

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
January 5, 2021 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

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

Council members physically present: Mayor Freda DEGNAN, Lou HEINBOCKEL,
Michael PRESTEGARD, Erin CATTERSON

Council present via phone: Pete HALLGREN, Alan LEVINSON, Charles LESTER

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

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

One member from the community was physically present, two called in, and Michael Prestegard monitored equipment while the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leith reported check # 221085 was removed from *City Purchases over \$1,000* because of a pending credit.

White reported *Unfinished Business: Zoom Room* was removed because it was incorrectly carried over from December 15.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the January 5, 2021 agenda as amended; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Hallgren asked to reword his statement at the bottom of page one. He would not oppose giving the same \$10,000 limit as given to others to support the Senior Companion Program van, but only if “there was enough money left to support the zoom room if it is approved” not if the zoom room is guaranteed.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the December 15, 2020 minutes as amended; Catterson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE – none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Reporting

Catterson said she would report on Fire Department, EMS (*Emergency Services*) and *Schools*.

Prestegard said he was interested in bringing back *Emergency Preparedness*.

Discussion followed regarding a community-wide emergency situation, providing Council with periodic reports about fire and ambulance activity, Lester adding *Landfill* to his *Public Works* reporting, changing *Comments from the Audience* back to *Comments on Non-Agenda Items*, and making sure people in the audience have opportunity to speak during a discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 221080 to Guess & Rudd - \$1,170.00 for legal advice (abandoned vehicles on city streets, Andreassen easement, filling vacancies)

CK# 221081 to Buffalo Fuel - \$1,142.40 for heating and equipment fuel

CK# 221082 to Airport Equipment Rentals - \$1,407.63 to rent loader to use on Mil-Tan Road

CK# 221083 to Cook & Haugeberg, LLC - \$5,405.00 for FY20 audit, payment #3 (\$14,240.00 to date)

CK# 221084 to Delta Transport Services - \$9,056.91 for heating fuel

CK# 221085 to Construction Machinery - \$11,225.61 to repair landfill loader – removed

CK# 221086 to ACS - \$3,061.58 for January 2021 phones and Internet

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve checks 221080 through 221084 and 221086 as presented; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

Senior Van and Parking

Leith reported North Star Council on Aging purchased the 2020 Toyota Sienna. It will arrive the second week in January. More donations and leftovers from another grant were added to what was collected locally (\$27,400) and \$10,000 COVID relief (approved December 15). Leith said she is getting quotes to replace the garage doors, estimated to cost \$6,000.

Discussion followed regarding bringing back Code that stipulates seniors’ use of the Community Center garage (verbiage, dated December 1983, was omitted when that portion was revised in May 2020), \$3,000 remaining in the Community Center building repair/maintenance budget, and amending the budget at the end of the fiscal year to add expenses for new garage doors and automatic door openers.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to add \$4,000.00 to the Community Center budget; Catterson and Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

REPORTS**Mayor** – no report**City Administrator** – Mary Leith reported:

- The August 14 landfill inspection received a 98% compliance score from the Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). It was better than 2019 (97%). Proposed fencing for windblown litter, an ongoing challenge, will be discussed during the FY22 budget cycle.
- She has inquired about getting lots appraised in Block 4 of Airport Subdivision II.
- She is working with City Attorney Mike McLaughlin on a new section in the City Code of Ordinances about removal of abandoned vehicles. Musgrove started the project (before he resigned on November 10).
- She extended the water testing agreement with Pollen Environmental for another year.
- She will present a bid packet for fuel bids, which are due this year.
- ADEC will likely approve Bristol Engineering's landfill operation plan (to increase the height of the current pit up to ten feet, adopted October 20, 2020) but will expect the top two feet to be clean gravel.
- The landfill operation is covering expenses and fees have not increased since 2014. Leith questioned revisiting them. [June 2007 fees increased from 6.25¢/lb (\$125/ton) to 8¢/lb (\$160/ton) in December 2014.]

Discussion followed regarding the landfill sustaining itself and \$205,000 currently in the equipment savings fund.

City Clerk – Pat White reported she and Flower Cole successfully recertified as passport agents. Passport processing is starting to pick up, but slowly. Only half as many applications were processed in 2020 as in 2019.**Finance** – Stephanie Erickson reported the FY20 audit is almost finished and she is working on yearend reporting.**Health & Safety** – Michael Prestegard reported the Public Health office (895-4292) is holding a COVID vaccine clinic on January 13, free to residents who are 65 and older. They are booked solid, but are adding people to a wait list. More information is available at <http://covidvax.alaska.gov>.**Library** – Freda Degnan reported:

- Library staff hope to team up with the North Star Council on Aging to facilitate home deliveries of library resources when the new van is operational.
- Story hours, presented through online streaming, had 123 views last week. The adapted program receives a lot of positive feedback.
- 99 items were checked out yesterday, even though access is limited.
- PFD paper applications are available at the library.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported GVEA's contractor finished installing all ten electric poles and overhead power lines in Airport Subdivision II.Leith reported the City processes airport fees (tie downs and boundary crossing permits) that were previously collected by the Delta Pilots Advisory Committee, a group of volunteers (prior to 2016). She questioned reforming the ad hoc committee to oversee activity at the airport, i.e. accommodating visiting pilots with parking space.Levinson said he would inquire with local pilots about forming a committee.**Public Works** – Charles Lester reported a hydraulic line was replaced on the Case backhoe. A cover is being retrofitted to keep rocks and debris from falling over the top of the bucket. It will cost \$550.**Park / Recreation** – Lou Heinbockel reported the City's portion of the skating partnership increased because of the school backing out of it. Operating the rinks will be discussed during the upcoming budget cycle.**Cemetery** – no report**At Large** – Pete Hallgren reported he would be in Delta for the next Council meeting, but in quarantine.**Additional Reports** – Michael Prestegard reported tonight's Council meeting was an experiment, hooking the conference phone to the radio station, to bypass the PA system and eliminate feedback.**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**Heinbockel asked to oppose Governor Dunleavy's budget proposal to close licensing offices in Delta Junction and five other communities because it is the State's responsibility to provide licenses for fishing, hunting, driving, etc.Hallgren agreed that closing licensing offices would cause hardships to area residents. He suggested not waiting to send letters to Senator Mike Showers and Representative George Rauscher.**ADJOURNMENT** – 6:15pm

 Pat White, City Clerk

 CITY
 SEAL

 Mayor Freda Degnan

Approved: January 19, 2021