

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 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 5:00pm 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

Council excused: 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

One member from the community was physically present at the beginning of the meeting, one called in, and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Degnan reported *Kinross-Tetlin Project Update (Request to Speak)* would be postponed to the April 6, 2021 Council meeting.

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the March 16, 2021 agenda as amended; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Shawn Hay, Emergency Manager, US Army Garrison, Fort Greely explained the need to bring the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) back up to speed. He asked the Council, as stakeholders in the community, to support the LEPC platform and an emergency plan to mitigate loss of life, property, and infrastructure. He asked to solicit local businesses and community members to attend a kick-off meeting in April.

REQUEST TO SPEAK – none

CORRESPONDENCE

Gaming Permit Renewal - Pioneers, Igloo #35 (Permit #1138)

Motion: Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to the Pioneers' charitable gaming permit renewal; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

Licensed Premises Diagram Change - E&G Beverage Cellar (License #785)

Motion: Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to facility changes at E&G Beverage Cellar; Lester seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Delta Skating Association – Request for Funding

Council discussed non-profits being able to use Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funds to recover lost revenue, loss in DSA sponsorships between 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 skating seasons (\$27,669.20), and, as of December 31, 2020, \$32,466 spent of \$44,451 budgeted in FY21 for the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena.

Motion: Prestegard moved to table discussion to April 6, 2021; Levinson seconded.

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

Final Plat – Gostev Replat

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the Gostev Replat as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

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

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

CK# 221175 to Aetna - \$11,933.11 for March group health insurance

CK# 221176 to Heritage Rock and Services LLC - \$1,900.00 to transport D6 dozer to/from NC Machinery

CK# 221177 to Delta Transport Services - \$6,824.26 for heating and equipment fuel

CK# 221178 to NC Machinery - \$14,605.03 for D6 dozer equalizer replacement and engine flush

CK# 221179 to Delta-Greely Skating Association - \$1,083.00 reimbursement for replacing Plexiglas

CK# 221180 to Buffalo Center Service - \$1,736.32 for City vehicles and equipment fuel

CK# 221181 to GVEA - \$4,932.94 for February electricity for City buildings

CK# 221182 to Wells Fargo Credit - \$3,432.23 for credit card purchases

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve checks #221175 through 221182; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

Resolution 2021-02, Setting Terms of Sales for Block 4 Lots in Airport Subdivision II

Leith reported the public auction will be held at noon on May 21, starting at the intersection of Ski Strip Drive and Puddle Jumper Parkway. Minimum bid for each of the ten lots is \$14,500 (appraised value).

[Correction: The auction starts with Lot 3 at the intersection of Ski Strip Drive and Taildragger Court.]

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve Resolution 2021-02; Levinson seconded.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – no report

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosted a public meeting on March 11 at the Community Center about removing the SM-1A nuclear plant at Fort Greely. Debris will be trucked to Fairbanks and then transported to Texas by train and boat. The comment period ends March 28. Information is available at the library, online (<http://www.nab.usae.army.mil/SM-1A/>), and the Fort Greely Facebook page.
- The Public Health Center hosted a vaccine clinic at the High School on March 13. More clinics are scheduled at the Community Center on March 27 and April 24.
- New garage doors were installed at the Community Center on March 11. The Senior Companion Program will have the garage door opener. The old doors were hauled to the recycle area at the landfill.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- Passport applications are picking up slightly, even though most applicants have no travel plans.
- A photo shoot of the current Council will be scheduled in May. The last one was taken in 2018.

Finance – Stephanie Erickson reported the FY20 audit is expected to be done by March 23.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported:

- The airport is experiencing increased traffic.
- The City crew smoothed the runway by dragging a beam across it.
- Snow needs removed on airport subdivision roads before it turns to slush.

Schools - Erin Catterson reported students are out for Spring Break, March 15/19.

Emergency Services – Erin Catterson reported Delta Medical Transport logged 23 ambulance runs since February 16 and the Fire Department responded to one fire.

Emergency Preparedness / Health & Safety – Michael Prestegard reported:

- He is pleased with the interest in LEPC (*Comments on Non-Agenda Items* – page one).
- He encouraged travelers to continue carrying cold-weather gear for all passengers.

Library – Freda Degnan reported:

- Things have quieted down at the library due to increased COVID cases. Patrons wear masks and are limited to 30-minute time slots.
- In-person Story Hour has been temporarily suspended and will be live-streamed on Facebook.
- The annual library inventory was completed; only seven items were missing.

Public Works / Landfill – Charles Lester reported:

- The D6 dozer is out of service until June, awaiting a hydraulic lift cylinder replacement part.
- The Volvo 150 loader is also out of commission. It needs brake accumulators.
- Northern Star (Pogo) is expanding their mining operation, by hiring another 100 employees.

Leith reported Neil Lehner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), is researching hauling the mine’s sewage waste to Fairbanks, so the City landfill is not overwhelmed.

Park & Recreation – no report

Cemetery – Lou Heinbockel reported:

- Two new memorial plaques were placed on the memorial wall at Rest Haven Cemetery. One will be mounted on March 19. Roy and Janell Gilbertson donated the memorial wall in 2015.
- A memorial service for past mayor Roy Gilbertson will be held at the park in May.
- Effort is needed to expand the Veteran’s Memorial Wall at the cemetery.

Discussion followed regarding the Pioneers forming a committee to upgrade the Veteran’s wall and whether to add the Pioneer section at the cemetery to the City’s lawn maintenance contract.

At Large – no report

Additional Reports – no report

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 6:12pm

Pat White, City Clerk

CITY
SEAL

Mayor Freda Degnan

Approved: April 6, 2021