

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
August 6, 2019 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at City Hall. Mayor JW Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

City Council members present: Mayor JW Musgrove, Deputy Mayor Freda Degnan
Lou Heinbockel, Pete Hallgren, Charles Lester, Audrey Brown

City Council member excused: Alan Levinson

City staff present: City Administrator Mary Leith, Library Director Joyce McCombs, City Clerk Pat White
Nine local residents and six guests with the SM-1A Project were present at the start of the meeting.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Brown moved to approve the August 6, 2019 agenda as presented; Lester seconded.
Motion passed by unanimous consent.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Brown moved to approve the July 16, 2019 minutes as presented; Degnan seconded.

Brown said it is understood there is no report when someone is excused from a meeting. She asked to remove names from reporting when a report is not given.

Musgrove called for objections to amending the minutes with none being offered.

Motion passed by unanimous consent to approve the July 16, 2019 minutes as amended.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE – none

REQUEST TO SPEAK

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nuclear Plant

Brenda Barber, SM-1A Project Manager, reported her team reported last (at the Restoration Advisory Board meeting on April 24, 2019). The USACE awarded contracts to local firms in Delta, including M2C1 for engineering work at the deactivated nuclear power plant. M2C1 will assist USACE with utility segregation in preparation for the ultimate decommissioning and dismantlement of the nuclear facility.

Discussion followed regarding contact information at City Hall for public inquiries about the project, Barber's team returning to Fort Greely every three weeks through January 2020, fuel rods already removed from the power plant, the steam generator still within the vapor containment structure that is encased in concrete, and anticipating awarding the project in 2022 with completion in 2028.

Barber said dismantling the power plant is a very tedious project. Everything must be taken apart piece by piece and, because the reactor components are encased in concrete, they will have to work their way through materials to package the components for transportation and disposal while protecting personnel from radiation.

CORRESPONDENCE

City of Delta Junction – Municipal Election – Notice of Vacancies

White reported three three-year Council seats are on the ballot for the October 1 Municipal Election. Candidates must be qualified voters residing in the City of Delta Junction for not less than one year prior to filing. The candidate filing period is August 22 through 5:00pm, September 6. Candidate packets are available at City Hall.

September 1 = Last Day to Register to Vote or Change Voter Information to be Eligible to Vote in the October 1, 2019 Municipal Election

White reported State law requires 30 days prior to an election to register to vote. Applications are available at City Hall, DMV, or the Division of Elections website (www.elections.alaska.gov). Applications can be faxed. If mailed, they must be postmarked before Sunday, September 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Plan for Maturing CDs

Musgrove reported five maturing CDs are nearing their term limit (one on August 2 and four on August 9). Leith said Finance Officer Stephanie Erickson is waiting on information. The matured two-year CDs currently make 1.7% interest and would move into a money market account that makes 1.8% until other decisions are made. Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool (AMLIP) was making 2.2% interest as of August 2. Discussion followed regarding up to \$250,000 being federally insured, laddering CDs at different time limits, better interest rates on longer term investments, and bringing back discussion on August 20.

NEW BUSINESS

Final Plat Approval – Kulinich Subdivision

Sebastian Saarloos reported Mil-Tan Road was added to the vicinity map in the upper right corner of the replat. There have been no changes since the preliminary replat was approved on July 16, 2019.

Degnan moved to approve the final plat of the Kulinich Subdivision; Brown seconded.

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

Preliminary Plat – Farrar Replat

Sebastian Saarloos reported Michael and Kassie Farrar own lots 25-32 of Golden Height Estates on the southwest side of Mil-Tan / Nistler intersection. The property follows a ridgeline on the southeastern corner of the subdivision. It would be impossible to build on any of the eight lots while abiding by the subdivision covenants. The Farrar Replat removes five property lines and combines eight lots into three; Lots 25 and 26 into Lot 25A (2.36 acres), Lots 27, 28, 29 into Lot 27A (4.67 acres), and Lots 30, 31, 32 into Lot 30A (3.87 acres). Saarloos said there are no issues with the title or utility easements. The existing road was built 35 or 40 years ago and will need to be improved. Approval of the plat “does not obligate the City, the public, or any other governing body to construct, operate, or maintain improvements.”

Heinbockel moved to approve the preliminary plat for the Farrar Replat as presented; Hallgren seconded.

Discussion followed regarding a cul-de-sac on Glacier View Drive next to Lot 25A.

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

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 220218 to Bill's Small Tractor Service - \$5,133.00 for lawn maintenance contract, payment 2 of 3

CK# 220219 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering - \$1,500.00 for property assessment of Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena

CK# 220220 to Cook & Haugeberg - \$6,035.50 for FY18 audit (\$37,427.62 to date)

CK# 220221 to Alaska Feed Company - \$3,229.82 for grass seed at Airport II Subdivision

CK# 220222 to Alaska Library Network - \$1,277.00 for annual license fee

CK# 220223 to Construction Machinery Industrial - \$1,539.49 for landfill loader parts

CK# 220224 to NC Machinery - \$1,260.75 for Skid Steer and loader parts

Discussion followed regarding 20 50-pound bags of grass seed needed to cover three-quarters of a mile at the airport subdivision (CK# 220221).

Heinbockel moved to approve checks #220218 through 220224; Degnan seconded.

Discussion followed regarding reassessing the rink because it is not a \$9 million-dollar facility (220219) and AML expected to issue a refund of \$11,280.87.

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

Appoint Municipal Election Officials

White referred to a timesheet and reported all nine individuals are City residents and returning from previous years. Mary Saarloos replaced Terry Kozarik who served on the Election Board in 2018. Three ladies oversee the election table (7:30am-8:30pm), the Election Board conducts the first ballot count when the polls close (8:00pm), and the Canvass Board meets the following morning at 9:00am to recount ballots. The Council is to appoint at least three qualified voters to serve as election officials per City Code 2.30.020 (a).

Heinbockel moved to appoint the nine election officials as presented; Brown seconded.

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

Tar Pot / Crack Sealer Purchase

Musgrove referenced a 2017 invoice from Morley Electric for \$9,800 to crack seal City streets. He reported Chris Morley offered to sell his tar pot for \$25,000.

Lester reported he and Musgrove inspected Morley's equipment, which has new part replacements. The sale price includes extra tar and sealer. All core streets need repairs. Nistler Road needs it the worst. Lester said the amount of necessary crack sealing would probably cost ten times the cost of Morley's used equipment.

Brown moved to pay \$25,000.00 to buy Chris Morley's crack sealing equipment; Degnan seconded.

Discussion followed regarding the size of the tar pot (approximately 8' x 14'), a propane burner used to heat the tar, Morley willing to train City employees, \$25K included in the FY20 budget, whether the purchase follows City Code (§1.41.025), past history on crack sealing, and continuing discussion on August 20.

Brown withdrew her motion; Degnan seconded.

Trespass Shooting Range Gravel to Landfill

Leith referred to her August 2 memo and recommended the Council 1) accept material at the landfill from the trespass shooting range and 2) reduce the tipping fee to 4¢ per pound. The material from City and State land must be treated and tested before it is transported for disposal. Brownfield grant funds will pay for disposal.

Hallgren referenced the amount of material, possibly 270 to 400 cubic yards that could weigh 2,400 to 2,900 pounds, and expressed concern about shortening the life of the landfill.

Leith said the material from the shooting range cannot be mixed with garbage or used as daily cover. It can be used "as an upper layer of daily cover immediately beneath the final cover." The most westerly location at the landfill is filled to the top. The shooting range material will be spread as well as covered.

Discussion followed regarding Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and Ahtna hopeful to get the bid out soon to finish the project before the end of the year.

Degnan moved to reduce landfill tipping fees from 8¢/pound to 4¢/pound for material related to the shooting range cleanup; Brown seconded.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported:

- Jeff Krigbaum, who presented information about the 2020 Census at the July 2 Council meeting, recently resigned from his position because of moving out of state. Barbara Miranda, who resides in Juneau, will oversee Jeff's position until it is filled. Barbara will help establish a Complete Count Committee (CCC) in Delta Junction. Anyone interested is invited to bring a sack lunch and meet at City Hall on August 28, 11:00-1:00. The CCC is to be made up of volunteers who will develop a plan to collect census data in the Delta area. Musgrove asked for any objection to the U.S. Census Bureau using the small conference room free of charge. Hallgren moved to waive the \$30 fee associated with leasing the City Hall conference room to the volunteers establishing a Complete Count Committee on August 28; Degnan seconded.

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

- Grass is coming up at the airport, courtesy of Public Works and summer hire employees.
- He repaired the John Deere mower tractor with new parts and old blades that were modified to fit.

Heinbockel questioned why a new mower is not purchased to pull behind the tractor.

Musgrove said he is searching for a new mower. The John Deere is still needed to knock down brush and the brush hog is also used at the airport subdivision.

- A small helicopter has been parked at the airport for the past three weeks.
- Firefighting activity has slowed down at the airport and hunting activity is expected to increase soon.
- He and Leith are still settling the oil and water separator issue with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Discussion followed regarding the fine once the public review process is finished.

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- She and Musgrove met with Tony and Amber White to revise the ambulance contract. The Delta Medical Transport contract renewal will be on the August 20 Council agenda.

- The landfill inspection was on August 1. Leith said she hopes for a better score than last year.
- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on August 7 at 10:20am Alaska Daylight Savings Time. This test will utilize the national public warning system to activate each state's EAS. It will be carried over television and radio broadcast stations, as well as cable and satellite broadcasters. The test will not activate the Wireless Emergency Alert System which delivers emergency notifications through cell towers to individual cell phones.
- The replat of Pioneer Park will be brought before the Council once the survey is done. Thereafter the City will pay for an appraisal and the State will sell Pioneer Park to the City for 50% of the appraised value. Sebastian Saarloos reported fieldwork began today, which starts the process to transfer ownership of the Pioneer Park to the City. The replat should take a couple of months.

City Clerk – no report

Finance – JW Musgrove reported Stephanie Erickson is working 20 hours per week for the next eight weeks while on maternity leave.

Heinbockel asked for a statement showing landfill income each month.

LEPC – Audrey Brown reported the next Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting is on September 9.

Emergency Preparedness – Audrey Brown distributed handouts generated from Golden Valley Electric Association and reported several items to prepare for a prolonged power outage.

Public Health – no report

Library – Freda Degnan reported:

- Seventy-six children, kindergarten through 6th grade, participated in the summer reading programs that finished two weeks ago. Two elementary sessions read a total of 27,881 minutes. Top readers in each group logged 3,125 and 1,860 minutes each. They received Barnes and Noble gift cards. The middle school readers converted minutes to miles traveled through the solar system (Earth to Pluto and halfway back). Isaac Johnson, son of Fort Greely Garrison Commander LTC Joel Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, was recognized as the superstar Middle School reader. He received a Nook E-reader and a gift card. Summer Library Aide Trinity Brant kept records, set up and took down equipment, prepared materials, and wrangled kids for the entire six weeks.
- Long-time Delta residents Harold and Lucy Stock donated several works of art to the library: a nine-foot piece of baleen, eight original oil paintings by Alaskan Artist Ellen Henne, caribou skin masks, a numbered stone lithograph by Fred Machetanz, small sculptures, and several pieces of ivory scrimshaw. Some smaller items are in the library's display case, which was built and donated by Harold many years ago. The artwork will be displayed on a rotating basis in the Alaskan section. They will be appraised for insurance purposes.
- The second annual Bookworm Shuffle, sponsored by the Delta Imagination Library and the Library Board, celebrates National Book Lovers Day on August 9. Participants walk, stroll, ride, or roll around the 3K course. Admission is free for the family event. Well-behaved pets are welcome but must be on leashes. Granite View Sports and Gifts donated a prize for the first family that crosses the finish line together. Registration is at 6:00pm and the race starts at 6:30pm in the Wi-Fi parking lot behind the library.

Jessica Leila reported traffic cones and signs will be posted, the 3K takes about an hour, and motorized vehicles are prohibited, except wheelchairs.

Discussion followed regarding interviewing three candidates to fill the Library Director position.

Schools – Freda Degnan reported the new school year starts August 12 for teachers and August 15 for students.

Airport – no report (see Mayor's report)

Public Works – Charles Lester reported recent monsoons slowed work on streets.

Discussion followed regarding street signs that need straightened or repaired.

Leith reported the sign at the Visitor Center was straightened.

Park / Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported the Deltana Fair (July 26/28) was very successful as was the baseball tournament at the park. He expressed concern with vehicles parked inside the fence, unchecked because the gate was left open. Lots of out-of-towners camped out in tents for the baseball games.

Leith reported the Public Works crew and summer hire built two new benches for the playground area after a small toddler got stuck in rotted wood in an old bench. The cost for the benches was about \$100 each.

Cemetery – Mary Leith reported two new graves were dug for recent burials.

At Large – Pete Hallgren reported he attended with Community Partnership meeting on July 31 with Freda Degnan, Charles Lester, JW Musgrove, Mary Leith, and multiple others representing the U.S. Army, Delta Junction, and Rural Deltana. Some partnership ideas were older, but there were a lot of new ideas also.

Additional Reports – Lou Heinbockel reported:

- Delta Industrial Services maintains Fourth Avenue, but after heavy rains, drainage appears to migrate toward the Alaska Steakhouse.
- The State Department of Transportation (DOT) repaired huge potholes that developed on Nistler Road near the water crossing (culvert next to Emmaus Road). DOT maintains Nistler between the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena and Clearwater Road.
- Four-wheelers have almost destroyed the paved sidewalks along Nistler. He asked to backfill the trench along the sidewalks with bull rock.

Hallgren questioned whether gravel would suffice for the asphalt sidewalks. A few loads of gravel could be used near the edge of Kimball and from Harper to South Clearwater.

Discussion followed regarding using the mound of dirt at the park that was dug up when the softball infields were rebuilt, and limited visibility on the corner of Deborah and Harper.

Diane Richardson introduced herself and said she was the previous EPA inspector for the State of Alaska. She could have guided the process pertaining to floor drains and she can provide input in resolving the shooting range cleanup. Samples will determine whether the soil is taken to the landfill or not. She said the EPA time clock starts when the first debris is picked up. Any hazardous waste would be handled by EPA, not the State of Alaska.

Leith reported a second batch of samples was already collected.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Brown reported the annual *Soup at the Sullivan Roadhouse Museum* (SRM) will be on August 21, 11:30am until soup is gone (usually 1:30pm). Local volunteers use vegetables from the Sullivan garden in a variety of homemade soups that they serve to the community. All donations are used for the SRM garden and grounds.

Heinbockel questioned status of septic problems at the Visitor Center.

Leith reported there have been no problems reported this summer.

Musgrove expressed appreciation for Mike Prestegard, who mans the radio equipment, even though tonight's meeting was not broadcast over KDHS 95.5.

ADJOURNMENT

Brown moved to adjourn at 7:30pm.