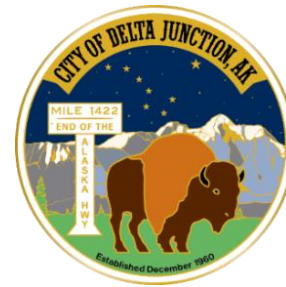


City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
January 4, 2022 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor JW Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Council members present: Mayor JW MUSGROVE, Deputy Mayor Mike PRESTEGARD,
Alan LEVINSON, Emily DOVE, Lou HEINBOCKEL, Erin CATTERSON

Council attending by phone: Pete HALLGREN

Staff present: City Administrator Mary Leith, City Clerk Pat White

Staff present via phone: Administrative Assistant Flower Cole, Library Director Tiki Levinson

Four community members were physically present at the beginning of the meeting and eleven attended by phone. Two non-residents attended by phone and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the January 4, 2022 agenda; Heinbockel seconded.

White reported the agenda was not properly posted by Friday, December 31. It was posted to the City website, but not at usual locations (IGA, PO, library, City Hall) until Monday, January 3. The one for IGA was not posted at all.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the December 21, 2021 draft minutes; Heinbockel seconded.

White reported delivery of the D6 dozer was to Eastside Auto, not “back to Delta” (*Pubic Works/Landfill Report* – page 2 of the December 21 draft minutes) and Wrestling Coach “Dean Houchen” was added to discussion about him being awarded *Coach of the Year* at both Division and Regionals (*School Report* - page 2).

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call to approve the amended minutes.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

[The roof on IGA, the only grocer’s store in town, collapsed from heavy snow on December 26, 2021. Extreme cold temperatures, snow, wind, rain, and more snow contributed to hazardous conditions, moose and buffalo on roads due to struggling in deep snow and ice, and people running low on basic necessities because of unmaintained roads and broken down vehicles. Governor Dunleavy issued a press release on January 4, 2022. Individuals and families impacted by the winter storm may qualify for disaster relief, but must register online (ready.alaska.gov) for Individual Assistance by March 4, 2022.]

Chrischal Lyon reported residents on Cummings Road maintain designated sections of the road, but due to unusual weather, it is impassable. Two barns collapsed. Residents are running low on food, livestock feed, propane, wood, and fuel for generators and road equipment.

Discussion followed regarding living conditions on Cummings Road and only five miles that needs to be opened. See more discussion (*Continued Comments on Non-Agenda Items* – page two, *Emergency Preparedness Report* and *Additional Comments* - page three).

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 221682 to State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation - \$4,000.00 for annual landfill permit

CK# 221683 to Heritage Contracting - \$1,485.00 for boiler service at City Hall, Community Center and Fire Hall

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve checks #221682 and 221683; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

Increase Funding under FY22 Street Maintenance Budget

Musgrove reported street maintenance expenses have increased. A budget reconciliation will be necessary to address the additional snow removal.

Comments on Non-Agenda Items (continued from page one)

LTC Joey Orr, Fort Greely, commended everyone who is helping in the shadows and offered to connect the Council with National Guard leadership.

Michael Paschall, Chief, Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD), reported they reached out to the State Emergency Operations Center and all local agencies (City Fire Department, Delta Medical Transport, Fort Greely Fire & EMS) on December 26. They were able to handle all calls, even during the period in which it was almost impossible to transport to Fairbanks by ground or air. The problem with all non-lifesaving services is funding. He questioned public funding for maintaining private roads that are not public property.

Discussion followed regarding establishing a coordination center, City Administrator Mary Leith acting as a point of contact (City Hall 895-4656), passing requests for assistance onto resources that can help, Cummings Road ownership and maintenance, keeping track of services for possible reimbursement, and potential for flooding.

Tony White, Chief, Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department (DJVFD), reported Tim Castleberry plowed in front of the ambulance on one response. People were treated in their homes when roads and airstrips were closed. Thankfully none were life threatening. Roads were open in time to transport a patient who was attacked by a moose. Fire and ambulance personnel are willing to assist anyone with any need.

Igor Zaremba offered his services, stating he's been digging people out with his Skid Steer for the past two weeks.

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported the Public Works crew has been moving a lot of snow.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported:

- The runway has two inches of snow and some drifts, worse today because the wind picked up overnight. Access to the ski strip was opened up, but not packed. Snow was cleared from the tie-down area.

- Mayor Musgrove has been updating the flight service with reports about the conditions of the runway.

Library – Emily Dove reported the library has been open. One family who had been without power, was grateful.

Health & Safety – Emily Dove reported:

- COVID cases statewide are increasing; 201 cases were reported on January 2. Two cases were reported in Delta Junction in the past seven days. Updated information is available online (coronavirus.alaska.gov).

- Contact the two local clinics about testing and pricing. The Delta Public Health Center is dispensing free test kits (two tests per kit/one kit per person).

- Family Medical Center offers walk-in appointments for vaccines on Wednesdays. Delta Public Health Center will hold a vaccine clinic on January 12. Register online (myhealth.alaska.gov). Vaccine information is available online at covidvax.alaska.gov.

- Monoclonal antibody treatments are available at Interior Alaska Medical Clinic.

Schools - Erin Catterson reported school starts back after the Christmas vacation on January 5.

Leith reported all bus routes within the city limits were plowed.

Emergency Services – Erin Catterson reported:

- There were 40 ambulance runs and four fire calls since December 1.

- The brush truck, decorated with Christmas lights and music, was driven around town the last two weeks of December.

- Volunteer firefighters were grateful for jackets, shirts, and badges (approved December 21). Clothing keeps them safe at accident scenes, especially when it's dark. Badges show their department. Both provide comfort, that a professional is on the scene.

Discussion followed regarding non-life-saving expenses, increased operating expenses projected for emergency services in 2022, and following the City's purchase process.

Tony White reported he's done a lot of maintenance and damage control, located free air packs, hose, and reduced use of handheld radios by using the *Who's Responding* app (cell phones). Firefighters use their own gas and vehicles to respond to house fires with little reward. Recruiting volunteers continues to be difficult across the nation. He reported Erin Catterson has dedicated many hours to secure grants.

Emergency Preparedness – Emily Dove reported:

- Homeland Security Emergency Management identified the winter storm in the Delta area as Level 2 (Heightened Awareness). On December 28, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) received reports about

impacts from the severe winter storm, road obstructions and power outages in Interior Alaska. SEOC remained in communication with impacted communities, including Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) and surrounding areas, and held regular briefings. Alaska National Guard Task Force was deployed to FNSB on December 31. By that time, most roads were cleared and electricity had been restored. SEOC reached out to individuals with unmet needs throughout the following weekend. Alaska National Guard has worked with local and state governments since local business rooves collapsed (IGA's on December 26 and Buffalo Fuel's on December 29).

- A live amber alert test is scheduled for January 5 at approximately 10:20am. It will be cancelled in the event of an actual child abduction.
- *Individual & Family Preparedness Guide* is available on the Homeland Security & Emergency Services website (ready.alaska.gov) as well as daily situation reports about the winter storm. People can also call 1-855-445-7131 for individual assistance.
- Information can be found at Alaska 2-1-1 United Way (Alaska211.org or 1-800-478-2221) and Facebook pages: Delta/Greely Resource Bulletin Board, Delta Area News and Info / Alaska, and State Senator Mike Shower.
- Residents must apply online (ready.alaska.gov) for State of Alaska Individual Assistance disaster recovery funds no later than March 4, 2022.

Prestegard reported the quickest way to locate stranded residents is for people to check on their neighbors, especially those who live off the grid (no fuel deliveries and/or cell service). He advised having a two-week supply of food and heat. He expressed concern about reducing the volume of plowed snow by hauling it off.

Paschall reported he has access to a track machine to reach people off the road system. Two or three plans are developing to address potential food shortages.

Park & Recreation – Mary Leith reported Denali Fenceworks finished building replacement gates for the park.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported winds are expected to increase. A rented loader will enable plowing Mil-Tan, Emmaus, and connecting roads that drift shut (Aurora, Deborah). Some roads are only one lane. He suggested moving snow, not just plowing it, even if another operator needs to be hired.

Landfill – Lou Heinbockel reported snow removal is needed. He advised not driving south on the Richardson Highway because of road conditions.

Cemetery – no report

At Large – no report

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- A work session with Delta Medical Transport is scheduled for January 12 to discuss emergency services.
- A representative from AML Shared Services is scheduled on January 6 to discuss finance responsibilities.

City Clerk – no report

Finance – no report

Additional Reports – none

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Paschall advised people dial 9-1-1 for all life safety issues and to contact City Hall to pass onto available resources for all other needs, i.e. snow removal, fuel service. Equipment is needed for private roads to clear the snow and ice.

Flower Cole thanked the Council, GVEA, and all the emergency service personnel, the unsung heroes.

Musgrove reported all City Council members fully support volunteer firefighters.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:50pm

JW Musgrove, Mayor

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: January ----, 2022