

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 1, 2020 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:03pm in the large conference room.

Council members physically present: Mayor JW MUSGROVE, Pete HALLGREN
Lou HEINBOCKEL, Alan LEVINSON

Council present via phone: Audrey BROWN

Council members excused: Charles LESTER, Deputy Mayor Freda DEGNAN

Staff physically present: City Administrator Mary LEITH, City Clerk Pat WHITE

Staff present via phone: Finance Officer Stephanie ERICKSON, Administrative Assistant Flower COLE,
Library Director Tiki LEVINSON

One person from the community was physically present, one attended by phone, and Mike Prestegard monitored equipment while the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Brown moved to approve the September 1, 2020 agenda; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Brown moved to approve the August 18, 2020 minutes; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

[A 1999 brush truck was purchased in July (from the State of Alaska for \$18,068) for the City Fire Department.]
Musgrove reported the brush truck arrived and photos were taken in the parking lot prior to the Council meeting.

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE

Alaska to Alberta Railway - Public Meeting - September 9, 2020 at the Delta Library or via Zoom

[The Alaska to Alberta Development Corporation (A2A Rail) is a new venture established to build, own, and operate a railway that will run parallel with the Alaska Highway, connecting the Alaska Railroad and Alaska's tidewater to northern Alberta (1,600 miles, 200 in Alaska). A2A will host a virtual meeting at the library on September 9. Invitation is well advertised to attend in-person, by phone, or via electronic device.]

Musgrove reported he, Leith, Erickson, and Tiki Levinson conferenced with Alaska Coordinator Sean Solie and A2A Vice Chair Mead Treadwell about the meeting to share information and obtain public input and concerns.

Leith said grains could be moved cheaper to the Lower 48 and potatoes could be transported to Alaska from Idaho. She questioned how the railway would connect Delta Junction to Fairbanks.

Hallgren expressed concerns about several hundred railroad cars blocking emergency vehicles, school buses, or traffic to Fort Greely. He asked if overpasses were a consideration or if road crossings could be avoided.

Brown expressed concerns about how a train would benefit Delta, what parts of the community would be impacted by noise, and whether trains would operate in the middle of the night.

Heinbockel said proposed railroads have been an ongoing topic since he moved to Delta Junction in 1964. A bridge was built over the Tanana River in Salcha with the intent of connecting the railroad at Eielson and crossing the Delta River near Big Delta or north of Jarvis Creek Bridge. The Council did not support the route that followed the pipeline corridor and crossed Nistler Road and the Alaska Highway.

Delta Dozen – State Land Auction

[The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Mining, Land, and Water issued a public notice, requesting input on a proposed sale of 12 lots inside the City limits (North Addition of the North and West Additions to Delta Junction Townsite Subdivision, Plat No. 63-7859, filed on November 13, 1963). Lot sizes are between .30 and .55 acres. Lot 6, Block 2 is located on Ryan Avenue. Lots 1-7 and 16-19, Block 29 are located between Richardson Street and Salcha Avenue. The public comment period ends October 6, 2020.]

Leith recalled the water and sewer feasibility study done by KAE (Kuskokwim Architects & Engineers Inc.) in 2007. Referring to the City's residential subdivision policy that requires lots be no less than one acre in size (adopted on April 17, 2007), she asked if the Council would issue a formal request to combine lots.

Heinbockel said the City Council is the local platting authority. The lots do not meet the standard well/septic separation. He asked that 1) the Council take a position to not dispose of any parcels that are under one acre, which would require DNR to replat the lots or 2) to pay DNR the fair market value of the lots, replat them into three parcels, and then sell them. He suggested negotiating with DNR to donate Lot 6, Block 2 (.31 acres) to the City as a green belt because it is too small to develop.

Hallgren motioned to put the topic on the next agenda; Heinbockel seconded.

Brown asked for constructive discussion with the DNR, so a mutually acceptable solution can be made.

Musgrove said one or more proposals would be drafted and presented at the September 15 meeting.

Hallgren and Heinbockel withdrew the motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Program

Leith referred to discussion from the August 18 meeting and reported five Deltana Community Corporation (DCC) Board members voted against combining relief funds and working together to disburse them to the community. Applications would be accepted September 3-18 and reviewed the following week.

Discussion followed regarding Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department applying for relief funds (up to \$150,000) if there are more applications than money and how Rural Deltana has evolved over the years.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the application period, September 3 to September 18, for COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant funds; Levinson seconded.

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

Motion: Hallgren moved to solicit more members from the community to serve on the COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Program Review Committee, to be approved by the mayor; Heinbockel seconded.

Heinbockel said applicants cannot serve on the review committee due to obvious conflicts. He asked that Erickson chair the meetings and all applications be reviewed by the committee members before each meeting.

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

[Note: Council member Audrey Brown resigned from volunteering on the review committee on September 2.]

Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption of Ordinance 2021-01, An Ordinance for the City of Delta Junction, Alaska Providing for Amendment of the FY20 Budget

Motion: Brown moved to open the public hearing of Ordinance 2021-01; Hallgren seconded. Motion carried.

Musgrove called for public comment with none being offered.

Motion: Levinson moved to close the public hearing; Brown seconded.

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

Motion: Brown moved to adopt Ordinance 2021-01, reconciling the FY20 budget; Hallgren seconded.

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

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 220814 to Airport Equipment Rentals - \$2,255.00 to rent compactor August 13/20

CK# 220815 to Bill's Small Tractor Service - \$5,211.00 for lawn contract, payment 3 of 3

CK# 220816 to Guess & Rudd - \$2,310.00 for legal services (at-will employee research)

CK# 220817 to NC Machinery - \$1,325.24 for dozer and Skid Steer parts

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve checks #220814 through 220817 as presented; Levinson seconded.

Discussion followed regarding time and charges to research information about at-will employees.

Motion passed on a roll call with four in favor (Hallgren, Heinbockel, Levinson, Musgrove) and one opposed (Brown).

Allocation for Airport Subdivision II Road Completion

Musgrove asked to allocate \$20,000 to add gravel to existing roads and taxiways in the airport subdivision. He explained areas to upgrade and that the taxiway needed moved about ten feet to allow for better wing clearance.

Motion: Hallgren moved to allocate funds, not to exceed \$25,000, to complete road construction in the airport subdivision; Levinson seconded.

Discussion followed regarding power lines consuming the \$50,000 that was budgeted, installing poles by October or November, completing roadwork this fall, selling Block 4 lots in the spring, and obtaining quotes for gravel.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported:

- Sebastian Saarloos of Delta Surveys determined that Attu is a legal street. Bergstads transferred a 40-foot easement to W. Don Nilsson to connect their subdivision with the Alaska Highway. It later became part of their trailer park. The Council may want to verify Saarloos' opinion with legal counsel, but it is well documented.
- Referring to previous discussion on July 21, 2020, Musgrove said Saarloos will help draft a resolution to create an access from Ray Andreassen's property to North Taxiway. Andreassen agreed to not cut any more trees or construct any more driveways and to remove all abandoned vehicles from street rights-of-way, power lines, and green belts.

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported she will meet with Fire Chief Tony White on September 2 to discuss replacing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- The two Council seats on this year's ballot, C and F, are three-year terms and currently held by Audrey Brown and Pete Hallgren. The Declaration of Candidacy filing period ends at 5:00pm, Friday, September 11.
- Chamber of Commerce contact information was removed from the City's website. The Chamber canceled their business license in January and finalized their taxes in June.

Finance – Stephanie Erickson reported she's been working on the COVID grant program, monthly reporting, and President's Trump executive order pertaining to payroll tax referral.

LEPC – Audrey Brown reported the next LEPC meeting will be on September 14.

Emergency Preparedness – no report

Public Health – Audrey Brown reported the Alaska Health Fair will be held in the conference room at the Mt. McKinley Bank on Saturday, October 3, 8:00am–12:00pm. The annual event will require appointments, which can be made online (alaskahealthfair.org) or over the phone (907-374-6853). Flu shots will also be available.

Library – Tiki Levinson reported:

- Baby Laptime and Story Hour groups will be smaller and precautions will be practiced.
- Masks are not required, but they are encouraged. The Public Health Nurse donated a stash of them.
- The Library Board held a successful sidewalk sale.
- ACS is working out kinks in new library equipment, so Wi-Fi access was password protected for a while.

Schools – Audrey Brown reported school buses can have two or three students per seat; no longer only 19 per bus.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported the airport is active with hunters and the mower tractor is back in service.

Public Works – JW Musgrove reported roads were graded with the help of rain and a fire tender.

Park / Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported the appearance of the park and the rink have never looked better.

Cemetery – Lou Heinbockel asked that water lines be drained and shut down at the cemetery and the park.

At Large – Pete Hallgren reported:

- Northern Star (Pogo) publicly stated during their annual meeting on August 27 that they hit pay dirt after extensive exploration.
- The Delta Advisory Committee will meet at the end of the month.

Additional Reports – none

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 7:31pm

CITY
SEAL

Mayor JW Musgrove

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: September 15, 2020