

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



The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at City Hall. Mayor JW Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

City Council members present: Mayor JW Musgrove, Deputy Mayor Freda Degnan
Lou Heinbockel, Alan Levinson, Charles Lester, Audrey Brown (telephonically)

City Council member excused: Pete Hallgren

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

Over 30 community members, mostly hockey families, were present during different parts of the meeting and Michael Prestegard monitored equipment while the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove reported checks #220367 and 220368 were added to *City Purchases over \$1,000*.

Heinbockel moved to approve the November 5, 2019 agenda as amended; Degnan seconded.

Motion passed without objections.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel moved to approve the October 15, 2019 minutes as presented; Lester seconded.

Motion passed without objections.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Lauren Morton, representing Heart Fur Animals, said she was hopeful to be on the agenda to get permission to use the Community Center for a spay and neuter clinic.

Musgrove said he is awaiting information from both the City attorney and insurance agents.

Char Lundy said the space at the Public Works building worked well for the (October 17) clinic. If more Council members had gone, they would've gotten a different impression of what actually happens.

Discussion followed regarding hazardous medical waste disposed of differently than body parts and Heart Fur Animals planning another clinic in January and requesting the Community Center as backup.

Musgrove said the Council is not opposed to Heart Fur Animals' efforts, but leasing the Community Center for spay and neuter clinics is highly unlikely. He hopes the Council will approve leasing the Public Works conference room (*City Building Rentals*, pages 3), so clinics can be scheduled as easily as any other event.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Request to Use Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena

Brittany Clark said eight 12U skaters from Delta (11 and 12-year old girls and boys) play for Alaska Heat, a hockey team run through an association in Tok, coached by Delta resident Jimmy Terry, and sponsored by businesses in Delta. They attempted to discuss scheduling ice time for Alaska Heat prior to renewing the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City, Delta Skating Association (DSA), and Delta Greely School District (DGSD), but were told to schedule through DSA. Normal practice is two one-hour sessions each week. DSA denied Alaska Heat use of the rink facility for dryland training because equipment was stored in the building. As for ice time, DSA skaters would have priority and anything leftover would be available on a month-by-month basis. Clark asked the Council to intervene on their behalf for the same time given to DSA teams. They would be comfortable with anything, but prefer consistent times. DSA suggested Alaska Heat pay \$150/hour for use of the rink, which would total \$5,400 for 18 weeks. DSA only pays \$4,500. She hoped DSA would not be given preferential treatment because they are no longer the only option for local skaters.

Musgrove said the request is beyond the scope of a Council meeting. The MOA authorizes DSA to operate the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena, so the City is not directly involved in scheduling. He asked Clark to submit talking points to City Administrator Mary Leith, so they can consult with DSA President Todd Zachgo.

See more discussion under *Additional Public and Council Comments* (page 5).

CORRESPONDENCE

Quilts of Valor Group - Request to Waive Rental Fees of Large Conference Room on November 15/16

Heinbockel moved to waive the \$100.00/day rental fee for the Quilts of Valor group to use the large conference room at City Hall on November 15 and 16, but not to dismiss the \$200.00 cleaning deposit; Levinson seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote with six in attendance (Heinbockel, Levinson, Degnan, Lester, Brown, Musgrove).

Community Thanksgiving Dinner – Request to Waive Community Center Rental Fees

Gene Reierson referred to Yvonne Echo-Hawk's October 31 email (estimating 200-250 people attend the Thanksgiving dinner) and said Community Center rental fees were paid in the past from public donations and business sponsors. The expense could be used toward purchasing food instead. Discussion followed regarding Karla Brown starting the tradition and returning this year for its 10th anniversary.

Heinbockel moved to waive the \$150.00 rental fee for the Thanksgiving dinner at the Community Center on November 28, but not to waive the \$300.00 cleaning deposit; Degnan seconded.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena (Rink) Upgrades

Musgrove referred to Todd Zachgo's expense report and descriptions of rink improvements (1,072 estimated hours of volunteer labor, \$3,670 in donated equipment and materials, \$3,088.36 in actual charges and out-of-pocket expenses). He asked to issue payment to Delta Skating Association (DSA) upon receiving invoices. DSA will juggle funding until the next budget cycle because recent improvements were not part of the \$10,700 that was allocated during the FY20 cycle. Musgrove said the Council approved building a handicap viewing platform at the April 17, 2018 meeting. Laura White was to present plans and costs thereafter, but the "platform" obviously morphed into a fully constructed building.

Todd Zachgo, DSA President, expressed appreciation to the Council for input and support. He explained renovations to the handicap-accessible building that was donated by Laura and Cody White. It is now ready to use, complete with a carpeted wheelchair ramp. Exterior siding will be a project for next year. Zachgo thanked the Geritol Gang (Bill Smith, Jerry Zachgo, and Tim White) for their tireless work and material donations, Morley Electric for relocating electrical power for the handicap building, Logan Schiler for complete rewiring and hook up, including a disconnect switch as a safety feature, and last, but not least, the local businesses (Airport Equipment Rentals, Delta Building Supply, Interior Hardware). New locks were not purchased, but doors were repaired and relocated, so the main entrance now has a keyed door.

Discussion followed regarding the outdoor rink occasionally used by late night skaters, DSA needing to know when it is used, so it can be zammed (resurfaced), Zamboni doors on the outdoor rink kept locked to keep vehicles from accessing it, and remaking ice for the main rink, kidde rink, and outdoor rink.

Heinbockel moved to pay Delta Skating Association \$3,088.36 for rink improvements; Degnan seconded.

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

Musgrove thanked the Geritol Gang, vendors, and all the volunteers for supporting local skating programs and rink renovations. Approval of additional spending is not required as long as allocated funds are still available.

Sullivan Roadhouse / Farmer's Market Land

Leith reported Lot 77 (77B = Sullivan Roadhouse and 77A = Farmer's Market and antique equipment) was already surveyed, but Government Lot 60 (Alaska Highway right of way) was not. Dianna Leinberger, Natural Resource Manager, Division of Mining, Land & Water, recommended surveying the parcels to vacate interior lot lines and eliminate potential issues in the future. Because application for conveyance was started (June 2011) before State of Alaska fees increased (July 2018) the land would be deeded to the City at no cost beyond survey expenses. Delta Surveys quoted \$2,500 to survey GL60 and \$4,000 for a replat. Leith recommended

combining Lot 77A and Lot 60 into one parcel, separate from 77B, and to allocate funds for the replat in the FY21 budget.

Brown moved to survey and replat Lot 60 and Lot 77A into one parcel; Heinbockel seconded.

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

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 220364 to Construction Machinery - \$6,651.96 to repair Volvo L220 tilt cylinder and purchase a level sensor

CK# 220365 to Delta Transport Services - \$1,347.92 for heating fuel and equipment fuel at landfill

CK# 220366 to Aetna - \$11,654.04 for November group health insurance

CK# 220367 to Interior Hardware - \$2,997.91 – materials for Public Works lift station (\$2,221.88), supplies to decorate for annual Halloween party at fire station (\$181.09), ambulance cylinder lease (\$500), and Public Works supplies (\$94.94)

CK# 220368 to Wells Fargo - \$5,209.32 for miscellaneous credit card purchases

Discussion followed regarding why oxygen tanks are not part of the ambulance subsidy, whether the oxygen bottles are an unnecessary expense, and no longer funding them (contracted services in the annual budget).

Degnan moved to approve checks #220364 through 220368, contingent upon getting a credit from Interior Hardware when the oxygen bottles are returned; Lester seconded.

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

Library Phone System Upgrade

Tiki Levinson referenced her memo listing reasons to replace the phone system at the library, noting a power surge several years ago that disabled use of the second line. No one could dial into the library for an hour and a half recently while Levinson used the phone for training. The current phone system is 15 years old, parts are no longer available, and the company no longer exists. Alaska Communications Services (ACS) quoted \$8,000, but pared it down to \$6,992.23. ACS also owns existing lines that support the library's E-Rate.

Heinbockel moved to approve the library phone upgrades through Alaska Communications using \$6,000.00 from the library budget plus approximately \$1,000.00 from PILT funds; Lester seconded.

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

Levinson stated there will be a reoccurring (\$100) charge each month for three years for technical support.

City Hall Copier Upgrade (Lease)

Erickson referenced her memo and said the 5 1/2-year lease for the Ricoh copier has expired. Konica Minolta proposed \$389/month for a comparable copier and unlimited copies. Both Ricoh and Konica require a 60-month lease. Erickson recommended leasing through Konica because of the savings (average \$1,688/year).

Brown moved to approve a 60-month lease with Konica Minolta for a copier at City Hall; Lester seconded.

Discussion followed regarding disabling a copier's memory of any confidential information.

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

City Building Rentals

Musgrove referenced his memo and the *City Rental Information* schedule that explained details about renting City facilities. He asked to add the carpeted conference room in the Public Works building. Heart Fur Animals used it for the spay/neuter clinic on October 17 and it proved to be a good space for their purposes. Musgrove suggested renting the space for \$100/day, which is comparable in size and price of the school lobby (\$125) and the large conference room at City Hall (\$100). Red Cross was previously authorized use of the Public Works conference room because it is an ideal location for privacy.

Heinbockel moved to approve adding the Public Works conference room to the City-facility rental list, to include the adjacent overhead door area upon request, and to charge \$100.00/day plus a refundable \$200.00 cleaning deposit; Degnan seconded.

Discussion followed regarding removing the carpet or painting the floor, purchasing reinforced visqueen that can be cleaned, stored, and reused, and parking the (1982) Seagrave fire engine outside or at the landfill. **Motion passed** on a roll call vote with six in attendance (Lester, Brown, Levinson, Degnan, Heinbockel, Musgrove).

REPORTS

Mayor – no report

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported she is drafting a resolution and researching a plan to auction the ten lots in Block 3 of Airport Subdivision II. The auction could possibly be scheduled in March.

Lester suggested clearing the subdivision roads, so potential buyers could inspect airport lots before the auction. Discussion followed regarding hiring Randy Peterson to conduct the auction for \$2,000, airport streets not considered priority because they are not school bus routes, and putting lots up for over-the-counter sale if they are not sold during the Public Outcry Auction.

Leith said all ten lots were appraised the same, no matter if they were 1.39 or 1.40 acres each.

City Clerk – Pat White reported the City hosted a tour of the Delta-Clearwater area on October 17. It went ten minutes over the allotted time, but Director Dillingham and seven U.S. Census Bureau personnel enjoyed the afternoon. JW Musgrove and Mary Leith guided the bus tour. LTC Joel Johnson, Deputy to the Garrison Commander Craig Cugini, and Public Information Officer Chris Maestas guided the portion through Fort Greely, pointing out the nation's missile defense fields. The purpose of the bus tour was to see rural Alaska and to identify hard-to-count areas that will be part of data collecting starting in March 2020. Added features of the tour included stops at the library and the Sullivan Roadhouse. Bruce Grossmann showed a photo of Florence Sullivan that was taken by a census taker in 1920. A highlight was seeing a whole family of moose near the gate at Fort Greely. The tour ended back at City Hall after a luncheon at the Trophy Lodge. First Student donated the use of their bus and driver, Rena Case, who is also a volunteer on the local Complete Count Committee.

Finance – Stephanie Erickson reported Cook & Haugeberg auditors worked on the FY19 audit October 28/30.

LEPC – Audrey Brown reported the next LEPC meeting was changed from November 11 to November 18.

Emergency Preparedness – no report

Public Health – Audrey Brown reported Wendy Berg, itinerant Public Health Nurse, is interested in hosting a Point of Dispensing (POD) clinic.

Library – Freda Degnan reported:

- Well Street Art Company from Fairbanks appraised the art collection that was generously donated to the library by Harold and Lucille Stock. Two pieces valued \$3,500 each and the total collection was valued at \$15,630. Archival cases will be purchased to display pieces not yet on display.
- Trick-or-treaters visited the library on Halloween, so many that a patron donated candy to get through closing.
- Library Director Tiki Levinson will attend the 2019 Alaska Afterschool Conference in Juneau, courtesy of a scholarship by the Alaska Children's Trust.
- Shelly Ward will instruct a holiday card making class on November 21. The class is already full.

Schools – Freda Degnan reported:

- The Student Council and senior class will host a Harvest Festival at the High School on November 15. Booths support numerous school activities. The general public is invited to compete in a chili cook-off.
- Basketball camps will be held on November 9 for two age groups between second and fifth graders.
- This is the last week to turn in box tops to the elementary school.
- A Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held at the High School on November 11.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported volunteers packed the runway and tie-down area.

Musgrove said airport users and volunteers swept the snow off airplanes in the tie-down area.

Public Works – Charles Lester reported the lift station bungalow was finished and will hopefully resolve longstanding problems.

Leith reported the Public Works crew is preparing one bay to store sand inside the building.

Heinbockel reported the Public Works crew removed snow and sanded the hill at the landfill after the first heavy snow. The sander in the back of the Ford truck does not handle big enough material and fine sand does not stick. He asked to either remedy the issue or contract with Delta Concrete to spread sand.

Discussion followed regarding options and streamlining recycling aluminum cans, so it is cost effective.

Park / Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported renovations to the handicap building, moving the bleachers across the rink, and all the improvements at the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena are outstanding. It has taken years to remove all the gravel. Eventually the indoor rink needs to be blacktopped. He asked to research purchasing a second scoreboard that is visible by players in their new location.

Cemetery – no report

At Large – no report

Additional Reports – Lou Heinbockel expressed concern with people knocking down street signs and tearing up freshly plowed streets and private property. He questioned how Alaska State Troopers address youth doing brodies (aka doughnuts) at 3:00 and 4:00 in the morning.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel asked that the junk cars near the fire station be removed.

Leith said she is working to resolve it.

Brittany Clark referred to the City Code pertaining to *Parks and Recreation* (Title VI) and said sections of it conflict with the MOA. She has been part of DSA for over ten years, is a current board member, and she understands DSA's responsibility in managing the facility and the amount of volunteer time involved. Just about every parent of the Alaska Heat team has had experience with DSA. Some are still actively involved because of other children. They would be grateful for ice time, even if only once a week.

Musgrove said the Council is aware of the need to revise discrepancies in the City Code of Ordinances. He restated his previous request for Clark to submit talking points.

Heinbockel asked why a second hockey group was created and whether Alaska Heat could use the outdoor rink.

Clark said each of the Alaska Heat hockey players had personal differences with DSA that were not resolved. Playing for Alaska Heat has resulted in positive outcomes for each of them. There are two local 12U teams; DSA and Alaska Heat. The two teams are not scheduled to play each other, but they could if they signed up for the same tournament. They attend school together and do not have any competitive issues. The Delta High School uses the rink from 3:30 to 5:00, Monday through Friday, and other age groups use it from 5:00 to 9:00. Games are generally scheduled on weekends. Laura White will run an eight-week skating club for one hour on Mondays. Referring to Heinbockel's question about using the outdoor rink, Clark said the outdoor rink is always available to the public. It is not scheduled.

Jimmy Terry referred to previous discussion about cost of ice time (page 1) and said Delta men's league was charged \$30/hour last year. Polar Ice (in North Pole) charges \$220 to \$250/hour. Big Dipper (Fairbanks) charges \$160/hour. Terry said he offered \$1,500 to City Administrator Mary Leith for two hours of ice throughout the season before the 2019-2021 MOA was finalized (September 16).

Musgrove said decisions can be made once DSA weighs in on the conversation since they manage every aspect of the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena, but there probably will not be any decent ice until the weather gets colder.

ADJOURNMENT

Heinbockel move to adjourn at 7:57pm.