

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
June 1, 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.

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

Council present on phone: 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

Five members from the community 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 June 1, 2021 agenda as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

White reported “auction” was changed to “auctioned” (*Airport Report* – page three).

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

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Al Edgren shared photos of the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena exterior and asked to invest in maintenance of the building, particularly to repair metal siding on the west side near the outdoor rink where two significant areas were damaged during snow removal last winter.

Discussion followed regarding having an adjuster inspect the building, \$5,000 insurance deductible, previous damages to the northeast corner, increased participation in skating programs, and needed building upgrades.

Dave Becker referenced Granite Avenue discussion on May 18 and suggested removing a dirt berm to extend the road to the lots south of his home. The area is congested and septic systems will eventually need to be replaced, but developing Granite Avenue is not wanted or needed at this time.

Discussion followed regarding issuing a revocable license (2009 and 2019) to use Granite Avenue’s right-of-way for Stanford Apartments’ septic system, and avoiding stranded lots when selling property on the platted street.

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE

Remembrance of Roy Gilbertson

Degnan reported Pete Hallgren’s speech was a tribute to Mayor Gilbertson during his memorial service on May 23.

Hallgren stated his speech, which is on record, describes Mayor Gilbertson’s contributions to this community.

Community Meeting and BBQ – June 15, 2021

Degnan reported Kinross – Mahn Choh will host a community BBQ at the City Park on June 15, 4:00-6:00pm.

Local residents are invited to meet the project team for an update on transporting ore from Tetlin to Fairbanks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 221278 to Randy Peterson - \$2,500.00 for auctioneering Airport II Subdivision Outcry Auction on May 21

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve check #221278; Hallgren seconded.

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

Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption of Ordinance 2021-04, An Ordinance for the City of Delta Junction Providing for a Budget for Fiscal Year 2022

Erickson referenced the May 18, 2021 budget draft, showing changes and footnotes that were discussed at the May 12 work session. The June 1 draft is a clean copy of the May 18 draft. Referring to street repairs, she reported the Department of Transportation alternates between crack sealing and patching roads. 2021 is designated for crack sealing.

Discussion followed regarding more expenditures identified during the May 12 work session, using \$30,000 from the FY21 budget for crack sealing streets, whether Fort Greely's contribution to the library can be reinstated, adding revenue from airport lot owner's annual crossing permits (\$250/year), new firefighting gear (\$1,800/set), and addressing improvements at the Liewer Olmstead Ice Arena, as requested by the Delta Skating Association.

Motion: Hallgren moved to replace the FY22 budget proposal, dated June 1, 2021, with an amended draft, to include: 1) changing \$50,000.00 in street repairs to \$30,000.00, 2) increasing new equipment for the Fire Department from \$10,200.00 to \$20,000.00, 3) adding airport revenue (\$2,500.00), and to hold a third reading, public hearing, and adoption on June 15, 2021; Heinbockel seconded.

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

Motion: Heinbockel moved to dedicate \$30,000.00 from the FY21 surplus to a savings for ice rink upgrades; Hallgren seconded.

Discussion followed regarding paving the inside of the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena and difficulty in getting estimates because of escalating costs of building materials.

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

Degnan called for public comments with Todd Zachgo expressing appreciation for the \$30,000 for the rink.

REPORTS

Mayor – no report

Airport – Alan Levinson reported:

- The airport will be busy with helicopter activity during the month of June.
- Five lots were sold during the airport outcry auction on May 21. The other five sold over the counter, all for the minimum bid (\$14,500).

[City Clerk note: An interested party left his number at City Hall should any airport lot owner wish to sell.]

Leith explained expenses and revenue, resulting in a \$54,801.44 profit from sale of Airport Subdivision II lots. Up to half of the cost to install power poles (\$25,000 for 2020 lots and \$50,000 for 2021 lots) could be recovered should new airport lot owners tie into the electrical poles within the first five years. She referenced a memo, dated June 1, and explained expenses (\$27,100 not including labor) to install two cul-de-sacs and finish roadwork in Airport Subdivision II.

Discussion followed regarding not subsidizing land development with general funds, depositing all land sale profits into the City's Permanent Fund, and putting in French drains instead of culverts.

Schools – no report

Emergency Services – no report

Emergency Preparedness – Mike Prestegard reported the earthquake (40 miles north of Chickaloon on Sunday, May 30) was felt in Delta. He asked people to educate themselves about situations that can be prevented, i.e. securing bookshelves so they do not topple over during an earthquake and pin people to the floor.

Health & Safety – Mike Prestegard reported:

- The State of Alaska dropped COVID mandates, but still recommend face coverings when around people outside their household, social distancing and good hygiene, and staying home when sick. Alaska has no entry or travel requirements to test for COVID, but they are offering free vaccines to all travelers to Alaska.
- Travel through Canada by land is prohibited unless carrying proof that travel is not optional, i.e. proof of residence or employment. For the most up to date information, go online (travel.gc.ca) or call (1-204-983-3500).

Public Works – Mike Prestegard, referring to a spreadsheet about history of Community Cleanup, reported there were only 40 loads of trash delivered to the landfill on May 15 compared to 2020 (133) and other years.

Hallgren said he would argue to return to the 50% savings next year, simply to promote utilizing the landfill.

Library – Freda Degnan reported:

- The library’s summer reading program was altered because the school district is hosting one also.
- Library staff are preparing baskets for the annual fundraiser on June 12, 10:00-4:00.
- The seed swap was a success and little green plants should be growing around the community.

Landfill – Lou Heinbockel, complimenting Dennis Burke, reported the septic operation at the landfill is in better condition than in recent years.

Park & Recreation – no report

Cemetery – Lou Heinbockel reported the Memorial Day ceremony was held on May 31 at Rest Haven Cemetery.

At Large – no report

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported part-time summer hire positions were filled for lawn maintenance and library aide. Both pay \$11.50/hour.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- Declaration of Candidacy forms for the REAA School Board are available at City Hall, Division of Elections offices, or online (elections.alaska.gov). Three three-year seats (B, D, F) and one two-year seat (E) are on the ballot. The filing period ends August 6, 2021 and the REAA Election is on October 5, 2021.

- The filing period for the City’s Municipal Election is August 20 through September 10, 2021. Seats A and E, both three-year terms, and Seat B, one-year remaining, will be on the October 5 ballot.

Finance – Stephanie Erickson reported Amber Rand, PHN, Public Health Service, applied for grant funds to award vouchers to people who get the COVID vaccine. The City will act as a pass-through agent, similar to LEPC or Delta Imagination Library grants. The campaign runs June 7 through August 13 and serves both Delta and Tok.

Additional Reports - none

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jerry Zachgo, referring to conversation about earthquakes (*Emergency Preparedness Report* – page 2), suggested preparing emergency patient transport kits to use in mass casualty situations. Kits are shrink wrapped and consist of a Stokes Litter, backboard, spider strap, pillow and blanket. They’re efficient, easy to transport, and they eliminate using ambulance supplies.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:51pm

Mayor Freda Degnan

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: June ---, 2021