

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
April 19, 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, Pete HALLGREN

Council present via Zoom: Emily DOVE (until approximately 7:00pm)

Staff present: retiring City Administrator Mary Leith, Administrative Assistant Flower Cole
Library Director Tiki Levinson, Newly-hired City Administrator Ken Greenleaf

Staff present via Zoom: City Clerk Pat White

Over 20 community members were physically present at the beginning of the meeting, including a hockey team, parents, and coaches. Four more attended telephonically. The meeting was not broadcast over the radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove reported no action would be taken on *New Business: Adoption of Delta Community Library Selection & Reconsideration Policy*, although it would be discussed.

Leith stated *Ambulance #186 Repairs* would be added to *New Business*.

Motion: Hallgren moved to adopt the April 19, 2022 agenda as amended; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Heinbockel asked for better explanation of two separate payments to Delta Medical Transport under *City Purchases* on page two of the April 5, 2022 draft minutes.

Motion: Prestegard moved to approve the April 5, 2022 minutes as amended; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jacob White, Coach, and Guy Lene, Assistant Coach, presented the Council with an autographed photo of the first all-girl Delta Huskies 10U team. Anchorage Hockey has hosted the Ponytail Invitational Tournament since 2011, but this was the first year that Delta has had a team to compete. They lost to the #1 team in the 10U division, 1-3, but beat them during the championship game in a 7-0 shutout. White expressed appreciation to the City for providing opportunities via the rink facility and support of youth skating programs. Council took the opportunity to get a photo with the all-girl hockey team.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

River Walk Park Brownfield Report – Mindy Eggleston and Mary Leith

Mindy Eggleston, President of Delta Junction Trails Association, reported they were awarded a Brownfield Assessment for the River Walk Park in 2019. It included a plan to mitigate the dump site that is on Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land, adjacent to the River Walk Park. Due to solid waste regulatory restrictions, cleanup cannot be done at this time. All stakeholders agreed to erect a fence around the two-acre parameter to ensure the dump site would not be disturbed. Funding for the fence is part of the assessment and will be reflected in the contract. Referring to a *Fence Installation Plan* handout from Nortech engineers, Eggleston said the steel fence will be four foot and low maintenance. DJTA will maintain it as part of their spring and fall schedule. All DNR land is open to the public, but because of potential contamination, the local government must request the dump be blocked from public use. Eggleston said she was grateful for input from Nortech's contractor and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation in making the River Walk Park safe for public use.

Leith reported the State will require the City to sign a Land Management Agreement to lease and manage the River Walk Park in the near future. A driveway permit off the Richardson Highway was obtained from the Department of Transportation (DOT) and reduced speed limit signs will be installed by the local DOT this spring.

Discussion followed regarding signage, crosswalks prohibited across highways, DJTA paying Grizzly Construction \$25,500 to construct the entrance and parking area, applying for other funding sources, multiple tasks still pending, and reopening the dike to connect to the River Walk Trail sometime in the future.

Proclamation of Appreciation – Mary A. Leith

Musgrove presented Leith with a framed proclamation after reading it aloud, “Mary Leith, fondly called Grandma Bird by her grandchildren, exhibits the true meaning of a dedicated citizen. Mary dedicated 35 years of service to the Delta community in various capacities, 27 years as a voluntary Council member and almost 8 years as a paid City Administrator. During her terms as an elected official, Mary served 10 years as Mayor Pro Tem and 11 years as Mayor. Mary holds the record for the longest tenure on the Delta Junction City Council. She lives and breathes commitment. Mary’s tireless involvement has been instrumental in working through projects and moving them forward. We, the City Council, on behalf of the entire community, are proud to honor such an outstanding citizen. Be it resolved that the City of Delta Junction hereby proclaims a warm appreciation for Mary, recognizing her for contributing to the betterment of our hometown for decades. We look forward to her continued community involvement and sincerely wish Mary good health and continued happiness in her well-deserved retirement.” The proclamation was signed and dated by Mayor JW Musgrove.

Tiki Levinson presented a short slide show, showcasing Mary’s involvement with the City and various local entities. She read a tribute from Mike Tvenge, former City Administrator.

Hallgren referred to Leith as a sparkplug and reported their interactions since his arrival in 1999, emphasizing her involvement during Base Realignment and Closure ’95, the private prison controversy, and Pogo negotiations. He and Heinbockel said they would both sign her petition to return to the City Council.

Leith referred to community involvement and reported she was influenced by Chuck Forck and Lou Heinbockel, beginning with Girls State and a leadership conference.

Heinbockel, a retired teacher, said he failed to turn Leith into a conservative.

Musgrove said Leith would continue to represent the City on Partners for Progress as well as on a committee for Kinross Manh Choh traffic.

CORRESPONDENCE – none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Musgrove reported Guess & Rudd was paid (\$900 on April 19, 2022) to research whether supporting Delta Medical Transport (DMT) ambulance service was an allowable use of ARPA grant funds. To date the only money spent has been to DMT. ARPA funds must be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026.

Tony White said the ambulance service covers the entire school bus district, but has traveled as far north on the Richardson Highway as Banner Creek and Birch Lake, south to Paxson, Myers, Fielding Lake, and the Denali cutoff, and east on the Alaska Highway to Dot Lake.

Heinbockel questioned sharing ARPA funds with other local agencies.

Hallgren reported the ambulance service is not sustainable under the City’s financial structure. The Council will put out a request for proposal (RFP) to renegotiate a contract before the extended contract expires in June 2023.

Sand Bags

Prestegard reported Interior Hardware carries burlap (\$2 each) and poly bags (69¢ each).

Discussion followed regarding whether to charge to recover cost of bags, the State not getting involved until flooding occurs, the City having a pump at the fire station and two more ordered, sand available at the landfill, but requires sifting, volunteers needed to fill bags, and reliving circumstances surrounding the 2004 flood.

Motion: Prestegard moved to purchase 3,000 polyester sandbags from Interior Hardware not to exceed \$2,500.00, to include shipping; Catterson seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five voting in favor (Hallgren, Catterson, Prestegard, Levinson, Musgrove) and one opposed (Heinbockel).

Dove dropped from telephonic attendance at approximately 7:00pm.

Grant Writer

Musgrove reported he, Catterson, and Tiki Levinson attended the grant symposium in Anchorage April 11/12. The public identified a list of interests via Facebook, email, and attendance at the public meeting on April 6, 2022. He asked whether to hire Library Director Tiki Levinson, skilled staff, or someone else to write grants.

Discussion followed regarding funding available for transportation, communication (broadband), sewer and water, climate change, but not building maintenance, past experience of applying for a can crusher grant, and the sewer and water feasibility study that was conducted in 2007 by KAE, Inc. Engineers.

Heinbockel explained history about infrastructure that exists because of grant funding. He asked to explore hiring a professional grant writer.

Tiki Levinson said grant writers will be in high demand because of the number of grants that will be available, but most grants do not appear to benefit the local community, i.e. electric vehicle charging stations. Others are directed at actual service providers, i.e. transportation or broadband.

Adoption of Delta Community Library Selection & Reconsideration Policy

Tiki Levinson explained that the standard \$7,000/year in federal funds that is distributed by the State Library requires all libraries have a process to address patron concerns about material that is available to the public.

Hallgren questioned community standards, verbiage in the documents, and how anything can be challenged. He said he disagreed that “everything under the sun is of equal value and public institutions should pay for them.”

Heinbockel said he would support giving the library the \$7,000 instead of having to comply to an agency’s criteria. Discussion followed regarding previous policies adopted by the Library Board, but not the City Council, and editing them for adoption at the May 3 Council meeting.

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 221977 to Aetna for April group health insurance - \$7,875.84

CK# 221978 to Buffalo Center Service for equipment fuel - \$5,025.15

CK# 221979 to Cache Accounting, LLC (Krista Meeks) for March bookkeeping - \$2,340.00

CK# 221980 to Construction Machinery for loader repair - \$8,808.41

CK# 221981 to Custom Steel for dumpster roll off modification - \$3,400.00

CK# 221983 to Med-Tech Resource for firefighter gloves - \$2,707.96

CK# 221984 to Tenderfoot Gold for snow removal - \$3,200.00

CK# 221985 to ACS for April phones and Internet - \$1,528.77

Motion: Levinson moved to approve purchases as presented; Prestegard seconded.

Leith reported the Delta Presbyterian - Faith Lutheran Church paid \$1,500 toward snow removal (CK# 221984).

Heinbockel reported it was good to hire contractors to get through the snow volume this year, but he would like to know how much over budget the City is because of the additional expense.

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

Musgrove briefed the Council on transitioning City finances since Finance Officer Stephanie Erickson resigned (October 2021), working through issues with Alaska Municipal League (AML) Shared Services, and considering advertising the position again.

Heinbockel suggested combining the City Clerk and Treasurer positions as it was in the past.

Ambulance #186 Repairs

Leith reported the 2012 ambulance was towed to Eastside Auto. The fuel injection pump flooded the engine with metallic pieces and is estimated to cost \$13,948 to repair. Leith asked for Council input.

Motion: Hallgren moved to extend the meeting another 15 minutes; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent with six in attendance.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to repair Ambulance #186, not to exceed \$15,000.00; Hallgren seconded.

Discussion followed regarding repairing it or disposing of it, commitment to provide ambulance service to the community, leasing City ambulances to Delta Medical Transport for \$500/month, whether to get out of the ambulance business, only 44,099 miles on the 2012 odometer, and presenting options at the May 3 meeting.

Motion failed on a roll call with two voting in favor (Heinbockel, Musgrove) and four opposed (Catterson, Prestegard, Levinson, Hallgren).

REPORTS

Mayor – no report

Airport – Alan Levinson reported the airport has been busier the past few weeks. Snow piles are present but the runway itself is bare.

Library – Tiki Levinson reported library staff are preparing for the annual fundraiser (May 21).

Health & Safety – Mary Leith reported data about COVID testing and vaccine availability. She read a report from Council member Emily Dove: Domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse have increased since COVID. The PHC is collaborating with other local entities to develop a community wellness alliance (opportunities for healthy activity and making resources available).

Schools - Erin Catterson reported:

- Basketball, softball, track & field, and Little Dribblers practices are taking place.
- Delta Elementary completed testing. The Junior High and High School are testing this week.
- High School Prom is scheduled for April 23, graduation is May 12, and the last day of school is May 18.
- The Community Business Meeting is at 5:30pm, May 3 in the Junior High School gymnasium. The purpose

is to provide opportunities for students to work with businesses owners.

Emergency Services – no report

Emergency Preparedness – no report

Park & Recreation – Mike Prestegard reported fence repairs and other maintenance (paint buildings and dugouts) are probable at the park once the snow melts.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported all the main streets are in excellent condition.

Discussion followed regarding a lot of complimentary comments about street maintenance throughout the winter.

Landfill – no report

Cemetery – no report

At Large – Pete Hallgren reported:

- He's working with Mayor Musgrove on drafting a new ambulance contract and ordinances that pertain to it.
- Referencing the latest *Jarvis Creek Aufeis Monitoring Report*, dated April 25, 2022 and published by the

Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District, Hallgren reported the ice is larger than most years, but further north. It looks hopeful regarding concerns about flooding.

City Administrator – no report

City Clerk – no report

Finance – no report

Additional Reports – no report

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 8:15pm

Pat White, City Clerk

CITY
SEAL

JW Musgrove, Mayor

Approved: May 3, 2022