

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 18, 2020 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:00pm in the large conference room.

Council members present: Mayor JW MUSGROVE, Deputy Mayor Freda DEGNAN (excused at 5:36pm), Lou HEINBOCKEL, Audrey BROWN, Pete HALLGEN (telephonically)

Council members excused: Alan LEVINSON, Charles LESTER

Staff present: City Administrator Mary LEITH, Finance Officer Stephanie ERICKSON, City Clerk Pat WHITE

Public present: Michael PRESTEGARD monitored radio equipment while the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5. Five area residents were in the audience.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Brown moved to approve the February 18, 2020 agenda as presented; Degnan seconded.

Hallgren expressed appreciation for being able to access the agenda and documents directly from the City website.

Motion passed without objections.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Brown moved to approve the February 4, 2020 minutes; Degnan seconded.

Brown asked to change “extreme” weather conditions to “dangerous” (LEPC report – page 2).

Motion passed on a roll call to approve the amended minutes with five in attendance (Heinbockel, Degnan, Hallgren, Brown, Musgrove).

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE – none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Employee Policy – Amend Holiday Pay

Musgrove reported holiday pay is subject to misinterpretation in the *City Employee Policy Plan*. The proposed rewrite provides better details.

Motion: Brown moved to approve the clarified version of holiday pay (Employee Policy Plan - Chapter 4, Sections 12/13) as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Discussion followed regarding instances when the Public Works crew were paid regular wages plus time and a half to clear snow or repair equipment on a holiday and salaried employees not receiving extra compensation should they work on an actual holiday or observed holiday.

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

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

Motion: Brown moved to approve checks #220530 through 220535 as presented; Degnan seconded.

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

Resolution 2020-04, A Resolution of the City of Delta Junction to Lease the Visitor Center and “Triangle” Property to the Delta Farm Bureau

Musgrove referenced Lease Terms #6 (Resolution 2020-04, page 4) and explained a concern from the public about whether the Delta Farm Bureau would keep the Visitor Center open longer than the tourist season. The Delta Farm Bureau is not prohibited from selling their products, but it is doubtful they would sell enough to stay open through the winter. He felt there was no problem with the verbiage, “The Delta Farm Bureau shall have the Visitor Center open to the public during the main tourism season from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend each year.

The operating season may only be changed by mutual agreement of the Bureau and the City,” and he said it could be addressed when renegotiating the contract.

Leith reported the lease is similar to the Chamber of Commerce’s with the \$2 million insurance requirement. The lease fee was set at \$500/year instead of the Chamber’s \$1/year and the lease term was set at five years with two possible five-year renewals.

Discussion followed regarding the City having access to facilities at the Triangle, not inspecting Farm Bureau records without prior request, whether to change terminology (#12), and the Farm Bureau’s non-profit status.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve Resolution 2020-04, the Visitor Center and Triangle lease agreement with the Delta Farm Bureau as presented; Brown seconded.

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

Degnan was excused at 5:36pm.

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported the Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service (BLM AFS) and U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) planned to burn woody debris piles on military training land southwest of Delta Junction.

Burning was to continue through March 29, but it was finished in 1 ½ days. They anticipate burning grass in April.

City Administrator – Mary Leith talked about the milepost marker not qualifying as a BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Service Members) project, getting a quote from the Department of Transportation to patch City streets next summer, and whether the City could organize the annual Community Cleanup.

Finance – Stephanie Erickson reported she is still working with Cook & Haugeberg to finish the FY19 audit.

LEPC – Audrey Brown reported someone from the National Weather Service (NWS) is tentatively scheduled to attend the March 9 LEPC meeting to discuss training spotters to provide on-the-ground reports about dangerous weather conditions, i.e. hailstorms, flooding, extreme high winds.

Emergency Preparedness – Audrey Brown recommended carrying to-go bags (extra hat, mittens, blankets, snacks) in vehicles while traveling during extreme cold temperatures.

Public Health – Audrey Brown reported there are no cases of coronavirus in Alaska.

Library – Audrey Brown passed around a library card, featuring Sebastian Saarloos’ photo of the Delta Library, and explained its purpose in identifying patrons. She distributed Grow Wiser @ Your Library: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten advertisements about a new reading program for pre-kindergarten children, sponsored by the Delta Library. Children can register at a Leap into Learning launch party at 1:00pm on February 29. Brown reported on upcoming events at the library: Whit and Cindy Aillaud - Pacific Trails experiences on February 27 and Dr. Seuss’s birthday and Read Across America Day on March 2 [celebrated on March 3].

Discussion followed regarding no fees associated with library cards, no fines on overdue books, and accepting donations and lifetime memberships (\$250) to support the local library.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported status of a new windsock and frame. They may modify the existing frame.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel asked to allocate funds in the next budget cycle to reengineer the approach to the Mil-Tan/Nistler intersection.

At Large – Pete Hallgren expressed appreciation for the new format on the City’s website.

Discussion followed regarding one local resident needing to switch to a different browser to access agenda documents and Debbie Phillips, Sirius Company, adding embedded files to the web design, Stephanie Erickson setting up Sound Cloud to upload Council meetings, and Flower Cole posting agendas on Facebook.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 6:02pm

CITY
SEAL

Mayor JW Musgrove

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: March 3, 2020