

**City Council Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 6, 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, Deputy Mayor Lou HEINBOCKEL, Charles LESTER, Michael PRESTEGARD, Alan LEVINSON, Erin CATTERSON

**Council present via phone:** 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

One member from the community was physically present and two called in, two guests from Kinross attended by phone, and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Heinbockel moved to approve the April 6, 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 March 16, 2021 minutes as presented; Lester seconded.

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

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

**REQUEST TO SPEAK**

Anna Atchison, Manager of External Affairs, Kinross Alaska, attending telephonically, introduced herself and Joy Huntington, President/Principal Consultant of Uqaqti Consulting. She referenced a Power Point handout and explained the history of the Kinross Manh Choh Project, its 4 ½-year timeline, and how its plan, to haul ore to Fort Knox instead of building a processing facility in Tetlin, will impact the local community. The grade of the Kinross Project is ten times of Fort Knox (6 grams of gold per ton).

Discussion followed regarding the Kinross Project creating 350-400 jobs, reducing loads and traffic during seasonal road restriction (April-May), awareness of school bus stops, other traffic patterns, buses pulling into the 65-mph traffic zone on the Alaska Highway, operating trucks around the clock (four to eight trucks every hour between the mine and Fort Knox), 3,900 tons of ore transported daily, possibly switching singles to doubles near Fairbanks, concerns about narrow World War II-era bridges, Department of Transportation plans to construct more passing lanes, A2A Railway not in place by 2024, making provisions for potential truck repairs with an established trucking company, and contacting Atchison for more information ([anna.atchison@kinross.com](mailto:anna.atchison@kinross.com) or 907-490-2218).

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Partners for Progress in Delta Inc. – Request to use the City’s 1997 Kenworth End Dump**

Degnan read Academy Administrator Gary Hall’s March 23, 2021 letter requesting use of the City’s 1997 Kenworth for the last two weeks of their Heavy Equipment Operator and Mechanic Academy, June 1-18.

Discussion followed regarding City personnel delivering the end dump on June 7 and picking it up on June 18, and a standing agreement with Partners for maintenance and repairs.

**Motion:** Heinbockel moved to approve Partners for Progress’ use of the Kenworth T-800 End Dump during their 15th annual Intro to Heavy Equipment Operator and Mechanic Academy; Catterson seconded.

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

Heinbockel stated the Partners is credited for introducing local students to excellent jobs and career choices. Their training is free, aside from a \$100 registration fee, and provides experience on ten different pieces of equipment.

**Loyal Order of Moose #911 – Liquor License Renewal (#2867)**

**Motion:** Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to the Moose’s liquor license renewal; Lester seconded.

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

Heinbockel and Degnan disclosed that they are card-carrying members of the Loyal Order of Moose #911.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Change to Pioneer Park Plat** (Preliminary approved July 7, 2020 / Final Plat approved February 2, 2021) Sebastian Saarloos, Delta Surveys, reported the final plat was already approved in February, but the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) added more edits: 1) adjust the position of corner C2, along the Richardson and Alaska highways right-of-way, which moves it approximately three feet to the south and 2) change acreage by one-thousandths of an acre. The Department of Natural Resources okayed the DOT changes and the City Council, as the local platting authority, is asked to approve the March 21, 2021 version of the final plat.

**Motion:** Hallgren moved to amend the February 2, 2021 motion to approve the final Pioneer Park plat, to include changes to the bearings along the right-of-way boundaries as discussed; Levinson seconded.

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

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

CK# 221202 to Aetna - \$11,933.11 for April group health insurance

CK# 221203 to Delta Medical Transport - \$12,500.00 for 2021 ambulance contract, payment 4 of 4

CK# 221204 to Delta Transport Services - \$8,801.67 for heating and equipment fuel

CK# 221205 to Buffalo Fuel - \$1,440.00 for heating fuel

CK# 221206 to Alcan Auto & Truck - \$1,810.37 for hoses on Zamboni (\$44.01), landfill supplies - hydraulic fluid, hose, jacks (\$1,340.43), and Public Works supplies and LED light bar for backhoe (\$425.93)

CK# 221207 to Siemens Industry - \$1,533.50 to repair library and fire station heating systems

CK# 221208 to Kef's Septic - \$2,700.00 to replace sump pump at fire station and thaw septic at landfill scale house

CK# 221209 to Overhead Door - \$5,315.00 to replace garage door at Community Center with three door openers

**Motion:** Levinson moved to approve checks #221202 through 221209 as presented; Prestegard seconded.

Discussion followed regarding the frozen septic system at the landfill scale house due to little snow cover.

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

**REPORTS**

**Mayor** – no report

**City Administrator** – Mary Leith reported:

- Alaska Permanent Capital Management sent a Harry & David gift box. The fruit and cheese were used for the snack trays served at tonight's meeting.
- Interior Alaska Medical Clinic (IAMC) requested a letter to support application for grant funds to provide behavior health services to the community.

Discussion followed regarding IAMC already providing the service on a smaller scale, whether they compete with an existing counseling business, and Council not objecting to IAMC's grant application to expand their services.

**City Clerk** – no report

**Finance** – Stephanie Erickson reported:

- The FY20 audit showed no significant findings. Kara Moore, Alliance Partner, will attend the next Council meeting by phone. [Cook & Haugeberg merged with Kohler, Schmitt & Hutchison to become Alliance CPAs.]
  - The three-year contract for audit service expires soon (June 30, 2021) but can be extended two extra years.
- Discussion followed regarding starting the next budget cycle, more stimulus funds to be distributed, but not part of the operating budget, and the 2009 ambulance in the shop (wrecked October 19, 2020), but repair date unknown.

**Airport** – Alan Levinson reported:

- The Public Outcry Auction for the last ten lots in Airport Subdivision II (noon, Friday, May 21, 2021) will start at the intersection of Ski Strip Drive and Taildragger Court, not Puddle Jumper Parkway as advertised.
- The condition of the runway is rough because of attempts to smooth snowdrifts.
- Volunteers plowed the Rapids Street access to the runway.
- Airport subdivision roads need plowed. Gravel is needed on the cul-de-sacs.

**Schools** – no report

**Emergency Services** – no report

**Emergency Preparedness / Health & Safety** – Michael Prestegard reported:

- The Public Health Nurse will host vaccine clinics at the Community Center. A first-dose clinic is scheduled on April 13. Second dose clinics are scheduled for April 24 and May 11.

• At the March 16 Council meeting, Shawn Hay asked to solicit community members to jumpstart the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). LEPC meets next on May 10. Discussion followed regarding moving the order of reports in meetings, so that Council speaks first and staff last, and concern about potential flooding from Jarvis Creek.

**Library** – Freda Degnan reported:

- The library is quiet and services are limited since closing to the public again (March 22, 2021).
- Kids dropped off stuffed animals for a sleepover last week. They were given pictures of what their animals did while at the library. Since it was on April Fool’s Day, some of the animals were a little wild!
- Streaming Story Hour on Facebook for the past three weeks has been well received. Patrons and students are thankful for Miss Shona’s creativity.
- Library Director Tiki Levinson submitted paperwork for two State of Alaska grants.

**Public Works / Landfill** – Charles Lester reported:

- Snow removal and sanding have been steady for the past week or two.
- The D6 dozer at the landfill is still waiting on the hydraulic cylinder, which is part of the ripper assembly. It also developed a small transmission leak.

- A six-inch bolt flattened the tire on the Volvo 220 today. Its bucket shrouds were replaced.
- All five brake accumulators were replaced in the Volvo 150. Its computer has been acting up for quite a while and they cannot identify the problem.
- 380,000 pounds of sewage and solid waste were delivered to the sludge pits between January and March 2020. The same time this year, the total was 522,000 pounds.

Leith reported Zack Weidner, Kel’s Septic, will thaw the north pond, so it can drain. She explained the condition of both pits, the current one too full to accept Pogo’s sewage, and plans to remove brush in the north pond.

Lester suggested purchasing a new loader before equipment failure shuts the landfill operation down entirely.

**Park & Recreation** – no report

**Cemetery** – Lou Heinbockel reported he will propose at the next Council meeting for the City to take over maintenance of the Pioneer section of Rest Haven Cemetery.

Leith said the lawn contractor agreed to \$1,300 (\$100 each week) plus purchase cost and time to apply fertilizer.

**At Large** – Pete Hallgren reported he was enthusiastic about returning to Alaska (from Florida) until he learned about recent cold temperatures and more snow.

**Additional Reports** – none

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Leith reported Silas Hill and JW Musgrove repaired the packer, dragged the runway, and will do the ski strip next.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 6:55pm

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Mayor Freda Degnan

CITY  
SEAL

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Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: April 20, 2021