

**City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 16, 2021 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor Freda Degnan called the meeting to order at 5:05pm in the large conference room.

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

Council present via phone: Charles LESTER, Pete HALLGREN

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

Three members from the community were physically present, three called in including Kaitlyn Fuqoa (State DNR), and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the February 16, 2021 agenda as presented; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Larry Martin introduced himself and his four-year old daughter. He expressed appreciation for keeping the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena open during recent facility closures. Programs were shut down in other communities, but Delta thrived. There are presently 155 skaters participating in Delta skating programs and there have been no COVID cases associated to events at the rink. Martin said he was grateful his daughter was not denied her first year of skating.

Degnan thanked Martin and other volunteers for taking precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID.

CORRESPONDENCE

DNR, DMLW Resolution – Use of Pogo Road

Degnan reported the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is considering authorizing use of the Pogo Mine Road to third parties, specifically Resolution Minerals Alaska, Inc. Public comments end February 25, 2021.

[Contact Jaclyn Cheek, DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water (907-451-2733 or jaclyn.cheek@alaska.gov).]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Granite Avenue

[Sherry Decker asked to purchase a portion of Granite Avenue (platted and undeveloped) where her apartment building's leach field is located. Licenses to use the right-of-way were previously issued (Resolution 2010-02, dated September 19, 2009, and Resolution 2019-03, January 8, 2019). Decker's request to purchase part of Granite Avenue was introduced at the December 1, 2020 Council meeting.]

Heinbockel said he supported Leith's recommendation (February 10, 2021 letter) to not sell any more of Granite Avenue. He regretted voting to sell a portion of it (in 2012) because there are too many variables that could affect other property owners.

Discussion followed regarding Decker's title search not finding the easement for the septic system, Delta Surveys providing a list of property owners along Granite Avenue, six-month termination clause included in revocable licenses, contacting Stephen Hammond who engineered the leach field on Granite Avenue, and obtaining a survey showing property lines and the paved driveway between the Orcutt home and Stanford Apartments.

Motion: Prestegard moved to table discussion about Granite Avenue to March 2, 2021; Catterson seconded.

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

CARES Funds to School District

Erickson reported State Farm approved repair of the 2009 ambulance (\$50,700+), so remaining CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) funds are not needed.

Leith reported the deadline to return unspent CARES funds was changed from December 2020 to December 2021 after the Council voted to give the remaining \$33,500 to the Delta-Greely School District (December 15, 2020). Discussion followed regarding the school district receiving \$830,000 in CARES and stimulus funds, inability to use CARES funds to recover the school district's portion of the 2020-2021 skating season agreement (\$13,130) when High School hockey was canceled because of COVID, and tabling the topic until March 2, 2021.

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

CK# 221140 to Aetna - \$11,933.11 for February group health insurance

CK# 221141 to GVEA - \$4,577.73 for January electricity

CK# 221142 to Cook & Haugeberg, LLC - \$5,766.00 for FY20 audit, payment #4 (\$20,006 to date)

CK# 221143 to Buffalo Fuel - \$585.00 for fuel for Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena Zamboni

CK# 221144 to Delta Transport Services - \$4,973.35 for equipment fuel and heating fuel

CK# 221145 to Wells Fargo for \$5,349.05 for credit card charges

Motion: Levinson moved to approve checks #221140 through 221145 as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

Preliminary Plat – ASLS 2021-01, Delta Junction Townsite, Delta 11 to 4 Subdivision

Leith reported 11 lots of the Delta Dozen in Block 29 were replatted into four. Each lot meets the City's one-acre minimum, except Lot 18A, which is only .89 acres.

Discussion followed regarding Lot 6 of Block 2 (.31 acres) to be sold competitively in a public outcry auction, date to be announced, Council concerns with Lot 6 being advertised as a stand-alone parcel, and DNR unable to put restrictions on its sale, even if its size does not meet State of Alaska well and septic separation requirements.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the preliminary plat, ASLS 2021-01 Delta 11 to 4 Subdivision, as presented; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

REPORTS

Mayor – no report

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- Representatives will provide an update on the Kinross-Tetlin Mine Project in March.

Discussion followed regarding 2-4 vehicles traveling through Delta each direction 24 hours/day for 4-5 years, potential for increased passing lanes, Delta Wind soliciting public input, applicable weight restrictions, single tankers versus double tankers, and concern over conditions of older bridges at Johnson River and Gerstle River.

- Sealed bids for the fuel contract are due February 24.
- The landfill D6, done with maintenance from NC Machinery, will be transported back tomorrow.

City Clerk – no report

Finance – Stephanie Erickson reported she is drafting the FY20 audit report herself.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported fresh snow has all blown away, volunteers compacted what snow is left, and there is little activity at the airport. The snow buildup on North Taxiway is not an issue, but it will be at some time.

Leith reported appraisal of Block 4 airport lots is expected by February 28.

Schools – no report

Emergency Services – no report

Emergency Preparedness – Michael Prestegard cautioned people to carry winter gear for every passenger when traveling. He reported cold weather in the Lower 48 is hammering the middle of the country. Many residents in Texas are unprepared for blackouts because they lack a secondary source of heat.

Health & Safety – Mike Prestegard reported the age of eligibility for COVID vaccines was lowered to 50.

Discussion followed regarding the percentage of people not getting the vaccine, status of testing visitors coming to Alaska, and continuing precautions (masks, distancing, staying home when ill, good hygiene).

Library – Tiki Levinson reported:

- The Delta Library Board, the non-profit that supports the library, moved the annual fundraiser (from April) to June 12. An outdoors block party between the library and Community Center will provide more open space.
- The Delta Library Board purchased a new shelving unit from a craftsman in Fairbanks to match the existing ones that were made from Alaska Birch by inmates in the Seward prison.
- Staff are still sharing reasons for “people to love our library” each day on Facebook during February’s *Love Your Library Month*. There are lots of reasons!

Public Works – no report

Landfill – no report

Park & Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported wind-blown, downed trees are being removed.

Cemetery – Lou Heinbockel reported a dead moose was removed from inside the fence.

At Large – no report

Additional Reports – no report

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Todd Zachgo, Delta Skating Association President, thanked the Council for keeping the rink open to the public, the Public Works for keeping the parking lot cleared, and for all the dedicated volunteers, parents, and coaches who support youth skating programs. Referencing Larry Martin’s comments (page one) and discussion about CARES money (page two), he clarified that the number of skaters has grown from 88 to 155 in the past year. Delta’s unheated rink became a hot spot when other rinks shut down. It is busy seven days a week. When High School hockey was cancelled, DSA picked up an 18U division. Zachgo explained additional expenses to accommodate increased activity and larger turnout. DSA generates revenue from charging visiting teams and an annual buffalo hunt raffle, but they do not operate the concession. M2C1 finished engineering structural upgrades and modifications for the rink, including separation of locker rooms per COVID requirements. They still need to break the plan into phases, prepare for State tournaments, and work out a mitigation plan for the skate shack.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:54pm

Pat White, City Clerk

CITY
SEAL

Mayor Freda Degnan

Approved: March 2, 2021