

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
November 3, 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 physically present: Mayor JW MUSGROVE, Deputy Mayor Freda DEGNAN,
Lou HEINBOCKEL, Michael PRESTEGARD

Council present via phone: Charles LESTER, Pete HALLGREN, Alan LEVINSON (arrived at 5:08pm)

Staff physically present: City Clerk Pat WHITE

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

One person from the community attended by phone and newly-elected Councilman Michael Prestegard monitored equipment while the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Degnan moved to approve the November 3, 2020 agenda; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with six in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the October 20, 2020 minutes; Degnan seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with six in attendance.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE - none

RESTRUCTURE COUNCIL INTERESTS / REPORTING

Musgrove called for comments to adjust Council reporting.

Discussion followed regarding Prestegard accepting *Emergency Preparedness* and *LEPC*, renamed *Health & Safety*, and dropping both *Public Health* and *Schools* reporting.

Musgrove called for objection with none being offered.

Levinson arrived via phone at 5:08pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID Grant Report

[The City Council approved the COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Program on August 4, 2020 to disburse Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) money to the local community. The first round was disbursed to 19 applicants (approved October 6) plus 7 more (approved October 20). The deadline to apply for Round Two was October 23.]

Musgrove reported the COVID Grant Program application lacked a requirement for an active business license. It was added before soliciting for Round Two applicants. Musgrove asked to accept the change.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to change the grant application to require proof of business licenses; Hallgren seconded.

Discussion followed regarding whether the change was fair to first-round applicants, ability to apply again, federal regulations requiring the City not distribute COVID funds to Alaskan businesses that were not established by January 1, 2019, non-profits required to show proof of status with the IRS, but not business licenses, and 32 COVID applications received in Round Two.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with four in favor (Heinbockel, Levinson, Prestegard, Musgrove) and three opposed (Lester, Hallgren, Degnan).

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

[The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Mining, Land, and Water (DMLW) asked the City Council, as the local platting authority, to manage a green belt on the south end of town. See September 15 and October 6 minutes.]

Leith reported a buffer would protect residents and businesses from winds off the Delta River. A green belt, buffer, or building setback can be clarified during the platting process.

Award Backhoe Bid

Musgrove reported five backhoe bids were received, ranging from \$35,000 to more than the allocated amount (\$60,000). Yukon Equipment's bid (\$58,368) was more than KT Surplus Enterprises (\$47,850), but it had less hours and more useful attachments. Charles Lester, Alan Levinson, and Michael Prestegard reviewed the bids and agreed with recommending Yukon Equipment's Case 580N.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to issue a Notice of Intent to award the backhoe bid to Yukon Equipment in the amount of \$58,368.00; Degnan seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

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

Musgrove explained Andreassen clearing a road and power line from his property to the runway (late 1990's) and the public benefiting from those improvements, including when Airport I Subdivision was developed (2002). Negotiating a permanent access easement reimburses Andreassen for his work.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve Resolution 2021-01, granting Ray and Karen Andreassen a permanent access easement to cross a green belt and public utility easement in the Airport Subdivision; Levinson seconded.

Hallgren asked that the negotiated access easement "runs with the land" and not the property owner.

Musgrove said he would ask City Attorney Mike McLaughlin to clarify Hallgren's comment before it is recorded. He called for objections to finalize the resolution upon feedback from McLaughlin. Council had no objections.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Delta Dozen Replat Variance

[The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Mining, Land, and Water (DMLW) requested input on a proposed sale of 12 lots inside the City limits. After discussion on September 1 and September 15, the Council asked DNR, DMLW to combine the lots to meet the City's required one-acre minimum.]

Leith reported nine lots were combined into three (1.02, 1.31, 1.08 acres). They requested variances for Lots 18/19, Block 29 (Parcel D) because of only being .89 acres and Lot 6, Block 2 (Parcel E) because of being orphaned.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to grant a variance for Parcel D as requested; Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel suggested DNR offer Parcel E (.31 acres) to neighboring property owners at fair market value or offer it to the City as a green belt.

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

CK# 220943 to Construction Machinery Industrial - \$1,978.43 for L220 Loader teeth

CK# 220944 to University Redi-Mix - \$3,710.97 for septic pit gravel (\$2,245.61) and sand for streets (\$1,465.36)

Motion: Degnan moved to approve checks #220943 and 220944 as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Discussion followed regarding new teeth already installed and better quality gravel used at intersections.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Standby Ambulance

[The 2011 ambulance was totaled in an accident enroute to Fairbanks on November 9, 2019. The front end of the 2009 ambulance (Medic 181) was damaged on a return trip from Fairbanks on October 19, 2020.]

Erickson reported she has not received a quote for the body on the 2009 ambulance.

Discussion followed regarding an unknown timeframe to repair Medic 181, whether the insurance would provide a loaner ambulance in the interim, researching coverage from the other driver's insurance, \$26,800 remaining from the 2011 insurance settlement, and whether CARES funds can be used toward emergency services.

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported:

- City Hall was closed to the public on October 30 due to the increase of COVID cases in the community. It will remain closed until November 16 or as the medical situation necessitates. City services can be conducted by phone, Internet, appointment, and/or using the drop box in an effort to limit City staff's interaction with the public.
- Another abandoned vehicle was removed from the Deborah/North Clearwater intersection. He is working with Attorney Mike McLaughlin on a policy to address the ongoing problem.
- Serrated blades and retaining pins were ordered for the grader, but the shipment must come from Sweden.
- Today he, Leith, and Degnan met with LTG Daniel Karbler, Commanding General, United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and Fort Greely Lieutenant Colonel Joel Johnson about cooperative agreements that support the local library and emergency services.

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- She and the Public Works crew are working with Alaska Public Entity Insurance in evaluating buildings.
- City furnaces are presently being serviced. Boilers are also being inspected.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- Robin Moritz, Division of Election Chair for the City precinct, reported as of 6:00pm, 307 poll ballots were cast in the City precinct and 1,091 were cast in Deltana. As of September 16, 2020 there were 917 registered voters in the City and 3,037 in Deltana. Additionally, 372 absentee ballots were cast during the two weeks prior to today's General Election.
- Pete Hallgren, Mike Prestegard, Mary Leith, and Flower Cole are registered for AML's virtual conference.

Finance – Stephanie Erickson reported she met with the auditors in a virtual meeting last week.

Health & Safety – no report

Library – Freda Degnan reported:

- The library is currently closed and staff are providing curbside service. Patrons are encouraged to use the online catalog. In general, people are appreciative of library services during this wave of COVID.
- A total of 279 readers participated in Book Bingo, which brought a lot of kids and families into the library.
- The library is involved in a four-week Lego Challenge. Creations are photographed and submitted by e-mail. Each one is entered in a drawing for Lego prizes. The first one involved monsters and the second, bridges.

Schools – JW Musgrove reported local schools have closed for two weeks because of new COVID cases.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported the airport has little activity, but volunteers continue to pack the airstrip.

Discussion followed regarding GVEA clearing trees for electric poles in the Airport Subdivision II, Block 4 lots.

Public Works – Charles Lester reported the Public Works crew performed winter maintenance on equipment and have kept up with snow removal on streets.

Park / Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported the school district will not contribute their third to fund the hockey program because Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) shut down the 2020/2021 season due to COVID. The City may have to increase its portion unless the Delta Skating Association reduces their activities.

Cemetery – Lou Heinbockel reported two more winter graves were prepared.

At Large – Pete Hallgren reported he was attending the meeting by video and able to follow the agenda with a second computer screen. He'll participate in the virtual AML conference in the same way.

Additional Reports - none

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

ADJOURNMENT – 6:44pm

Mayor JW Musgrove

Pat White, City Clerk

CITY
SEAL

Approved: November 17, 2020