

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 15, 2019 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at City Hall. Mayor JW Musgrove called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00pm.

City Council members present: Mayor JW Musgrove, Deputy Mayor Freda Degnan
Lou Heinbockel, Charles Lester, Pete Hallgren (telephonically)

City Council members excused: Audrey Brown, Alan Levinson

City staff present: City Administrator Mary Leith, Library Director Tiki Levinson
Finance Officer Stephanie Erickson, City Clerk Pat White

Seventeen community members were present at the start of the meeting and it was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove reported *Landfill Rocks* was removed from *Request to Speak*. The Salcha Big Delta Soil & Water Conservation District opted to get rocks from another source.

Heinbockel moved to approve the October 15, 2019 agenda as amended; Degnan seconded.
Motion passed without objections.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2019 regular meeting and the October 8, 2019 special meeting as presented; Degnan seconded.

Motion passed without objections.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Char Lundy reported she's been with Heart Fur Animals since it was founded, during a time when the community was overrun with dogs and cats. She asked to use the vinyl floor area of the Community Center to hold spay and neuter clinics. Dr. Olson, a veterinarian from North Pole, offers free or low cost clinics all over Alaska. She comes to Delta every three or four months. A clinic is scheduled at the Public Works building on October 17, 8:30am to 5:00 or 6:00pm. Lundy said clinics are professionally run and the facilities need to be warm, bright, and sterile. Lauren Morton said the fire station and Public Works building are not ideal, but they would move vehicles outside in case an emergency happens during surgeries.

Hallgren said he preferred not holding spay and neuter clinics in the Community Center where food is served. Discussion followed regarding inability to use the school lobby because of scheduling conflicts, letters from the high school principal and local chiropractor attesting to cleanliness, discussing use of the Community Center in the past (since March 2007), and doing research about holding clinics in City facilities and possible liabilities.

Degnan moved to authorize use of the Public Works building for a spay-neuter clinic on October 17; Lester seconded.

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

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Rink Improvements

Todd Zachgo, President of Delta Skating Association (DSA), referenced his October 11, 2019 letter and photos explaining upgrades and improvements at the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena. A used, insulated 8'x16' building was donated for handicap viewing and was moved behind the rink boards, plexiglass, and netting on the south end of the arena. It is on skids and can be moved easily. Zachgo asked for roughly \$3,500 to pay for new renovations, emphasizing volunteers and businesses that contributed many hours of labor and materials.

Discussion followed regarding installing a 43"x 8' double pane window, a new roof, new insulation, door, and wheelchair ramp, M2C1 providing American with Disabilities Act (ADA) specs, not painting the exterior until next year, moving the electricity, and communicating all improvements with the City Council.

Heinbockel offered to donate 40-foot sections of metal siding.

Hallgren expressed concern with potential increases in rink electricity.
Zachgo said increased electricity would be from extra lights, two 110-volt heaters, and a thermostat.
Musgrove questioned whether rink improvements would affect insurance premiums.
Erickson reported \$6,632 is left of the \$10,700 that was budgeted in June for specific rink upgrades.
Zachgo asked if DSA's annual share toward use of the rink (\$4,500) could be spent on the recent upgrades.
Musgrove asked Zachgo to present a proposal with costs at the November 5 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Musgrove reported he delivered a letter to the local court clerk, as advised by both the City Attorney and the City's insurance agent, requesting removal of the City of Delta Junction and the City Fire Department from the list of approved non-profit organizations that accept people who must perform court-mandated community service.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 220342 to Aetna - \$14,354.09 for October group health insurance
CK# 220343 to GVEA - \$3,368.56 for September electricity
CK# 220344 to Med-Tech Resource - \$19,738.72 for SCBA bottles, masks, valves
CK# 220345 to Wells Fargo Credit Card - \$2,344.05 for credit card charges
CK# 220346 to M2C1 Construction & Engineering - \$2,280.00 for SWPPP at Airport II
CK# 220347 to Ricoh USA - \$1,005.46 for City Hall copier lease
CK# 220348 to Sludgebusters Septic - \$4,950.00 to pump City septic systems
CK# 220349 to Axelsson & Associates - \$3,400.00 to appraise Block 3 airport lots in Airport II

Heinbockel moved to approve checks #220342 through 220349; Degnan seconded.

Discussion followed regarding Northern Star (Pogo) contributing \$6,500 toward the \$19,739 purchase (CK# 220344), Leith obtaining quotes from two septic haulers (220348), whether to put it out for competitive bid, and the Visitor Center not included in City facilities that were serviced.

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

Status of Visitor Center / Chamber of Commerce

Leith reported keys to the Visitor Center were turned in on October 4. Many items were left in the building, i.e. clothes racks, boxes of maps, contents from outbuildings, and several taxidermy mounts. She is corresponding with AMLJIA about insuring both the Visitor Center and the Sullivan Roadhouse. AMLJIA is researching the value of the Sullivan. The Sullivan Roadhouse Association was formed, received their tax ID number, and selected officers. The Chamber gave them all the funds in the Sullivan Roadhouse account. The land where the Sullivan is located is still under State ownership. Adding a small section of right-of-way and surveying it must be done before it can be deeded to the City. She is researching a bid packet to lease the Visitor Center.

Heinbockel expressed concern with the Visitor Center freezing up over the winter. He asked that the City be responsible for maintenance, even if the building is winterized.

Discussion followed regarding the project to replace the milepost at the Visitor Center not yet finished.

REPORTS

Mayor – no report

Airport – JW Musgrove reported:

- GVEA completed installing power at the Airport Subdivision II.
- Volunteers packed snow on the runway and the tie-down area.

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- Appraisal of the first ten airport lots was received. An auction in March is feasible.
- Brooks Ludwig, Alaska State Parks, will host a public meeting about Quartz Lake at the Community Center on October 22, 5:00-8:00pm.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- As of mid-September there were 884 registered voters in the City precinct (608) and 2,985 in Deltana (600). Since 2017 the number of registered voters grew by 104 in the City and 337 in Deltana.
- Mayor JW Musgrove, City Administrator Mary Leith, and Complete Count Committee (CCC) Chair Deborah Snyder will host a tour of Delta and the Clearwater area October 17. The bus, courtesy of First Student, will transport 20+ people, including U.S. Census Bureau Director Dillingham from Washington DC and six other bureau employees. Community representatives and CCC volunteers will join those on the bus tour for a buffet luncheon at the Trophy Lodge. Emphasis is to introduce census visitors to our rural community and to discuss areas that may be difficult to count. The tour will include a stop at the Sullivan Roadhouse, hosted by Flower Cole and Katie Behrens, and a jaunt through Fort Greely, hosted by LTC Joel Johnson, Deputy to the Garrison Commander Craig Cugini, and Public Information Officer Chris Maestas.
- Audrey Brown is the only Council member attending the Alaska Municipal League conference (November 18-22). White said she is planning to attend the clerks portion of the conference (November 17-19). There is no reason to cancel or postpone the November 19 Council meeting.

Finance – Stephanie Erickson referred to handouts, FY20 three-month comparison (budget versus actual), status of City finances, and Permanent Fund progress, and reported:

- 33% of budgeted expenses have been spent and 77% of revenue has been received.
- The auditors will be at City Hall between October 28/30.

Emergency Preparedness – no report

Public Health – no report

Library – Freda Degnan reported:

- The Fairbanks Concert Association will sponsor The Rad Trads at the Community Center on October 21.
- The library will host a Census Worker Recruitment on October 25, 10:00-5:30pm. Staff will be available to assist people in applying for census jobs on a dedicated computer.
- The first Wiser @ Your Library event will be held at the library on October 10. The Red Carpet Flower Boutique of Anchorage will instruct how to arrange flowers professionally.
- Story Hour has been full for the last two weeks. This week features a spider story and making edible spiders.
- Twenty-eight new patrons have signed up at the library since September 1.

Schools – Freda Degnan reported a School Board business meeting will be held on October 17 and a strategic planning meeting will be held on October 22.

Public Works – Charles Lester reported snow was plowed from most of the main arteries, which required work on Saturday.

Heinbockel questioned purchasing a “trap” or gadget that hooks on the end of the blade to eliminate the need of a second person following with the plow truck to remove berms left in driveways.

Lester said the attachment works in fresh snow, but it’s practically useless otherwise.

Leith said the sander in the plow truck is awaiting replacement parts.

Musgrove said the International plow truck and sander is occasionally used to haul gravel or garbage. He is researching the smaller blade and a belt-drive sander unit.

Discussion followed regarding homeowners being responsible for snow left in their driveways, City priorities, and recent snowfall that resulted in over 12 inches of snow.

Heinbockel questioned hiring on-call equipment operators should Delta Concrete or City employees not be available on weekends.

Park / Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported a batting cage at the park collapsed under heavy snow.

Cemetery – no report

At Large – no report

Additional Reports – Lou Heinbockel asked that Delta Medical Transport provide an occasional report showing the status of their ambulance service.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jessica Leija invited the Council to join Senator Mike Shower and Representative George Rauscher at a town hall meeting at the Legislative Information Office (LIO) on October 18 at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinbockel moved to adjourn at 6:36pm; Degnan seconded.

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: November 5, 2019