

**City Council Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
September 21, 2021 ~ 5:00PM  
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**



**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER**

Mayor Lou Heinbockel called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

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

**Council excused:** Charles LESTER

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

**Staff present via phone:** Finance Officer Stephanie Erickson

Two residents were physically 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 September 21, 2021 agenda; Prestegard seconded.

**Motion passed** with unanimous consent.

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Motion:** Levinson moved to approve the September 7, 2021 minutes; Catterson seconded.

**Motion passed** with unanimous consent.

**COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

JW Musgrove reported:

- Due to lack of interest in Council seats in the upcoming election, he will campaign as a write-in for Seat E.
- He cannot cut the heavy grass and weeds near road edges in the airport subdivision because gravel ruins the blades on the mower tractor.

Discussion followed regarding using the road grader on ditch lines.

Lieutenant Colonel Joey Orr, Fort Greely Garrison Commander, attending by phone, reported:

- Efforts are under way to permit the local community access to the bowling alley.
- Monetary support of the Community Library is still a priority, but requires more work to eliminate successors from dealing with the same conversation.
- Health protection against COVID is also a priority. Regardless of vaccine status, anyone with access to Fort Greely must wear a mask when indoors. It will likely be a controlled measure through the end of the calendar year.

**REQUEST TO SPEAK** - none

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**2021 Election Advertisement**

White reported the Municipal Election is on October 5, 2021. Election results will be certified at a special meeting on October 12, newly-elected terms will begin October 18, and a new mayor and deputy mayor will be elected by the Council body at the regular meeting on October 19.

**Sample Ballot - October 5, 2021 Municipal Election**

White reported incumbent Erin Catterson will run unopposed for Seat B, which has one year remaining in its term. No one filed for Seat A (three-year term), Seat D (one year), or Seat E (three-year).

Discussion followed regarding all four seats open for write-ins, soliciting letters of interest to appoint someone if a seat is not filled during the election, Heinbockel suggesting a stipend to encourage people to serve on the City Council, i.e. \$50 per meeting, Hallgren wanting to change City Code to require write-ins to have no less than ten votes to be declared a winner, and a volatile time when Council members walked off the Council (1975-1976). More discussion under *Additional Public and Council Comments* (page three).

**Laura White – Request for Nistler Road Crosswalk, Welcome-to-Delta Sign Upgrades, and Public Outhouse Near the Visitor Center and Farmer’s Market**

Heinbockel recalled when Nistler (School Road) was gravel and maintained by the City. He referenced Laura White’s request for a crosswalk and said it makes a lot of sense to install flashing lights to slow the traffic down when students are present, but he believed the Department of Transportation (DOT) would be responsible for a crosswalk.

Discussion followed regarding traffic congestion when parents pick up children and discussing an overpass in the past (2008).

Leith said a crosswalk might fit COVID guidelines because it is safety related, but outhouses wouldn’t.

Prestegard asked if the school district would play a part in a crosswalk.

Hallgren said he is not interested in having a stoplight anywhere in town. He referenced Kassandra Wilkerson’s September 17 email about students dodging traffic because of insufficient gaps in the traffic and no designated area to cross. Wilkerson suggested joining the Alaska Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) to qualify for a grant to pay for a crosswalk with lights/signs. Hallgren said the City could be a useful partner, but questioned whether the school should spearhead the project.

Heinbockel, referring to Laura White’s request for restrooms, said all Alaskan highways need more rest facilities.

Hallgren said building an outhouse at the Triangle, similar to the ones at the park, will not serve tourists who need spacious restrooms with water and electricity, i.e. Visitor Center.

Heinbockel, referencing welcome-to-Delta signs built by the Chamber of Commerce, said businesses need to get back together to do what they’ve historically done to represent this community, including refurbishing the signs.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS****Alcoholic Beverage Control Board – Proposed Regulation Changes**

White reported the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Board requested feedback from local governments regarding proposed changes to the Alaska Administrative Code. Five local business owners or managers, representing seven businesses, were either aware of the proposed changes and/or the changes would not affect them.

Discussion followed regarding home delivery of food and alcohol, and, as a government body, taking no action.

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

CK# 221476 to GVEA - \$3,272.55 for August electricity

CK# 221477 to ACS - \$1,617.07 for September phone and Internet

CK# 221478 to Wells Fargo - \$14,777.22 for credit card charges and cash back (\$

CK# 221479 to Vitus Energy LLC - \$2,480.24 for equipment fuel at the landfill

CK# 221480 to NC Machinery - \$13,318.30 for D6 parts and to remove and replace Skid Steer tracks

CK# 221481 to Alaska Library Network - \$1,277.00 for annual library subscription

CK# 221482 to Follet School Solutions - \$1,207.00 for annual Destiny license renewal

CK# 221483 to Heritage Rock and Services - \$1,150.00 to transport L220 loader to Construction Machinery

CK# 221484 to Slayden Plumbing & Heating - \$5,564.00 to repair leak at fire station

CK# 221485 to Buffalo Center Service - \$1,135.32 for equipment fuel for City vehicles

Motion: Levinson moved to approve checks #221476 through 221485; Catterson seconded.

Discussion followed regarding CK# 221478 for ambulance fees (\$1,500 State of Alaska administrative fee for newly-purchased, used 2012 ambulance and \$580 to tow newly-repaired 2009 ambulance to the auto body shop).

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

**REPORTS**

**Mayor** – no report

**Airport** – Alan Levinson reported:

- The airport has been busy with hunters and tourists. Snow will slow it down considerably.
- JW Musgrove has cleared another area for three more tie-downs.
- A moose recently harassed airplanes and other property in the tie-down area.
- Two new lot owners at the airport subdivision have cleared their parcels.

Heinbockel said he appreciated the newly-installed street and stop signs in the airport subdivision, especially the “Caution Active Aircraft Taxiway” on the North Taxiway/Remington intersection sign post.

Leith reported a \$100 payment was received voluntarily for wrongfully cutting trees in the City right-of-way.

**Schools** – no report

**Emergency Services** – Erin Catterson reported Delta Medical Transport had 45 ambulance runs since August 24. The Delta Junction Fire Department responded to three calls in the same timeframe.

**Emergency Preparedness** – Michael Prestegard suggested winter travel kits for vehicles, two sources of heat for homes, and an inventory of food, in the event road access is an issue. He warned to watch footing in the new snow.

**Health & Safety** – Mike Prestegard reported:

- The Alaska COVID-19 Data Summary for September 20, 2021 listed 2,108 new COVID cases in Alaska in the past three days, as well as five deaths and 198 hospitalizations. Eight of the new cases were in Delta Junction. 57.5% Alaskans, 12 and older, have been fully vaccinated. 62.4% have received at least their first dose.

- Six couples objected to Leith’s comment about installing a stoplight at the Nistler/Richardson intersection (*City Administrator Report* - page 3, September 7, 2021 minutes). Others shared concerns about voting machines. Discussion followed regarding Dominion machines used in State-run elections and City Municipal ballots counted by hand.

**Library** – Tiki Levinson reported:

- The Storywalk and River Walk grand opening event (September 11) was a big success with 89 enthusiastic participants. Except for vandalism to one of the gates, all reports have been positive.

- Two new laptops arrived, courtesy of a grant, but one was broken. Patrons can check them out. Timing was good because one of the two library computers died.

- Children’s programs were cancelled because the library aide and a parent both tested positive for COVID. Patrons are asked to wear masks and limit time in the library.

**Public Works** – Mary Leith reported the Public Works crew are preparing for winter snow removal and sanding.

Heinbockel reported ditches on Mil-Tan were pulled. Gates on side streets need removed because snow buildup makes it difficult for vehicles to pass.

**Landfill** – Mary Leith reported a contractor wanted to deliver concrete from the SM-1A nuclear plant, but was turned away because the lead paint is considered hazardous and not accepted in a Class II Solid Waste Landfill.

**Park & Recreation** – Lou Heinbockel reported vandalism occurred at the park (September 9). He asked to consider a \$500 reward for arrest and conviction of those who destroy gates or anything at the City Park.

**Cemetery** – Lou Heinbockel reported winter graves were prepared plus one for a burial later this week.

**At Large** – Pete Hallgren reported:

- Spending up to \$35,000 was approved at the September 7 Council meeting to bury the heavy pipeline weights near the River Walk Trail. Sergey Gayvoronksiy was able to bury them on September 18 for \$32,200.

- TV repeaters were built at the Donnelly Dome site with Department of Defense funds about 18 years ago. The repeaters translated the analog signal from Fairbanks for local viewers and were later replaced with digital. Coastal Television Broadcasting (FOX and ABC stations) wants to broadcast from Donnelly Dome. Discussion followed regarding more channels now, the City owning the building and metal translator site, but not the broadcasting equipment, electricity (\$650/month) paid by the City, and why television stations are not paying to mount their antennas on the Donnelly Dome translator site.

**City Administrator** – Mary Leith reported DOT plans to put in traffic counters near the intersection of Nistler Road and Richardson Highway.

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported Kinross will host a luncheon at the Community Center on October 14, 11:00-1:00. The public is invited to attend. [September 27: Due to a spike in COVID cases, the October 14 public meeting was changed to a zoom meeting, 12:00-2:00. More information will be available later.]

**Finance** – no report

**Additional Reports** – none

### ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel said he would campaign as a write-in to fill Council Seat D for one year, but he was not interested in being Mayor.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 7:11pm

CITY  
SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lou Heinbockel, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: October ---, 2021