

**City Council Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 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 5:01pm in the large conference room.

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

**Council present via phone:** Charles LESTER, Pete HALLGREN, Erin CATTERSON

**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

Four members from the community were physically present, two called in, and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Heinbockel moved to approve the March 2, 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 16, 2021 minutes as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call.

**COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none**

**REQUEST TO SPEAK - none**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Gaming Permit Renewals – Forget-Me-Knot Quilters (#2159) and Deltana Fair Association, Inc. (#776)**

**Motion:** Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to the two gaming permit renewals; Levinson seconded.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call.

**Delta Junction Trails Association (DJTA) – Request for Funding**

Degnan read DJTA President Mindy Eggleston’s February 18, 2021 letter, requesting \$3,000 toward a \$10,000 match for \$85,776 in grant funds from the Recreational Trails Program.

Discussion followed regarding \$4,000 remaining in budgeted donations for the community.

**Motion:** Heinbockel moved to donate \$3,000 to the Delta Junction Trails Association to support the first phase of construction of the Delta River Walk Park; Hallgren seconded.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call.

**Delta Skating Association (DSA) – Request for Funding**

Degnan read DSA President Todd Zachgo’s February 25, 2021 letter, requesting support for operational expenses. She referenced the 16-page engineer design while reading Zachgo’s last statement, “It has never been more evident than in this COVID year ... that the Liewer-Olmstead Arena is in desperate need of the proposed rink upgrades.”

Todd Zachgo reported volunteers worked to keep the rink open, not knowing if there would be a skating season. He explained COVID-related expenses and lost revenue (reduced or waived registration fees to keep kids involved, adding an 18U team after the High School canceled their program, increasing the number of games, certifying and paying referees, not running the concession stand, purchasing five portable skate sharpeners and mandated precautions, i.e. cleaning supplies, face masks, building benches to avoid crowding locker rooms while putting on skates, loss of local and corporate sponsors).

Discussion followed regarding \$10,000 in relief funds used to construct the poly rink (synthetic ice), Zachgo to provide a profit-loss report, \$33,469.23 remaining in unallocated funds (see *CARES Funds to School District* on page two), Zachgo requesting \$25,150, and tabling discussion to March 16.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Granite Avenue**

Heinbockel said he agreed with City Attorney Mike McLaughlin’s recommendation, dated February 3, 2021, to not sell any more of Granite Avenue.

Discussion followed regarding potential for land lock issues should properties change hands, West Second built (2016) to access lots between Granite and Jarvis, and quarter-acre “grandfathered” lots in the Granite Avenue area exempt from the (2007) subdivision policy requiring lot sizes not be less than one acre.

**Motion:** Hallgren moved to decline selling the portion of Granite Avenue requested by Sherry Decker (November 24, 2020 letter); Prestegard and Heinbockel seconded.

Discussion followed regarding a March 2 letter from Stephen Hammond explaining new technology that was not available in 2009 and discussing construction of Granite Avenue during the next budget cycle.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call.

### **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Funds to School District – Reconsider Adopted Motion**

[COVID-related expenses qualify for CARES if incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. Council voted to give unallocated funds to the Delta-Greely School District (DGSD) on December 15, 2020. The December 2020 deadline to return unused CARES funds was changed to December 31, 2021.]

Leith read a letter from Kim Johnson, DGSD Finance Director, received on February 19, explaining \$41,000+ in incurred costs to their general fund and \$200,000+ in grant revenue and expenditures. They also received \$637,056 in Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief II Funds to be spent through September 30, 2023.

Discussion followed regarding \$838,080 allocated for Delta/Greely (January 20, 2021 Department of Education & Early Development report), Congress debating another 1.8 trillion in stimulus funds, local schools closed for half of the year, and teachers engaged with students while unable to be in physical contact with them.

**Motion:** Heinbockel moved to rescind the adopted motion from December 15, 2020 to allocate remaining CARES funds to the Delta-Greely School District; Lester seconded.

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

### **Final Plat – ASLS 2021-01, Delta Junction Townsite, Delta 11 to 4 Subdivision**

Sebastian Saarloos, Delta Surveys Associates, noted the townsite plat number is missing in the title block. New land owners will need the information to get their parcels surveyed.

**Motion:** Levinson moved to approve the final plat of ASLS 2021-01, Delta Junction Townsite, upon adding the missing plat number from the previous survey; Lester seconded.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

CK# 221153 to Alliance CPAS, LLC - \$3,336.50 for FY20 Audit, payment #5 (\$23,342.50 to date)

CK# 221154 to Delta Transport Services - \$2,426.41 for heating and equipment fuel

CK# 221155 to Buffalo Fuel - \$2,423.33 for heating fuel

CK# 221156 to Guess & Rudd - \$1,020.00 for legal services (abandoned vehicle ordinance and edit Community Center code)

CK# 221157 to Axelsson & Associates - \$3,400.00 for Block 4, Lots 1-11 appraisals

CK# 221158 to Bristol Engineering Services - \$3,199.00 landfill design update

**Motion:** Heinbockel moved to approve checks #221153 through 221158 as presented; Levinson seconded.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call.

### **Preliminary Plat – Gostev Replat**

Sebastian Saarloos, Delta Surveys, reported Sergey Gostev split Lot 5, Block 6 in Jack Subdivision into two 2.19-acre lots in 2006. The replat splits the parcels into four 1.09-acre lots. Gostev has no plans to develop at this time.

**Motion:** Levinson moved to approve the Gostev preliminary plat as presented; Hallgren seconded.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call.

Saarloos reported the title to Pioneer Park (ASLS 2018-20 approved February 2, 2021) is expected in August. The plat will be sent to the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, and the recorder's office before an appraisal can be done.

### **Fuel Contract – Intent to Award**

Leith explained three proposals, two delivery bids and one at the pump, and recommended awarding the delivery contract to Vitus Energy, LLC who are based in Anchorage. Fuel deliveries would come from their bulk plant in Tok or from Fairbanks, once that plant is established.

**Motion #1:** Levinson moved to issue an Intent to Award to Madhouse Enterprises (Buffalo Center Service) for unleaded gasoline at the pump (\$3.035/gallon) and equipment fuel/diesel at the pump (\$3.11/gallon), road tax included; Heinbockel seconded.

**Motion passed** unanimously on a roll call.

Discussion followed regarding Vitus being the apparent low bidder, hesitation in awarding to a vendor who has no history, terminating the contract if service is not satisfactory (Section 9 of Bid Specifications), and security in paying 10¢ more per gallon with a local vendor (Vitus plant 100 miles away).

**Motion #2:** Heinbockel moved to issue an Intent to Award to Vitus Energy, LLC for 1) bulk delivered fuel in the amount of \$2.78/gallon for heating/diesel #1 and heating/diesel #2 and 2) \$2.80/gallon for delivered off-road unleaded gasoline and diesel for equipment use; Levinson seconded.

**Motion passed** on a roll call with four in favor (Hallgren, Heinbockel, Levinson, Prestegard), two opposed (Catterson, Lester), and one abstained (Degnan - employed by local bidder, Delta Industrial).

## REPORTS

**Mayor** – no report

**City Administrator** – Mary Leith reported:

- The Division of Wildlife Conservation issued a letter, dated February 26, explaining prescribed fire operations and annual spring field burning. Information is available at the Alaska Department of Fish & Game website ([www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov)).
- Auctioneer Randy Peterson is available for the airport auction on May 14 or 21, 2021. Leith questioned duplicating the terms of sales (Resolution 2020-07) in the last auction (July 17, 2020), but omitting the option to bid on adjacent lots. Discussion followed regarding removing the clause about adjacent bidding in the new terms of sales, ten lots appraised at \$14,500 (1.47-1.78 acres each), and all administrative costs and expenditures recouped when lots are sold.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host a public meeting on March 11 at the Community Center about decommissioning and dismantlement of the SM-1A nuclear plant at Fort Greely. Public review and comments end March 28, 2021. Information is available at the library or online (<http://www.nab.usae.army.mil/SM-1A/>).

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported City Hall staff receive a lot of inquiries about services in the Delta area, i.e. lodging, where to get a haircut, where to buy property. Instead of trying to keep information current about local businesses, churches, and organizations, links on the City website will connect to the yellow pages on Pam Dunklebarger's sites, DeltaNewsWeb.com and Alaska-Highway.org. In the Chamber's absence, local entities have opportunity to advertise on her two websites.

**Finance** – Stephanie Erickson reported:

- Cook & Haugeberg merged with Kohler, Schmitt & Hutchison, P.C.
- The FY20 audit will be discussed at a Council meeting in April.

**Airport** – Alan Levinson reported a grader will be used to remove snowdrifts on the runway and in subdivision roads. All Airport Subdivision II lot owners have paid their annual Airport Service Zone fees (\$250).

**Schools** - Erin Catterson reported as of February 22 the local schools are at a low level for COVID risks.

**Emergency Services** – Erin Catterson reported another vaccine clinic will be held at the fire station on March 18.

**Emergency Preparedness / Health & Safety** – Michael Prestegard reported the Public Health Center is planning a vaccine clinic on March 13 to accommodate a large volume of people. Volunteers are needed in all capacities.

**Library** – Freda Degnan read a letter from the Library Association about the annual open house fundraiser, which will be an indoor/outdoor block party on June 21, 10:00-4:00, at the library and Community Center. She reported:

- The library started a family reading program, *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*, one year ago. Three families finished. A great wall at the library celebrates their accomplishments.
- The new shelving unit was unloaded, set in place, and is already full of books.

**Public Works / Landfill** – Charles Lester reported the D6 dozer's water pump went out after being serviced at NC Machinery (February), but, after a few minor fixes, it will be back in full operation mode.

Leith asked the Council to consider hiring a part-time employee at the landfill for 20 hours/week.

Discussion followed regarding justifying a position and drafting a job description.

**Park & Recreation** – Lou Heinbockel reported a cow moose and her calves are hanging out near the park fence.

**Cemetery** – no report

**At Large** – Pete Hallgren reported COVID testing at airports is no longer required. Canada shut cruise-ship travel down for the year and may continue to be a problem for people driving through also.

**Additional Reports** – no report

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS** - See DSA – *Request for Funding* (page one)

**ADJOURNMENT** – 7:10pm

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Pat White, City Clerk

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SEAL

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Mayor Freda Degnan

Approved: March 16, 2021