

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



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

Mayor Lou Heinbockel called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

**Council members physically present:** Mayor Lou HEINBOCKEL, Deputy Mayor Pete HALLGREN, Alan LEVINSON, Michael PRESTEGARD (attended by phone until 5:30pm, then joined the meeting in person)

**Council excused:** Charles LESTER, Erin CATTERSON

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

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

One resident attended in person, two by phone, and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Levinson moved to approve the October 5, 2021 agenda; Hallgren seconded.

**Motion passed** with unanimous consent.

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

**Motion:** Levinson moved to approve the September 21, 2021 minutes; Hallgren seconded.

**Motion passed** on a roll call vote with four in attendance.

**COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

White reported:

- Two election officials were quarantined, so adjustments were made to the schedule (approved August 17) for the October 5 election: assisting voters at the poll, 8:00-8:00, and counting ballots once the polls closed.
- JW Musgrove and Lou Heinbockel advertised write-in campaigns, so it was public knowledge. If asked, election officials could provide information (correct spelling or which seat), but the City could not advertise on their behalf.
- Kinross will host a virtual public meeting about transporting ore from Tetlin to Fairbanks on October 14.
- The Alaska Redistricting Board redraws state legislative districts every ten years and travel around the state to solicit feedback from the public on proposed maps. They are tentatively scheduled at the Community Center. Discussion followed regarding researching the proposed changes ([akredistrict.org](http://akredistrict.org)) and no objection to an in-person public meeting at the Community Center on October 18, 12-2; letting attendees use their own protective measures.

**REQUEST TO SPEAK** - none

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Big Delta Brewing Company (License #5997) - New Liquor License Application (replaces #5958)**

**Motion:** Hallgren moved to show no opposition to Big Delta Brewing Company's Restaurant Eating Place Public Convenience liquor license application #5997; Levinson seconded.

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

**Joyce Bendell, Quilts of Valor – Request to Waive Conference Room Lease Fees**

**Motion:** Levinson moved to waive rental fees for Quilts of Valor to use the conference room at City Hall on November 6; Hallgren seconded.

Discussion followed regarding history of waiving or reducing lease fees for City facilities, difficulty in denying worthy causes, and Heinbockel supporting requests because of being in a financial position to do so.

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

**Delta Junction Trails Association (DJTA) – Thanks for Support of River Walk Park**

Heinbockel read a letter from Mindy Eggleston, DJTA President, expressing appreciation for paying to bury "42 pipeline river weights and concrete rubble" and that, aside from its cost [\$32,200], investments to date included \$450,000 to clean up the shooting range, \$85,375 to develop River Walk Park Trail, and \$10,000 from DJTA's 2021 budget for gating, signage, and supplies.

Hallgren said he supports DJTA's efforts, is pleased the river weights are gone, but disturbed that funding was approved (September 21, 2021) without being part of the City's FY22 budget (adopted June 15, 2021).

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none**

Heinbockel called a five-minute recess at 5:25pm.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **City Purchases over \$1,000**

CK# 221495 to Arctic Fire & Safety - \$1,446.59 for House Identification sign posts, Stop signs, landfill gas monitor recalibration

CK# 221496 to Construction Machinery - \$8,793.41 for landfill Volvo loader parts; L150E (\$185.01) and L220F (\$8,608.40)

CK# 221497 to Delta Transport Services - \$6,738.42 to ship two Waste Quip 15-yard dumpsters from Seattle

CK# 221498 to Environmental Compliance Consultants - \$1,953.25 for oil-water-separator waste testing and disposal

CK# 221499 to Hale & Associates - \$1,008.91 for public official bond renewal for Finance Officer (\$400) and 2012 ambulance insurance premium (\$608.91)

CK# 221500 to Aetna - \$11,917.00 for October group health insurance

CK# 221501 to Delta Medical Transport - \$12,500 for FY22 contract, payment 2 of 4

**Motion:** Levinson moved to pay checks #221495 through 221501; Prestegard seconded.

Leith reported Environmental Compliance Consultants (#221498) tested and disposed of two barrels of contaminants from the landfill, a step toward finalizing the Safe Drinking Water Act Violation (from 2019) with the Environmental Protection Agency. Dumpsters that were ordered in July, were delivered (#221497).

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

#### **REPORTS**

**Mayor** – see *Public Works Report*

**Airport** – Alan Levinson reported the airport was quiet for the past two weeks and closed Sunday and Monday. Butch Brant was hired on October 4 to clear the runway.

**Schools** – Lou Heinbockel reported schools are closed October 7/8 for parent-teacher conferences.

**Emergency Services** – no report

**Emergency Preparedness** – Michael Prestegard suggested staying off roads due to challenging conditions.

**Health & Safety** – Mike Prestegard reported Alaska is currently #1 in the country with COVID cases. Three deaths were reported in Fairbanks last week.

Discussion followed regarding the Southeast Census District, which includes the Delta area, having the least vaccinated in the State of Alaska (mid-30%) and not knowing what to believe because of varied reports, i.e. mask efficacy and whether to get vaccinated because of having immunity after recovering from the virus.

**Library** – Tiki Levinson reported:

- Shona Hilton is back to work at the library, but children's reading programs are still on hold.
- The Library Board is seeking to fill three seats. Candidates must be members of the Library Association.

**Public Works** – Lou Heinbockel complimented the Public Works crew for plowing on Sunday to remove the excessive snow accumulation throughout the weekend.

**Landfill** – Mary Leith reported:

- She is getting quotes for landfill material and for breaking up soil in the northern pit for immediate use.
- She is researching whether to add hours for a scale house operator on Thursdays.

**Park & Recreation** – Mary Leith reported Denali Fenceworks is inspecting the park fence for repairs.

**Cemetery** – no report

**At Large** – Pete Hallgren read from Federal Register Volume 86, Number 183, dated September 24, 2021, "The Department of the Army announces its intent to conduct public scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and solicit public comments to gather information to prepare a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) to address continued military use of the Yukon Training Area, near Fort Wainwright, and Donnelly Training Area East and Donnelly Training Area West, near Delta Junction, Alaska ... The current land withdrawal will expire on November 6, 2026, unless Congress enacts legislation to extend it ... The scoping period will last 30 days and will include a virtual public meeting. Comments must be received by October 25, 2021." Hallgren said he will make inquiries about how the proposed action will affect the local community; whether training areas will be expanded, if public access will be permitted, who controls it if not the Bureau of Land Management, threat of fire and flooding, and status of the 2006 Memorandum of Agreement.

**City Administrator** – Mary Leith reported she, Sherman Stebbins, and Anchorage-based ABC/FOX Chief Operations Officer visited Donnelly Dome last week. All television channels that use the site have provided proof of licensing.

Discussion followed regarding spending over \$100,000 to build the television translator site (2007), reviewing City expenses (now over \$650/month), and whether site users, as private businesses, could contribute toward expenses.

**City Clerk** – no report

**Finance** – no report

**Additional Reports** – none

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS** – none

**ADJOURNMENT** – 6:12pm

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Lou Heinbockel, Mayor

CITY  
SEAL

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Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: October 19, 2021