

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 4, 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.

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

Council excused: Erin CATTERSON, 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

Two members from the community and two U.S. Army Garrison personnel attended by phone. The meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the May 4, 2021 agenda as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the April 20, 2021 minutes as presented; Hallgren seconded.

Hallgren asked to settle the request to cut the grass in the northwest section of the park before Mayor Gilbertson's memorial service on May 23 (2021 Lawn Maintenance Contract – page 2 of April 20, 2021 draft minutes).

See discussion under *Comments on Non-Agenda Items* (below).

Motion passed by unanimous consent to approve the April 20, 2021 minutes.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Motion: Hallgren moved to authorize in-house mowing of the northwest corner of the park (soccer field) before the 2021 lawn contract begins (June 1) and before Mayor Gilbertson's services (May 23); Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance (Prestegard, Heinbockel, Levinson, Hallgren, Degnan).

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Matthew Sprau, Planning Branch Chief, Environmental Division, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, explained their partnership with Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District and their oversight responsibilities of the Donnelly Training Area. Referring to the May 1, 2021 *Jarvis Creek Aufeis Monitoring Report*, Sprau said they monitor ice formation and compare snow depth and snow water data. Last year (2020) had record snowfall in the Delta area and again, this year, there are no issues with spring overflow.

Discussion followed regarding starting to monitor Jarvis' natural overflow path in early March of each year, efforts to channel water during the 2004 flood, coal dust used in the past, sharing Aufeis monitoring reports in the future, and overflow from Jarvis Creek being the reason the landfill was moved from the Tanana Loop Extension.

CORRESPONDENCE

Liquor License Renewal – Donnelly Dome Liquors (License #567)

Motion: Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to Donnelly Dome Liquors' license renewal; Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance (Heinbockel, Hallgren, Prestegard, Levinson, Degnan).

Mike Prestegard – Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Membership

Prestegard explained interest in serving on the LEPC in the primary role as an elected official.

Discussion followed regarding Audrey Brown serving as alternate elected official, but leaving the Council in October 2020, whether she could continue on the committee in a different category, Degnan opting to serve as City alternate, and Prestegard submitting his membership application at the LEPC meeting on May 10.

Degnan called for opposition with none being offered.

Nicole Herman-Mercer – Arctic Rivers Project

White reported Nicole Herman-Mercer requested Council input by responding to a survey about climate change and how it may impact the local community. The information is intended to assist communities in planning for impacts of climate change in most of Alaska and the Yukon Territory of Canada.

Discussion followed regarding wanting the opinion of the Council as a group, not from individuals, submitting the survey by July 16, and tabling discussion until more information is known.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none**NEW BUSINESS****City Purchases over \$1,000**

CK# 221237 to Kel's Septic Pumping - \$1,200.00 to thaw 1) drainage line in northern sewage pit and 2) scale house septic line

CK# 221238 to Alliance CPAs LLC - \$14,567.50 for FY20 audit, final payment

CK# 221239 to Warning Lites of Alaska, Inc. - \$3,346.10 for street signs for Brewis Subdivision, Airport II, stop signs, and landfill sign

Motion: Levinson moved to approve checks #221237 through 221239 as presented; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance (Hallgren, Levinson, Heinbockel, Prestegard, Degnan).

Preliminary Plat – Budnik 2 Subdivision

Leith reported the Budnik 2 Subdivision plat divides a 2.5-acre lot (Block 4, Lot 8 Riverview Subdivision) into two (1.335 and 1.171 acres). Both lots have power.

Discussion followed regarding amending a 1983 plat that had protective covenants and adding a clause to the final plat, “by approving this plat, the City is undertaking no obligation to enforce any covenants found in Book 302, pages 227 and 228.”

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the preliminary plat for Budnik 2 Subdivision; Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance (Levinson, Hallgren, Heinbockel, Prestegard, Degnan).

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2021-04, An Ordinance for the City of Delta Junction, Providing for a Budget for Fiscal Year 2022

Heinbockel expressed concern about not knowing the amount of revenue from Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

Erickson reported she used amounts (\$1 million plus) from recent years and quoted the Department of the Interior’s website post on January 15, 2021, “On December 27, 2020, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 which appropriated full funding for PILT and enabled the Department of the Interior to initiate the FY2021 program.”

Discussion followed regarding scheduling a budget work session (May 12), Alaska Municipal League establishing a website to communicate grant availability, replacing landfill equipment in one or two years, and Pogo’s commitment of \$150,000.

Motion: Hallgren moved to pass the first reading of Ordinance 2021-04 and to set the public hearing, second reading, and adoption date for June 1, 2021; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance (Prestegard, Heinbockel, Hallgren, Levinson, Degnan).

REPORTS

Mayor – no report

Airport – Alan Levinson reported there is a lot of standing water in the airport subdivision. Signs were ordered for the streets. The tie-down area is still soft. The auction on May 21 has been well advertised.

Discussion followed regarding how the appraised price for airport lots compared to current prices of raw land.

Schools – Lou Heinbockel reported the Girls High School Softball team took third in a tournament in Palmer last weekend.

Emergency Services – no report

Emergency Preparedness – see *LEPC Membership* (page one)

Health & Safety – Mike Prestegard read a thank you card from Emily Dove, Delta Public Health Center, who appreciated support of their COVID-19 clinics. They have scaled down, but people can schedule vaccines (895-4231) at upcoming clinics: May 11 at the Community Center or May 26 at Jarvis West.

Hallgren explained his experience in traveling through the Fairbanks International Airport and a team of medical professionals ready to administer free COVID vaccines to anyone interested.

Library – Freda Degnan reported:

- The library's *1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program* added the fifth finisher to the wall of honor. It started in March 2020 and has a lot of interest, which is important since Alaska's reading test scores are one of the lowest in the nation.
- The Forget-Me-Knot Quilters Guild donated a quilt for the annual library fundraiser on June 12.
- Delta Elementary classes have been visiting the library for their end of the year field trips.

Public Works – no report**Landfill** – no report

Park & Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported volunteers rebuilt and anchored the baseball dugout (destroyed September 2020). Jon Carpenter removed snow from the ballfields. The High School hosted games on April 24, but they would be the only home games because the Delta-Greely School District does not have a mask policy. [May 12, 2021 note: Delta will host games with North Pole on May 15 and with West Valley on May 22.]

Cemetery – Mary Leith reported there are water issues in the northeast section of the cemetery. She questioned installing another French drain.

Discussion followed regarding not preparing winter graves in the northeast section anymore.

At Large – Pete Hallgren reported the April 28 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting was mostly about ground water issues, remediation, and moderating, but no longer about Fort Greely's nuclear reactors.

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- The Senior Companion van arrived on April 30.
- She is expecting a written letter from the Division of Natural Resources giving permission to the Department of Transportation to remove trees to access the pipeline river weights. Some large boulders will be used to barricade areas near the River Walk Park where walking and hiking will be discouraged.
- She received one quote to date for an appraisal of Pioneer Park and hopes to have that figure before the end of the fiscal year, to purchase the property before October 15, 2021 when the lease expires. The signed Mylar (plat approved February 2, 2021 and again on April 6, 2021) was delivered in Fairbanks on April 29.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- A2A Rail will host an informal open house at the park on May 20 to accommodate a large volume of people while following mask and distancing mandates, if they're still in place. They plan to cater foods from local food carts and hold the event near the playground in the southeast corner of the park. Kinross will host a similar event in the same location on June 15. [May 11, 2021 note: The May 20 event was cancelled. The June 15 event will be 4:00-7:00, so Council can attend before the scheduled meeting begins at 5:00pm.]
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will conduct an environmental investigation (test soil and water) at Gate Valve No. 46 of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline. They would appreciate Council input before the end of the month.
- The State of Alaska proposed to close six Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices, including Delta Junction, as part of its budget reduction. The proposal was dropped in April.
- Swift Tag & Title (opened December 2020) does everything DMV does (driver's licenses and State-issued ID's, Real ID licenses and ID's, registrations, titles, tags) and passport photos, but not commercial licenses. [Paper copies of driver's licenses are replaced with cards that arrive via mail.]
- Federally-approved identification was mandated to access federal buildings, military installations, and TSA checkpoints for domestic travel. Standard IDs will no longer be accepted. The October 2020 deadline moved to October 2021 because of COVID and was recently extended again (to May 3, 2023).

Finance – no report**Additional Reports** – no report**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS** - none**ADJOURNMENT** – 6:51pm

Mayor Freda DegnanCITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: May 18, 2021