

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 15, 2022 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor JW Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

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

Council members excused: Pete HALLGREN, Emily DOVE

Staff present: City Administrator Mary Leith, Administrative Assistant Flower Cole, City Clerk Pat White
Two community members were in the audience during parts of the meeting, one attended by phone, and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove asked that two checks to be added to *City Purchases*: CK# 221923 - \$9,856.00 to Eastside Truck & Auto and 221935 - \$1,935.00 to Numbers Count LLC.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the March 15, 2022 agenda as amended; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel asked to clarify the number of passing lanes to be constructed on the Richardson Highway and correctly identify the two "World War II bridges" that are to be replaced on the Alaska Highway (*At Large Report* on page three of draft minutes).

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the March 1, 2022 draft minutes as amended; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS none

REQUEST TO SPEAK – none

CORRESPONDENCE

Delta Lions – Request to Use Rink and Parking Lot - June 24+25, 2022

Dana Mock reported plans for the Delta Lions Club to host a second annual Smokin' Deltana BBQ Contest. The first Kansas City Society BBQ Contest was held during the Deltana Fair last year, but it conflicted with other Lion commitments. They moved this year's event a month prior to the fair and are hoping to have 25 competing teams. Each team will prep their food in a tent that will occupy a 12'x12' space in the rink parking lot. The rink facility will be reserved for the judging area. Restrooms will be made available to the general public. They will also reserve the Community Center to host two classes on June 23 to qualify Kansas City Society BBQ Contest judges. Discussion followed regarding the Delta Lions Club coordinating with the Delta Skating Association, who manage usage of the rink throughout the skating season, not necessarily during the summer.

Motion: Levinson moved to show no opposition to the Delta Lions utilizing the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena facility and parking lot to host the Smokin' Deltana BBQ Contest on June 24/25, 2022, upon coordinating with the City Administrator and Delta Skating Association to ensure there are no conflicts in scheduling; Heinbockel seconded.

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

Mock encouraged participation in the BBQ contest and in Midnight Madness in which contestants create dishes using ingredients found in Alaska, i.e. seafood, barley. Judging is conducted at midnight (June 24).

Deltana Fair – Request for Sponsor – July 22, 23, 24, 2022

Musgrove reported the Council donated \$1,000 (Blue Ribbon level) last year.

Motion: Prestegard moved to sponsor the 2022 Deltana Fair at the Blue Ribbon level in the amount of \$1,000.00; Catterson seconded.

Discussion followed regarding availability of budgeted funding in *General Donations*.

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

Motion: Heinbockel moved to donate \$100.00 toward the 2022 Deltana Fair multi-item raffle, specific to landfill services, and to be redeemed by the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2023); Levinson seconded.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Expenditures

Musgrove reported the Department of Treasury has requirements in how American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are spent. Both Alaska Municipal League (AML) Shared Services and Guess & Rudd Attorney Mike McLaughlin agree with using ARPA funds to support the local ambulance service. McLaughlin emailed, "I have determined that the increase in the contracted amount to Delta Medical Transport needed as a result of Covid does qualify under a couple of different categories of the Final Rule." On February 1, 2022, Council approved to pay Delta Medical Transport \$25,000/month through the end of the contract (June 30, 2022). Musgrove asked to move \$125,000 from the ARPA account (in a money market) to the checking account.

Motion: Levinson moved to transfer ARPA funds to the checking account as discussed; Heinbockel seconded. Discussion followed regarding possible use of ARPA funds: replacement loader at the landfill, beefing up the library's bandwidth, locating a community well near the Public Works building or the side of the fire station, and paying off the grant portion of the Senior Companion van (\$9,000) to remove age restriction of occupants.

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

Musgrove reported ARPA money must be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026. He asked to authorize hiring a temporary part-time coordinator to assist in tracking grant parameters and filling out reports. ARPA funds would pay the grant coordinator's time, estimated to be 10-15 hours per week.

Motion: Levinson moved to authorize the City Administrator to hire an ARPA grant coordinator; Heinbockel seconded.

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

NEW BUSINESS

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 221923 to Delta Eastside Truck & Auto - \$9,856.00 to install new tracks on D6 dozer

CK# 221934 to Aetna - \$7,875.84 for March 2022 group health insurance

CK# 221935 to Numbers Count LLC - \$1,935.00 for contracted finance services

Motion: Levinson moved to approve checks #221923, 221934, and 221935; Heinbockel seconded.

Leith reported the landfill dozer is in use. Charlie Hennager will inspect it at 10 hours and again at 50 hours. Total cost of repairs was \$36,816.17.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported:

- He's spent a lot of time on the ARPA grant and accessing the Department of Treasury's website.
- A few inquiries have been received for the City Administrator position. [Leith's last day is April 29, 2022.]

Airport – Alan Levinson reported conditions of airport roads and the high snow berms.

Discussion followed regarding airport property owners contributing to the expense of road maintenance, renting a loader to move snow, and increasing operators to keep up with the abnormally large volume of snow.

Library – Mary Leith reported:

- In the past month, 340 people attended youth reading programs at the library. Local firefighters brought their firetruck to Preschool Story Hour.
- A seed exchange is set up at the library and staff will host a gardening round table on March 24. Local gardeners will share their gardening skills, experience, and knowledge.
- The Library Board vacancy was filled by Dawn Frazier who was one of five interested in the seat.
- Another Story Walk is scheduled during the Delta Trails Association's *Celebrate the Sun* event on March 19, courtesy of an American Library Association's Libraries Transforming Communities Grant. The Story Walk will be left at the fairgrounds for elementary student's last opportunity for a ski club activity. Participants read a page from a book and complete activities before moving to the next stop on the trail.

Health & Safety – no report

Schools – no report

Emergency Services – no report

Emergency Preparedness – Mike Prestegard reported he and Catterson are locating sand and bags to prepare for potential flooding.

Igor Zaremba suggested getting a truck with a gate on the back to make it easier to fill the sandbags.

Leith reported several residents called to inquire about what can be done with the excessive amount of snow.

See more discussion under *Public Works / Landfill Report*.

Park & Recreation – Mary Leith reported snow was removed from the public entrances on the east side of the ice arena (by Alaska Weatherproof Roofing). Snow was removed from the roof over the Zamboni room, furnace room, and restrooms by Todd Zachgo and other Delta Skating Association volunteers. [Clerk Note: Zachgo submitted a \$1,200 invoice on March 23. One to six DSA parents were on the rink roof during the 17 hours it took to remove snow on March 12/13.]

Musgrove asked to inspect the snow load on the yellow-tarp gazebo at the park. It may only need a roof rake.

Public Works / Landfill – Lou Heinbockel reported:

- Debris from the demolition of the IGA store (roof collapsed December 2021) is being hauled to Anchorage, bypassing the local landfill because of hazardous material and Anchorage's recycle/salvage capabilities.
- Refrigerators are backlogged at the landfill. He asked if \$25 was enough to certify them for disposal.
- Some roads have narrow passages because of accumulated snow on the sides. Residents are also complaining about their driveways being plugged by equipment operators.

Musgrove said residents are using City rights-of-way because they are running out of places to dump snow.

Heinbockel expressed concern with flooding in the spring, especially from Jarvis River overflow. He recalled when past mayor Frank Geiger used a crop duster to spread coal dust to melt it.

Cemetery – no report

At Large – no report

City Administrator – Mary Leith reported:

- The landfill inspection report, dated March 14, 2022, was received. "The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Solid Waste Program completed its annual inspection of the Delta Junction Class II municipal solid waste landfill on August 05, 2021...Overall, the facility continues to be managed and operated nicely and received a compliance score of 98% during this year's inspection. Litter continues to present challenges at this facility and work continues to be performed to help address the extensive litter found throughout the facility and beyond the fence line." Leith said depth of cover material was also questionable.

- The older landfill Volvo is experiencing problems. Construction Machinery estimates \$9,284 in repairs.
- She has been working on a Department of Transportation (DOT) permit to approve the driveway into River Walk Park.
- Eastside Truck & Auto is diagnosing issues with the Skid Steer.

City Clerk – Pat White reported she is working with Debbie Phillips, web designer, and Mike Kingston, local photographer, to update the City website.

Finance – Mary Leith reported the Alaska Municipal League (AML) Finance Program Director and local Finance Contractor plan to work together on billing over the weekend, to include the 2021-2022 Skating Agreement.

Additional Reports – Lou Heinbockel reported military convoys are scheduled to travel Monday through Thursdays, so Fridays are the best days for civilians to travel on the Richardson Highway.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Heinbockel reported the Alaskan Steakhouse will close on May 1.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:44pm

CITY
SEAL

JW Musgrove, Mayor

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: April 5, 2022