

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 2, 2021 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor Freda Degnan called the meeting to order at 5:00pm in the large conference room.

Council members physically present: Mayor Freda DEGNAN, Deputy Mayor Lou HEINBOCKEL, Michael PRESTEGARD, Pete HALLGREN, Alan LEVINSON, Erin CATTERSON

Council present via phone: 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

Five members from the community were physically present at the start of the meeting, two called in, and Michael Prestegard monitored equipment while the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the February 2, 2021 agenda as presented; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the January 19, 2021 minutes as presented; Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK

[Recognizing service members and veterans with patriotic quilts started in 2003 when a young soldier from Minnesota lost his leg in Iraq. Since then close to 300,000 quilts have been awarded across the United States.]
Joyce Bendell, Leader of Windy Junction Quilts of Valor Group #69345, the local chapter of the QOV Foundation, presented quilts to veterans JW Musgrove (Army 1966-1969), Michael Prestegard (Air Force 1971-1977), and Lou Heinbockel (Army 1964-1966).

CORRESPONDENCE

Degnan reported thousands of volunteers across the U.S. piece patriotic quilts on National Sew Day, the first Saturday in February. She read a request from Windy Junction QOV Group to waive fees associated with leasing the large conference room at City Hall on February 6.

Motion: Levinson moved to waive lease fees per Windy Junction QOV Group's request; Catterson seconded. Discussion followed regarding when waiving rental fees was not an option, little revenue raised locally, and "sweat equity" from volunteers who run the skating programs and area pilots who keep the airport operational.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

Liquor License Renewal – CAVE Wine & Grille, LLC

Motion: Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to the CAVE Wine & Grille's liquor license renewal; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Final Plat Approval – Pioneer Park

Sebastian Saarloos, Delta Surveys Associates, requested final plat approval of Alaska State Land Survey 2018-20, a 3.317-acre parcel that the City intends to purchase from the State of Alaska. He explained plat details and changes since preliminary approval on July 7, 2020.

Motion: Hallgren moved to approve the final plat for the Pioneer Park as presented; Lester seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

Status of 2009 Ambulance

Erickson said she expects to receive a report from the adjusters by the end of the week about the 2009 ambulance repairs (accident on October 19, 2020).

Remaining CARES Funds to Delta-Greely School District

Erickson reported the Council decided to give unused Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funds to the school district during the December 15, 2020 meeting. At that time the drop dead date to use CARES funds was December 31, 2020. It was later extended to December 31, 2021. There is \$33,500 in remaining funds.

Heinbockel questioned whether the remaining CARES funds could be used toward replacing an ambulance.

Discussion followed regarding whether the school district received enough CARES funds and their unpaid portion of the 2020-2021 skating season Memorandum of Agreement (\$13,130) not qualifying for relief funds.

Erickson reported, according to the grant administrator, funds could be used for an ambulance if it is a necessity.

Leith reported the school superintendent would be grateful for extra CARES funds.

Motion: Hallgren moved to hold off on distributing remaining CARES funds to the school district until the insurance company has information about the status and repair costs of the (2009) ambulance; Levinson seconded.

Hallgren said his intent is not to revoke the decision to give remaining CARES funds to the school district.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

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

CK# 221122 to Buffalo Fuel - \$2,043.55 for heating fuel

CK# 221123 to Delta Transport Services - \$1,457.80 for heating and equipment fuel

CK# 221124 to GVEA - \$5,622.98 for December electricity

Motion: Levinson moved to approve checks #221122 through 221124 as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption of Ordinance 2021-02, An Ordinance Governing Abandoned and Junk Motor Vehicles in, on, and/or Around Public Roadways

Motion: Heinbockel moved to open the public hearing of Ordinance 2021-02; Lester seconded. Motion carried.

Degnan called for public input with none being offered.

Hallgren moved to close the public hearing portion of Ordinance 2021-02; Levinson seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Heinbockel, serving on the Council for almost 25 years of his 52-year residence, said he is in total agreement with the ordinance, but questioned policing what the City may never be able to enforce.

Discussion followed regarding Alaska State Troopers having reservations involving City streets, AST and towing companies capable of identifying vehicle owners, and moving vehicles that obstruct traffic while protecting them from vandalism.

Hallgren asked to change verbiage under §3.40.090 to read, "Every act prohibited by this chapter is unlawful. Any person violating any provision of this chapter may be *subject to fees and civil penalties* the City Council shall fix by resolution."

Motion: Hallgren moved to amend the draft to change wording in §3.40.090 and to adopt Ordinance 2021-02, governing abandoned and junk motor vehicles in, on, and/or around public roadways; Heinbockel seconded.

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

Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption of Ordinance 2021-03, An Ordinance Amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 1.75, Community Center, Section 1.75.030, Purpose

Motion: Heinbockel moved to open the public hearing of Ordinance 2021-03; Levinson seconded. Motion carried.

Degnan called for public input with none being offered.

Levinson moved to close the public hearing portion of Ordinance 2021-03; Hallgren seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Motion: Levinson moved to adopt Ordinance 2021-03, amending City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1.75; Catterson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

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

- Bid advertisement for the fuel contract (April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024) was posted last week. Awarding the contract is tentatively planned for the March 2 meeting.
- Replat of the Delta Dozen lots, inside City limits and owned by the State of Alaska, will be on the February 16 agenda. Lot sizes were previously discussed (September 1, September 15, and November 3, 2020) and City fees would be waived for the State to conform to the City's one-acre lot size requirement.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- Changing to a consent agenda was brought up during the December 15, 2020 Council meeting. A consent agenda would allow a single motion and vote on multiple items, but implementing one would require an ordinance process.
- Senator Mike Shower sponsored SB39, which focuses on election security and was heard during the Senate State Affairs Committee on January 28.

Finance – Stephanie Erickson reported the FY20 audit is still progressing.**Airport** – Alan Levinson reported there was little traffic at the airport other than volunteers who packed what little snow fell. Leith reported appraisal of Block 4, Airport Subdivision II lots is expected by February 28.JW Musgrove reported airport volunteers would like a working agreement similar to the City's skating rink partnership. It would provide legal standing should a volunteer be involved in an incident at the airport.

Discussion followed regarding allowing the public to salvage firewood from trees left in the airport street rights-of-way.

Schools - Erin Catterson reported the schools are presently following medium-risk protocols. The Jr. High hosted their first volleyball game last week. A Jr. High/High School basketball tournament starts on February 5. The annual Dean Cummings Basketball Tournament was cancelled due to COVID.**Public Works / Landfill** – Charles Lester reported:

- The retrofitted backhoe cover, welded by Sam Porter, prevents material from falling over the bucket.
- Construction Machinery was looking into the Volvo loader due to codes that were flashing for maintenance issues.
- The landfill D6 was transported to NC Machinery in Fairbanks for maintenance, estimated to cost \$15,000. Repairs were caught by the landfill equipment operator before there was any extensive damage.

Park & Recreation – no report**Library** – Freda Degnan reported:

- The library hosted an in-person Story Hour today, the first in months. Group size is limited to five children. It was so nice to have little people enjoying the library.
- Library staff are taking a class to assist people with finding job listings and building resumes.
- During February's Love Your Library Month, staff share one reason each day "to love our library."

Health & Safety / Emergency Preparedness – Mike Prestegard reported:

- Family Medical Center received 300 vaccine doses this month and last month. They are scheduling appointments for both essential personnel and residents that are 65 and older.

Catterson reported the Public Health Service (895-4292) is hosting vaccine clinics at the fire station.Shawn Hay, Fort Greely Emergency Manager, reported the tier progression for COVID vaccines and that there are efforts underway to bring FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to the local area.

- Travelers should have warm weather gear because of low temperatures with low wind chill factor.

Emergency Services – Erin Catterson reported locks and bay lighting at the Fire Department will be replaced within the next couple of weeks.

Discussion followed regarding fire and ambulance reporting to the Council (quarterly, every week or every two weeks).

Cemetery – no report**At Large** – Pete Hallgren reported he was happy to be back in Delta for the last two weeks.**Additional Reports** - none**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**Heinbockel reported, according to the Fairbanks News-Miner, January was the driest month on record with only one half an inch of snow.**ADJOURNMENT** – 6:40pm_____
Pat White, City Clerk_____
CITY
SEAL_____
Mayor Freda Degnan

Approved: February 16, 2021