

**City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 18, 2021 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor Freda Degnan called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

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

Council excused: 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

Eleven community members were present, two attended by phone, and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the May 18, 2021 agenda as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE

Memorial Service for Mayor Roy Gilbertson – Sunday, May 23, 2021

Degnan reported a memorial will be held for Mayor Gilbertson (term = 1998-2006) at the City Park on May 23.

Sloan’s Restaurant (Liquor License #5899) DBA Big Delta Brewing Company

Motion: Hallgren moved to show no objection to Sloan’s Restaurant’s doing business as Big Delta Brewing Company; Levinson seconded.

Discussion followed regarding name change not the same as a liquor license transfer, which can take 6-7 months, and “doing business as” in the interim, so the new restaurant can serve beer with meals.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Restore Welcome-to-Delta Sign at Visitor Center (proposed July 16, 2019)

Susan Hitchcock reported she was commissioned by the Kiwanis and the Lions to paint the Welcome-to-Delta sign at the Triangle in the mid-1980s. She initially proposed to repaint the 35-year old sign, but after inspecting it, she offered to rebuild it for \$1,500 plus \$300 to bury its posts in concrete and have it on display in about a month.

Discussion followed regarding locating funds in the FY21 budget, ownership of the sign, a binding document requiring Hitchcock, the artist, to give permission to the City to make necessary changes to the sign, and using a Styrofoam / urethane mixture instead of concrete to erect the posts.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to allocate up to \$2,000.00 to rebuild the Welcome-to-Delta sign; Levinson seconded.

Levinson asked that the artist also grant permission to use or duplicate the artwork at any time in the future.

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

FY22 Budget

Erickson explained a revised budget, dated May 18, that included changes from the May 12 work session.

Discussion followed regarding the second reading, public hearing, and adoption of the FY22 budget set for June 1, prioritizing streets and getting an estimate from Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) to repair them, adding footnotes to explain changes with each new budget draft, potential \$300,000 surplus from FY21, and whether to consider doing the work in-house.

JW Musgrove said cracks have gotten worse. Not all cracks can be sealed with tar. Some need cold processed asphalt. DOT can do crack sealing, but not asphalt repairs.

Todd Zachgo, President, Delta Skating Association, emphasized the importance of the local skating programs that are recognized on State levels. He said no sizeable funding has been invested in the Liewer Olmstead Ice Arena in many years. He asked to dedicate funds for big ticket items: 1) asphalt the indoor rink so ice-making is easier and the facility can be used year-round, 2) insulate the facility, and 3) complete improvements per engineered plans (presented at the March 2 Council meeting). Money must be available before plans can be made.

Degnan asked Zachgo to provide a prioritized list of rink upgrades and cost estimates.

Leith reported it will cost \$4,000 to \$5,000 to replace locks.

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 221259 to Duncan GIS - \$1,620.00 for mapping support in March and April

CK# 221260 to Aetna - \$11,933.11 for May group health insurance

CK# 221261 to ACS - \$1,535.81 for May phones and Internet

CK# 221262 to Buffalo Center Service - \$ 1,746.41 for equipment fuel

CK# 221263 to Vitus Energy - \$6,048.42 for heating fuel for facilities and equipment fuel at landfill

CK# 221264 to Street Guinn Real Estate Appraisers - \$3,500.00 for Pioneer Park appraisal

CK# 221265 to Wells Fargo - \$4,048.03 for miscellaneous credit card charges

Motion: Levinson moved to approve checks #221259 through 221265; Heinbockel seconded.

JW Musgrove reported the State of Alaska provides a list of appraisers. The City does not get to pick them.

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

Final Plat – Budnik 2 Subdivision

Sebastian Saarloos, Delta Surveys, reported note #13, “By approval of this plat the City of Delta Junction takes no responsibility for enforcement of the covenants” was added since the preliminary plat was approved on May 4. There are covenants, but none that restrict subdividing lots within the Riverview Subdivision.

Motion: Prestegard moved to approve the final plat for the Budnik 2 Subdivision; Hallgren seconded.

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

Two 15-yard Roll Offs

Leith reported it was decided during the May 12 budget work session to purchase the roll offs in the 2021 fiscal year. She recommended purchasing two 15-yard landfill roll offs from Wastequip for \$30,789 each.

Erickson said funds would be recovered during a budget reconciliation.

Motion: Levinson moved to purchase two roll offs from Wastequip, each not to exceed \$31,000, including freight; Catterson seconded.

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

Granite Avenue Construction

Degnan referenced engineered drawings of Granite Avenue, a platted, undeveloped street with many obstacles.

Heinbockel recalled when Nick Colombo needed access to his warehouse and when others asked the City to sell parts of Granite Avenue. He regrets selling a section to Delta Industrial Services (2009-2012). Concerned with putting off a potential problem (stranded or landlocked lots), he suggested building Granite Avenue at a minimal cost and without having encroachments removed.

Discussion followed between Council members and seven residents who did not want Granite Avenue constructed. Conversation included ownership of the paved driveway between Helen Orcutt’s residence and Stanford Apartments, a 12-foot layer of clay on Richardson Highway frontage properties, small lot sizes and no easements between them, septic systems in the platted street, West Second constructed to provide legal access from Jarvis Street (2016), assurance of back lots having legal access (easement) from the Richardson Highway (Orcutt driveway), whether to sell the platted street to adjoining property owners, and the six-month written notice clause in the existing revocable license to use the Granite Avenue right-of-way (Resolution 2019-03).

Hallgren asked that Granite Avenue property owners, between Grizzly and West Second, propose a solution.

Degnan suggested tabling discussion until all landowners are involved.

JW Musgrove said that once a platted street is abandoned and becomes a private easement, it no longer belongs to the public.

REPORTS

Mayor – no report

Airport – Alan Levinson reported:

- Cul-de-sacs in the airport subdivision need maintenance.
- The last ten lots in the airport subdivision will be auctioned on May 21.

Schools - Erin Catterson reported the school year ends on May 19.

Emergency Services – Erin Catterson reported:

- Delta Medical Transport (DMT) had 35 ambulance runs between April 20 and May 18. The fire department had three runs during the same timeframe.
- DMT and the Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department participated in the High School graduation parade and the elementary Husky Hustle. DMT assisted a High School class in Emergency Trauma Technician skills. They also held several CPR/1st Aid classes at the fire station.

Emergency Preparedness / Health & Safety – no report

Library – Freda Degnan reported:

- Visits to the library are increasing and staff are easing away from COVID mitigation procedures.
- Library fundraiser donations are trickling in. Kassie Farrar donated her art in a series of notecards.
- The library was visited by 250 students and 44 adults during annual field trips. Library staff challenged students to sign up for library cards or to check out items by the end of May.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported Jarvis and Fourth streets were regraded after brush cutting was finished.

Leith reported Sherman Stebbins replaced street signs.

Park & Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported Delta has a strong Girls High School softball team. They lost only one game (to Colony).

Leith reported Sherman Stebbins replaced an air relief valve that was spewing water in the park pavilion.

Cemetery – Lou Heinbockel reported one burial is scheduled for May 19 and traditional Memorial Day ceremonies will be held at Rest Haven Cemetery on May 31.

At Large – Pete Hallgren referenced the sample *Arctic Rivers Project* survey from the University of Colorado that the Council was asked to complete by July 16 (discussed at May 4 Council meeting). Reading sample questions and responses, Hallgren said it appears more political than useful.

The City Council opted to not participate in the survey.

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- Part-time summer jobs, library aide and grounds maintenance, were advertised and the landfill summer hire is returning.
- An email was received from the Environmental Protection Agency, approving the closure plan for motor vehicle waste disposal wells at the landfill building, Public Works building, and the fire station.

City Clerk – no report

Finance – no report

Additional Reports – Mary Leith reported Tony White recently bid on two low-mileage ambulances.

Discussion followed regarding whether the City would contribute toward purchasing another ambulance, \$26,895 left from the 2011 wrecked ambulance, and the 2009 ambulance close to being repaired.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

JW Musgrove said he is researching a newer model mower deck for the airport tractor and hopes to purchase it before the end of the fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:41pm

Mayor Freda Degnan

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: June 1, 2021