



**City Council Minutes
January 17, 2017 ~ 5:00PM**

**Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at City Hall. Deputy Mayor JW Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

City Council members present: Mayor Pete Hallgren (telephonically), Deputy Mayor JW Musgrove
Lou Heinbockel, Jennifer Brant, Freda Degnan, Audrey Brown, William Brennan (until 5:27pm)

City Council member excused: Audrey Brown

City employees present: City Administrator Mary Leith, Finance Officer Stephanie Prestwich, City Clerk Pat White
Six members from the community were present for parts of the meeting. The meeting was not broadcast over the radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Heinbockel asked to move *Capital Improvement Projects* from *Unfinished Business* to follow *Approval of Minutes*.
Heinbockel moved to approve the January 17, 2017 agenda as amended; Brant seconded. Motion carried.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel moved to approve the January 4, 2017 minutes as presented; Degnan seconded. Motion carried.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) / Legislative Wish List

Heinbockel reported he requested asking the legislature for \$1.5 million at the January 4, 2017 Council meeting to replace aging equipment at the landfill. It was voted down with five Council members present, three in favor and two opposed. He said \$1.5 million seems unrealistic, but it is not unreasonable. Other options to replace the ten-year old equipment would be to 1) build a sinking fund by contributing to it each year or 2) dip into the Permanent Fund, but would the community support it?

Heinbockel moved to request \$500,000.00 from the State Legislature to establish a sinking fund to replace heavy equipment at the landfill; Brennan seconded.

Heinbockel said he would accept being excused from making the \$50,000 annual prison debt payment to put toward the landfill equipment sinking fund instead.

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

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Festival of Lights / Walk of Lights – February 4, 2017

Mindy Eggleston, representing Delta Junction Trails Association, invited everyone to the Walk of Lights on February 4, starting at the Sullivan Roadhouse at 5:30pm and ending at the State Parks office. Ice candles will light the walkway. Eggleston demonstrated how ice candles are made and she asked for volunteers to help make them.

Discussion followed regarding expecting about 100 participants, some decorating themselves with battery-operated lights, hoping for warm temperatures and no wind, volunteers providing safe road crossings, Festival of Lights fireworks at the park beginning at 8:00pm, and more information about the Walk of Lights available on DJTA's Facebook page.

Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department Board – Request for Funding

Steve Baugh, RDVFD Board President, asked the Council to contribute to Rural Deltana in support of the mutual aid agreement between them, the Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department, and Fort Greely EMS.

Discussion followed regarding the City's last donation to Deltana (\$5,000 on January 5, 2016), not including them in the FY2017 budget because of a reduction in Revenue Sharing, and Pogo donating a significant amount to RDVFD.

Brennan was excused at 5:27pm.

Musgrove suggested bringing the topic back at the next meeting (February 7) and he asked Baugh to identify a specific amount and justification for it, to provide a rudimentary budget, and documentation showing fire responses and activities. He also asked him to participate in the annual budget cycle, usually in May, when expenditures are considered.

Heinbockel asked if Rural Deltana bills residents for responding to fires.

Baugh said RDVFD is not a subscription service, depends upon community donations, and does not bill for services.

Heinbockel said he pays a lot in fire insurance, so he expects the Fire Department to charge for responding. If not, there is a lot of money being left on the table.

Brant moved to donate \$1,000.00 to Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department, contingent on receiving a budget and formal request (specific amount and justification); Heinbockel seconded.

Heinbockel said he would prefer finding another \$4,000.

Motion failed on a roll call vote with one in favor (Degnan) and four opposed (Hallgren, Brant, Heinbockel, Musgrove).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Establishing an Auto-Pay Standard Practice

Prestwich reported bills for GVEA (electricity), ACS (phone and Internet), Konica Minolta (library copier), and Ricoh (City Hall copier) are paid each month. Konica and Ricoh are currently paid through the bank's AutoPay. Prestwich asked to pay GVEA and ACS with the credit card.

Heinbockel moved to pay GVEA and ACS through credit card AutoPay; Brant seconded.

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

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) / Legislative Wish List – see page one

Airport Subdivision Phase II – Next Phase

Heinbockel reported part of Remington Road (aka Service Street) is constructed from the Richardson Highway to the east end of Family Medical Center. Approximately three-tens of a mile beyond the clinic is a trail that meets the airport subdivision right-of-way, which will become a developed road. Heinbockel asked to negotiate with Talus Enterprises, the contractor who cleared the subdivision, to possibly extend their contract to include removing and harvesting the remaining trees in the trail. It would probably take one day, but will need to be surveyed.

Heinbockel moved to authorize City Administrator Mary Leith to inquire with Talus about removing trees on the West Remington trail and what they would charge; Degnan seconded.

Hallgren said funds are available to finish the project and the proposal would be an add-on to the original contract.

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

Leith reported she would inquire with Ralph Mathews about surveying and roads and power lines will come thereafter.

NEW BUSINESS

Festival of Lights - Fireworks at Park - February 4, 2017

Heinbockel moved to approve fireworks at the City Park during the Chamber of Commerce-hosted Festival of Lights on February 4, 2017 upon receipt of proof of insurance; Brant seconded.

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

Add Secretarial Duties to Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Finance Position

Leith reported Doris Fales resigned from her longstanding position as secretary of the LEPC (since 2007). Mike Paschall suggested putting \$500 of LEPC grant funds toward Stephanie Prestwich's salary each quarter if LEPC secretarial duties could be added to her finance responsibilities with LEPC and her regular job as Finance Officer. Leith said LEPC has yet to approve the proposed agreement, but does not meet again until March 13 (second Monday every other month).

Hallgren moved to 1) add LEPC secretarial duties to Stephanie Prestwich's City finance and LEPC treasurer positions and 2) to accept the income from LEPC directly into the General Fund toward Prestwich's payroll; Heinbockel seconded.

Hallgren explained that the City receives grant funds from the State of Alaska each year and manages them for the LEPC. Part of the funding pays for secretarial duties (agendas, minutes, quarterly narrative reports). Prestwich is already responsible for quarterly financial reports.

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

Resolution 2017-02, a Resolution to Participate in the Commemoration and Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Completion of the Alaska Highway and Allen Army Airfield

Heinbockel moved to adopt Resolution 2017-02 as presented; Brant seconded.

Discussion followed regarding not focusing on names or how they changed (Big Delta or Buffalo Center), construction of the Alaska Highway ending where it intersects with the Richardson Highway, and historic information obtained from Allies in Wartime, The Alaska-Siberia Airway During World War II.

Hallgren, referencing the last paragraph of the resolution, reported the City would contribute seed money and also set up a separate account to accept contributions from the community for the 75th anniversary festivities.

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

Hallgren moved to donate \$1,000.00 to the 75th anniversary commemoration and celebration fund; Heinbockel seconded.

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

City Purchases Over \$1,000.00

CK# 218760 to Kel's Septic Pumping in the amount of \$1,637.50 to thaw septic system at Public Works building

CK# 218761 to Aetna in the amount of \$21,859.80 for January group health insurance

CK# 218762 to Buffalo Center Service in the amount of \$1,379.07 for fuel in City vehicles and fire tenders

CK# 218763 to GVEA in the amount of \$6,230.99 for electricity

CK# 218764 to ACS in the amount of \$1,486.83 for phones and Internet

Degnan moved to approve check # 218760 through 218764; Brant seconded.

Discussion followed regarding continuous problems with the Public Works septic line, not the whole septic system, making contractors accountable for problems, accepting advice from engineering firms, and area residents building satisfactory septic systems without experiencing any problems.

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

REPORTS

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- Fourteen people attended Homeland Security training on September 24, 2016. Plans are underway to host another work session on March 4, 2017 about potential community-wide disasters.

Craig Cugini, Deputy Garrison Commander, reported Fort Greely will host a full-scale exercise on emergency planning in September.

- A concerned citizen is interested in addressing how to deal with abandoned/stray dogs. There are no local leash laws or animal control and Alaska State Troopers do not get involved unless an animal presents some threat.

Discussion followed regarding how locals deal with stray animals and making information public.

Emergency Services / Public Safety – Freda Degnan reported the first 12 fire extinguishers have been delivered to Arctic Fire & Safety in Fairbanks.

Discussion followed regarding pricing slightly different to purchase new fire extinguishers instead of hydrostatic testing them and hefty fines associated with non-compliant fire extinguishers.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported members of the pilot's community coordinated with the flight service station and took care of runways by packing snow and clearing approaches. They also brushed snow off planes.

School District – Lou Heinbockel reported eight teams are expected to participate in the annual Dean Cummings Tournament, which will be held at the High School January 19/21.

Park / Recreation – Jennifer Brant reported:

- The Delta Skating Association hosted a successful youth tournament January 6/7 and a Mites tournament is planned for January 27/28.

- Numerous people expressed appreciation for the contract between the City, Delta Skating Association, and the School District because of ability to warm up in the High School when temperatures dropped to minus 20.

- There were issues with excessive heat (72°) in the rink restrooms, but DSA President Todd Zachgo reduced them (55°) after accessing the thermostat, despite inability to locate the key.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported the Public Works crew was authorized overtime to clear roads after the heavy snowfall over the weekend and before school busses rolled. Major bus routes were cleared by 7:15am.

Discussion followed regarding conditions of state-maintained roads during the state-recognized holiday weekend (Martin Luther King Day – January 16) and Delta Concrete providing additional road clearing per the Seasonal Street Maintenance Agreement.

Additional Reports – Lou Heinbockel reported he will make a proposal at the next meeting (February 7) to set a time limit of three hours on Council meetings with one 15-minute extension.

ADJOURNMENT

Hallgren moved to adjourn at 7:00pm; Degnan seconded.