

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
July 20, 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, Erin CATTERSON

Council excused: Charles LESTER

Staff physically present: City Administrator Mary Leith, Library Director Tiki Levinson, Administrative Assistant Flower Cole, City Clerk Pat White

Staff present via phone: Finance Officer Stephanie Erickson

One member from the community was present. The meeting was not broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the July 20, 2021 agenda as presented; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Hallgren moved to approve the July 13, 2021 minutes; Catterson seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

LTC Joey Orr reported the Delta Community Library is an asset to Fort Greely. The U.S. Army's legal team is reviewing Fort Greely's financial support of the library to correct a couple errors in the administrative process.

REQUEST TO SPEAK – none

CORRESPONDENCE – none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 221377 to ACS - \$1,531.12 for July phone and Internet

CK# 221378 to Guess & Rudd - \$1,050.00 for legal services (cemetery and street repairs)

CK# 221379 to GVEA - \$2,911.09 for June electricity

CK# 221380 to Alaska Farmer Co-op - \$1,247.50 for fertilizer

CK# 221381 to City of Fairbanks - \$33,810.00 for FY22 dispatch service

Motion: Levinson moved to approve check #221377 through 221381 as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

Discussion followed regarding \$100,000+ budgeted for dispatch and other public safety services, area residents fortunate to have emergency services, and past history when paid staff operated a 9-1-1 call center.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – Freda Degnan read a memo, dated July 19, 2021, about increasing the retirement plan for the City Administrator position to match PERS (Public Employees' Retirement System). Hallgren requested it during the May 12 budget work session and it will be presented as a resolution at the August 3 meeting.

Hallgren said he asked for an effective date of July 1, 2021. He recalled establishing PERS for City employees when he was hired as City Administrator in 1999. Upon his retirement, the newly-hired City Administrator did not need PERS, so it was dropped in 2005. (Gene Kane later declined the position and Hallgren continued to serve until 2007 without any City retirement benefits.) Mike Tvenge was hired as City Administrator in 2007 and a retirement account was established in 2008.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported steady activity at the airport, including use by the Bureau of Land Management.

Schools - Erin Catterson reported new student registration begins July 28 in the elementary school office. The new school year begins August 12. Kindergarten screening will be August 11, 12, and 13 and kindergarten begins August 17. Preschool screening will be August 12, 13, and 16 and preschool begins August 23.

Emergency Services – Erin Catterson reported Delta Medical Transport and the Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department (DJVFD) will be in the Deltana Fair parade on July 24. The DJVFD will host a booth at the fair also.

Emergency Preparedness – Michael Prestegard reported only three voting members attended the LEPC meeting on July 19, so his membership application could not be accepted.

Health & Safety – Mike Prestegard reported Canada expects to open the border to fully vaccinated travelers for non-essential travel by mid-August. Travelers will be required to show proof of having received the last dose at least 14 days prior to entering Canada and proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result.

Discussion followed regarding researching most current information online (www.canada.ca).

Library – Freda Degnan reported:

- Twenty-six new library cards have been issued since July 1. People seem to be moving to the area.
- Library Director Tiki Levinson is applying for a federal government grant, Emergency Connectivity Fund, to provide devices for patrons to access the Internet from home.
- The top ten patrons using the library over the past year checked out 2,398 items, a value of \$43,164 in cost.

Public Works / Landfill – Mary Leith reported:

- The Public Works crew is replacing stop signs.
- The Pogo Volvo is experiencing problems.

Prestegard reported the hitch on the airport mower came undone, but luckily the pin was not lost (fell on the axle).

Park & Recreation – Lou Heinbockel reported an impressive number of youth participate in activities at the park. Discussion followed regarding regular maintenance of public restrooms, Sherman Stebbins and Josh Salinas painting over graffiti in the upper deck of the pavilion in the center of the ballfields and the building's exterior needing new paint (last done ten years ago).

Cemetery – no report

At Large – Pete Hallgren reported he enjoyed the tour of the Wrigley farm and Alaska Flour Company on July 10. More information is available online (alaskaflourcompany.com).

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- The annual landfill inspection will be conducted on August 5.
- She expects a written report from Corvid to forward onto the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to start the Class V Injection Closure.

City Clerk – Pat White reported Terry Kozarik, a longstanding City election official, will hold absentee voting for the REAA School Board election in the small conference room at City Hall. Voters who are unable to make it to the polls on October 5, can vote early on September 21, 23, 28, and 30, 1:00-6:00pm.

Finance – Stephanie Erickson referenced:

- A three-page letter, *Audit Process Letter to Those Charged with Governance*, dated July 12, 2021, explains Alliance's timeline for the FY21 audit.
- The *Quarter 4 FY21 Budget Comparison*, dated July 19, 2021, shows a \$480,395 surplus.

Additional Reports – Lou Heinbockel reported:

- The Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District applied herbicide around the cemetery today. (They were authorized to use herbicides on City roadsides at the July 13 Council meeting.)
- The Delta Farm Bureau did lawn work around the Visitor Center, but there is very little tourism.

Discussion followed regarding status of the welcome-to-Delta signs.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 5:48pm

Freda Degnan, Mayor

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: August 3, 2021