Edgren congratulated JW Musgrove as the new Mayor Pro tem. He recommended the City Council ask a Forestry official to explain what the future holds for Delta Forestry because there were many changes over the past summer and more pending. Admin Assistant Joanne Singer will be the only personnel employed in the Delta office through the winter. Saarloos reported Delta did not experience heavy snow and the five-day power outage that Fairbanks did. He commended Dean Bean, local GVEA lineman, for his service and efficiency in keeping right-of-ways clear of fallen trees.

Sherman Stebbins questioned registered voters in the City precinct that were listed on the October 7 Preliminary Election Results. He said there is a difference between owning property and declaring residence. Only when a person resides on a property are they considered a resident. Rental properties are simply another form of business. He asked who is responsible for "policing" the voter list because it is evident that two write-ins do not live in the City precinct.

Hallgren said it is very difficult, there is no solid answer, and the issue has been presented multiple times to the State Supreme Court. Residency is not where a person spends most of their nights; it is the place they consider home, and, if not presently there, they plan to return. Owning a vacant lot does not mean someone can claim residency.

White reported the Division of Election defines residency as wherever a voter claims they reside the majority of the time.

Stebbins said he resigned from the City Council when he moved outside city boundaries, but it appears he can buy a piece of property, build a shack, and sleep in it once a month.

Discussion followed regarding verifying residency through subsistence tags, electrical or phone bills, or a statement from a landlord and appreciation for Heinbockel coming back on the City Council.

Hallgren said three-quarters of potential talent to serve on the City Council live outside the city limits.

Saarloos said the City Council does not "check residency at the door" and will listen to anyone who presents issues that impact the greater community. "Just because you did not vote for us, does not mean you can't talk to us. Will we be able to do everything? No, but we will at least listen."

ADJOURNMENT

Musgrove moved to adjourn at 6:16pm. Motion carried.