

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 6, 2020 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:01pm in the large conference room.

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

Council present via phone: Audrey BROWN (until 6:30pm), Charles LESTER

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 October 6, 2020 agenda; Degnan seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Brown moved to approve the September 15, 2020 minutes; Lester seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE

Request to Extend Discount of Landfill Boulders

Musgrove reported Jacob and Ana White proposed buying landfill boulders at a lesser fee, 3¢ per pound instead of 5¢, with minimum purchases of \$1,000.

Discussion followed regarding charging \$150/hour with a \$50 minimum when City equipment is used to load boulders, prior history of offering a 3¢ discount to military, and an overabundance of boulders at the landfill.

Motion: Brown moved to discount the five-cent price to two and a half cents. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to change the landfill boulder fee to 3¢ per pound, not requiring a minimum purchase, and charging loading fees if City equipment is used (\$150/hour with a \$50 minimum); Hallgren seconded.

Discussion followed regarding giving boulders directly to governmental agencies that request them, but not private companies that bid on federal and state projects.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Program

Erickson reported checks were issued for COVID economic recovery funds (*Checks over \$1,000* – page 2). She asked for a second round to distribute remaining funds plus Whitestone's (\$75,000) and most of Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department's (\$100,000). First round applicants would not be able to apply for the second round. Applications would be accepted October 8 through 4:00pm, October 23.

Discussion followed regarding two (of 19) applicants not asking for the full \$10,000 cap.

Motion: Brown moved to solicit applications for a second round of COVID relief funds; Hallgren seconded.

Discussion followed regarding volunteers serving on the review committee (Lou Heinbockel, Freda Degnan, Tawnia Butorac-McCombs, Josiah Keller, and Dani Helkenn), Heinbockel recusing himself from voting, nine applications in round one still being reviewed, and \$300,000 available in round two (same as round one).

Motion passed on a roll call with six voting (Hallgren, Brown, Levinson, Degnan, Lester, Musgrove) and one abstaining (Heinbockel).

Windy City - Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land, and Water

[The Division of Mining, Land and Water asked the Platting Authority for the City of Delta Junction to manage a green belt in the Windy City Subdivision.]

Leith reported the Council requested a diagram (on September 15), showing how the Windy City Subdivision relates to the proposed Alaska-to-Alberta railroad bridge. She said the dimensions of the green belt would likely follow the western boundary of Jarvis Avenue, but would not be determined until during the platting process.

Backhoe Bid Specs

Musgrove reported the backhoe bid specs are ready to advertise. The bid opening would be on October 22.

Motion: Lester moved to approve the backhoe bid specs as presented; Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Resolution 2021-01 Granting Ray and Karen Andreassen an Access Easement to North Taxiway

Musgrove said he is waiting on feedback from Art Saarloos, Delta Surveys to determine where the easement starts and stops. The south end of the easement will be at the edge of Andreassen's property where it intersects North Taxiway and the State of Alaska's heliport.

Discussion followed regarding the City absorbing all expenses because of Andreassen's initial contribution.

NEW BUSINESS**City Purchases over \$1,000**

CK# 220862 to ACS - \$1,042.28 for library Internet security license

CK# 220863 to Phillips Scales - \$2,467.13 for annual landfill scale maintenance

CK# 220864 to Construction Machinery - \$2,444.29 for landfill loader maintenance

CK# 220865 to GVEA - \$50,000.00 for ten electric poles in Block 4, Airport Subdivision II

CK# 220866 to M2C1 - \$9,440.00 for consulting from multiple engineers (EPA)

CK# 220867 to GVEA - \$3,000.00 for aerial imagery

CK# 220868 / 220886 to 19 COVID grant recipients - \$184,300.00 in CARES relief funds

Motion: Hallgren moved to approve checks #220862 through 220867 as presented; Degnan seconded.

Discussion followed regarding recovering cost of installation of electric poles when lots are sold, GVEA clearing upon receipt of payment, and GVEA taking over the aerial imagery project from Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Motion: Brown moved to approve checks #220868 through 220886 as presented; Degnan seconded.

Discussion followed regarding Heinbockel recusing himself from voting and COVID application information kept confidential except for business names and amounts.

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

Conex for Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department

Musgrove reported Fire Chief Tony White requested a Conex to store seasonal equipment and apparatus. He asked to purchase a 20-foot Conex for \$1,800 from Delta Industrial Service.

Motion: Brown moved to accept a Conex from Delta Industrial as a taxable donation. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion: Hallgren moved to purchase the Conex not to exceed \$2,000.00, including delivery; Heinbockel seconded.

Degnan reported Delta Industrial Service donated \$4,000 to the Delta Junction Fire Department on September 29.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with six in favor (Heinbockel, Levinson, Lester, Hallgren, Musgrove) and one abstaining (Degnan).

Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI) 101

White reported the City changed their property insurance carrier from Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association (AMLJIA) to Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI) on June 16, 2020.

Discussion followed regarding Council members participating in an APEI virtual presentation on October 14 and not advertising it (no violation of the Open Meetings Act).

Change Landfill Operation Plan

Leith referred to a proposal, dated September 30, 2020, from Bristol Engineering Services Company, LLC and reported they would engineer a design to raise the height of the current landfill (Cell 1) four to six feet for \$3,199. The current landfill operation plan stops at ground level.

Discussion followed regarding the current operation plan stopping at ground level, how much six feet would add to the life of the landfill, whether more height should be considered, and discussing it again on October 20.

Heinbockel said landfill employees are making an effort to conserve available space at the landfill.

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported a summer employee may be rehired to cover for an employee on workers comp.

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported Kinross Gold Corporation bought 70% interest in the Peak Gold project. They are proposing to truck material from Tetlin, near Tok, to Fort Knox's processing mill, north of Fairbanks. Transporting the ore could require four trucks going north and four going south every hour, 24 hours per day, equivalent to 200 trucks traveling through Delta each day. Production is to begin in 2024. Future public meetings will be advertised.

Brown was cut off at 6:30pm and unable to reconnect to the meeting.

City Clerk – Pat White reported there were no outstanding by-mail ballots in the October 6 municipal election. Ballots will be counted after the polls close and recounted by the Canvass Board on October 7. Election results will be certified on October 20.

Finance – Stephanie Erickson reported she expects the auditors to arrive the week of October 19.

LEPC – no report

Emergency Preparedness – no report

Public Health – no report

Library – Freda Degnan reported:

- A third Story Hour was added on Tuesdays. The 11:15am session is live streamed on Facebook, thanks to the partnership with the Alaska National Guard Child and Youth Program.
- Fort Greely provided funding for new library material, technical support, a new program of take-home learning kits, and employee wages after 5:00pm.
- Licenses that allow patrons to check out DVDs for home viewing was renewed with the Swank Company.

Tiki Levinson reported rehiring a previous aide and one employee working extra hours because of staff shortages.

Schools – no report

Airport – Alan Levinson reported there is less traffic at the airport since hunting season closed. Locating gravel for airport subdivision roads has proven difficult.

Public Works – Charles Lester reported aside from the gravel issue, summer hire employees will be brought back to finish removing downed trees left from the windstorm in early September.

Musgrove said West Fourth Street would be put on a once-a-week maintenance schedule until the ground freezes.

Park / Recreation – Lou Heinbockel asked to have the High School salvage or rebuild the dugout at the park (collapsed during windstorm), particularly because the City is currently shorthanded.

Cemetery – no report

At Large – no report

Additional Reports – Lou Heinbockel said he wished to recognize Brown's commitment to the community (served on City Council 2013/2020).

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 6:56pm

Mayor JW Musgrove

Pat White, City Clerk

CITY
SEAL

Approved: October 20, 2020