

**City Council Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**November 17, 2020 ~ 5:00PM**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**



**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER**

Mayor Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:05pm 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

**Council excused:** Alan LEVINSON

**Staff physically present:** City Administrator Mary LEITH

**Staff present via phone:** City Clerk Pat WHITE, Finance Officer Stephanie ERICKSON  
Administrative Assistant Flower COLE

Over 50 members from the community were physically present at the beginning of the meeting, six called in, and Michael Prestegard monitored equipment while the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Musgrove reported *Reopen Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena* would be added as the first item under *Correspondence*.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the November 17, 2020 agenda as amended; Degnan 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 November 3, 2020 minutes as presented; Degnan seconded.

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

[Governor Dunleavy released an urgent message over the state's emergency alert system on November 12.

Because of escalating COVID cases, he asked people to use precautions for three weeks to prevent the spread of the virus, emphasizing concern for hospital capacities and staffing, which have fallen under a high-alert level. The Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena and other City facilities and services were closed to the public on November 13.]

Musgrove called for public comments. More than 20 hockey players and parents spoke in opposition to closing the indoor rink. Musgrove summarized the same sentiment from emails received at City Hall. Copies of 22 emails were shared with those in attendance and forwarded to Council members on the phone.

Jennifer Brant shared a mitigation plan to reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission. The plan was developed by the Delta-Greely Skating Association (DGSA) and approved by the Alaska State Hockey Association (ASHA).

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Reopen Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena**

Motion: Degnan moved to reopen the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena; Lester seconded.

Hallgren reported the Council has no authority over bars, churches, schools, or businesses but does over City facilities. People who come down with COVID have no symptoms at first. He asked about plans to test people who frequent the rink and for parents to self-quarantine should they be exposed.

Brant reported DGSA's Waiver of Liability requires skaters to not participate in DGSA activities if they or members of their household exhibit symptoms or are diagnosed with COVID, and that they notify a DGSA Board member or a coach of any positive COVID test results. DGSA must also report to ASHA. The Mitigation Plan holds players and parents "responsible for monitoring their individual health and abiding by the CDC guidelines posted on the entrance doors."

Discussion followed regarding amending DGSA's Waiver of Liability to include notifying the City of any COVID outbreak and the steady increase of statewide COVID cases, 23,000 cases plus 98 deaths in the last nine months.

Heinbockel said he has been involved in the hockey program off and on for the past 50 years and, for the record, he was not part of the administrative decision to shut down the rink.

Prestegard reported daily tallies of recent local COVID cases and that "it's hitting home." He reiterated Governor Dunleavy's message to be more cautious in the next three weeks while maintaining sanity.

Lester commended Mayor Musgrove for acting on behalf of the community with what was handed to him. He said he is grateful to live in a republic where people can peacefully protest and to live in a small town where people look out for one another.

Brant reported the DGSA Board meets the third Wednesday of each month and COVID is on every agenda.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Lester, Heinbockel, Prestegard, Degnan, Hallgren, Musgrove).

### **Adam McNabb – Request to Purchase a Portion of Granite Avenue**

Musgrove reported part of Granite Avenue was vacated/sold to Delta Industrial Services in 2012.

Leith explained the process and asked for Council input in selling another section of Granite Avenue (between Block 2, Lots 5/6 and Block 4, Lots 11/12 near the corner of Sixth Street and Richardson Highway).

Motion: Degnan authorized staff to proceed with selling another portion of Granite Avenue; Heinbockel seconded. Discussion followed regarding passing associated expenses onto the purchaser, getting input from neighboring property owners, likely never developing the platted street, and addressing Lots 7/10 at a later date.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Heinbockel, Hallgren, Lester, Prestegard, Degnan, Musgrove).

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Status of 2009 Ambulance**

Erickson reported H&H quoted \$7,542.25 for body work on Medic 181 (2009 ambulance) and \$39,235.55 for repairs, but did not include costs of possible damage to the driveline and transfer case. State Farm will send an adjuster to H&H next week to inspect the ambulance. It is not yet known whether Medic 181 would be totaled. The insurance policy covers a loaner while the ambulance is disabled, but it is difficult to locate one.

### **Award Backhoe to Yukon Equipment for \$58,368.00**

Musgrove reported Notice of Intent to Award letters were issued to all five bidders (November 6) and no one contested awarding the used backhoe bid to Yukon Equipment.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to award the backhoe bid to Yukon Equipment for \$58,368.00; Degnan seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Hallgren, Degnan, Prestegard, Heinbockel, Lester, Musgrove).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **City Purchases over \$1,000**

CK# 220963 to Aetna - \$11,933.11 for November group health insurance

CK# 220964 to Airport Equipment Rentals - \$1,479.71 to rent excavator to dig cemetery graves and to help attach wing blade on grader

CK# 220965 to ESRI, Inc. - \$1,727.00 to renew mapping software

CK# 220966 to Airgas USA, LLC - \$1,216.66 for landfill welding equipment

CK# 220967 to TriDelta, Inc. - \$1,070.50 to advertise COVID-19 grant and 2020 Municipal Election

CK# 220968 to Buffalo Center Service - \$1,739.93 for vehicle fuel

CK# 220969 to Delta East Side Truck & Auto - \$3,734.99 for truck repairs: repair window motors on pickup (\$750.00), miscellaneous repairs on used forestry truck (\$2,075.92), and check-engine light and fan on International (\$909.07)

CK# 220970 to Wells Fargo - \$6,849.36 for miscellaneous credit card charges

CK# 220971 / 220997 to 27 COVID grant recipients - \$241,500.00 in CARES relief funds

Motion: Degnan moved to approve checks #220963 through 220997 as presented; Lester and Prestegard seconded.

Erickson reported Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) relief money has been exhausted, except for approximately \$50,000, which is not enough for a third round.

Hallgren questioned whether the City could qualify for relief funds since the school district backed out of paying their portion of the rink agreement for the 2020/2021 season (because High School hockey was cancelled by Alaska School Activities Association).

Erickson reported CARES funds cannot be used to replace City revenue.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Prestegard, Lester, Hallgren, Degnan, Heinbockel, Musgrove).

Discussion followed regarding researching whether CARES funds could be used for an emergency vehicle and Prestegard preparing a proposal to upgrade the sound system at City Hall, to include communication via Zoom.

Hallgren questioned whether Whitestone Community Association or Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department would be slighted if the City used the remaining funds.

Erickson reported Whitestone did not have use for their \$75,000 and Rural Deltana contributed \$21,500 to the City's program and kept what was left of their \$150,000.

**REPORTS**

**Mayor** – JW Musgrove reported notice of disposition to grant Ray and Karen Andreassen an access easement (approved November 3) was advertised. It will be recorded once the disposal period ends (December 16, 2020).

**City Administrator** – Mary Leith reported:

- Alaska Communications is installing underground lines from Fourth and Jarvis streets behind Delta Industrial Services.
- Arctic Fire will inspect fire extinguishers in all City facilities for approximately \$2,000.
- The landfill was scheduled to be closed after Thanksgiving (Friday, November 27) and the holiday schedule was adopted (December 2019), but landfill employees asked to keep it open both Friday and Saturday.

**City Clerk** – no report

**Finance** – Stephanie Erickson reported the FY20 audit is expected to be done by mid-January.

Musgrove reported Erickson and White would work from home for a short period due to COVID quarantines.

**Health & Safety** – Mike Prestegard reported:

- Forty-six new COVID cases were reported locally in the last two weeks. He cautioned people to practice distancing because people who wear masks are still contracting the virus.
- People traveling need to pack enough winter survival gear to accommodate every person in the vehicle.

**Library** – JW Musgrove reported the library was closed to the public, but staff are providing curbside service.

**Airport** – no report

**Public Works** – JW Musgrove reported the 20-foot Conex was temporarily installed near the fire station. Seasonal equipment is being moved out to free up warm storage space for Alaska State Troopers' trailer and snow machine.

Heinbockel reported a large number of worn equipment tires are being delivered to the landfill, but they are disappearing because homeowners are utilizing them.

**Park / Recreation** – no report

**Cemetery** – no report

**At Large** – Pete Hallgren reported he has been virtually attending Alaska Municipal League's conference. A roundtable discussion is scheduled tomorrow about borough formation, of which Hallgren provided a writeup about the last borough study in Delta (2005-2007), which proved not feasible for this area.

**Additional Reports** – none

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Paul Marchuk referenced purchasing a used backhoe (page 2) and stressed operators wearing safety vests and getting a shop manual for the equipment. He volunteered his mechanic skills should the City need him.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 7:55pm

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Mayor JW Musgrove

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Pat White, City Clerk

CITY  
SEAL

Approved: December 1, 2020