

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 3, 2022 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor JW Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

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

Council member excused: Pete HALLGREN

Staff present: City Administrator Ken Greenleaf, Administrative Assistant Flower Cole
Library Director Tiki Levinson, City Clerk Pat White

Four community members were physically present and three attended by phone. The meeting was not broadcast from the High School radio station, but it was live via Zoom.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove reported check# 221995 would be added to *New Business, City Purchases over \$1,000.*

Motion: Levinson moved to adopt the May 3, 2022 agenda as amended; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the April 19, 2022 minutes as presented; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Leah Stoner, Delta-Greely High School teacher and Athletics Director, reported conditions of ballfields at the park. Low spots in the baseball field can be repaired after the school season is over. Dirt in the softball field is worn and gravel makes it unsafe to use. Home games were cancelled and rescheduled out of town. Stoner asked for financial support and a written agreement that breaks down responsibilities of the City, School District, and youth programs. Discussion followed regarding Stoner submitting a detailed proposal and possibly adding ballfield upgrades to the budget. See more discussion under *Park/Recreation Report* (page three).

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE

Delta-Greely High School – Color Run – 6:00pm, Friday, May 6, 2022

Jennifer Brant, Sponsor of Delta High School Class of 2025, referenced a flyer advertising the Color Run and encouraged community participation by running, walking, cheering, and/or buying tacos at various stations.

Discussion followed regarding the layout of the route, using colored chalk and stakes to guide runners, throwing colorful powder at runners, and the sidewalks along the Richardson Highway already swept by DOT.

Tanner Brant, Delta High School Freshman, reported the purpose of the event is to raise money for their Senior trip (2025) and to host the Senior Prom when they are Juniors (2024).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ambulance #186 Disposition

Prestegard reported East Side Truck & Auto estimated \$13,948.56 (\$9,946.56/parts plus \$4,002/labor) to repair the 2012 F450 ambulance. The Council opted to not repair it (April 19, 2022) even though it has 44,099 miles on it and is still a viable vehicle.

Discussion followed regarding getting a couple more repair quotes, a class action lawsuit against Ford that creates difficulty in getting parts, acquiring an engine with the fuel system to swap out, advertising a minimal bid equal to its value (\$45,000/Blue Book minus \$14,000/repairs), or selling it as-is before repairs.

Tony White, owner of Delta Medical Transport, supported repairing the 2012 ambulance and putting it back in service. He said if part of the class action, the City could possibly recoup a portion or all of the repair costs. New ambulances are not available until 2024.

Adoption of Delta Community Library Selection Policy

Tiki Levinson briefed the Council on the importance of public libraries, especially to develop literacy in children. She reported the two documents were revised since they were presented to the Council on April 19. As Library Director, she is responsible to adhere to a process of choosing material for the library collection while complying with both Alaska Statutes and Alaska Administrative Code. The Delta Community Library has the second highest inner-library loans in Alaska because the majority of borrowed books are for homeschool curriculum. The selection policy and the reconsideration policy must be in place to apply for grants. The Delta Community Library was awarded \$58,000 in grants from the State Library last year, including an annual \$7,000 Public Library Assistance Grant (PLAG). She applied for the PLAG and a \$5,000 grant for summer reading programs during the current year. The goal is to stop the “summer slide” by keeping young people reading.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to adopt the Delta Library Selection Policy as presented; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six voting (Dove, Catterson, Heinbockel, Prestegard, Levinson, Musgrove).

Adoption of Delta Community Library Reconsideration Policy

Tiki Levinson reported the Reconsideration Policy explains the process for patrons to contest materials they deem inappropriate. The City Council would be called upon should the matter not be resolved first by the Library Director and second, by the Library Board.

Discussion followed regarding Levinson never having to remove a book during her career as School Librarian and Delta Community Library Director and only having to resolve two situations: “not letting Johnny check out any more books about dinosaurs” and not allowing another child to check out books about Captain Underpants.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to adopt the Delta Library Reconsideration Policy as presented; Dove seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six voting (Levinson, Prestegard, Catterson, Dove, Heinbockel, Musgrove).

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

CK# 221994 to Delta Medical Transport - \$25,000.00 for amended ambulance contract, payment 4 of 5

CK# 221995 to Becker Arena Products - \$6,577.96 for hardware and rink repairs

Discussion followed regarding whether funding was available in the current budget, \$30,000 that was allocated from the FY21 surplus for rink upgrades (June 1, 2021), whether the order that was placed in November followed purchasing procedures with the prior administrator’s authorization, and reining in expenses due to reports about home heating fuel expected to be \$7.00/gallon in Wasilla next winter.

Greenleaf reported the invoice included replacement of safety items and building hardware.

Motion: Levinson moved to approve check# 221994; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six voting (Prestegard, Dove, Levinson, Heinbockel, Catterson, Musgrove).

Motion: Levinson moved to approve check# 221995; Prestegard seconded.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported:

- He asked finance personnel to draft a budget with projections for FY23. A public work session will be scheduled before the two-meeting ordinance is introduced.
- The Delta Medical Transport contract expires June 30, 2022. The contract will likely be amended and extended, which may require a work session. It will require a formal bid process in one year.
- He authorized donation of two \$100 gift certificates for the Library Block Party, known as the Library Open House prior to the COVID pandemic. The event is now held inside and outside of the library and Community Center to allow social distancing. The gift certificates are to be redeemed toward landfill services.
- The summer maintenance and library aide positions have been advertised. He is considering advertising the finance position again. The last of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funds were spent to replace defibrillators in City-owned ambulances (\$5,000 approved December 21, 2021) and pre-fund finance duties (\$15,000 approved on December 7, 2021), but Alaska Municipal League Shared Services is having difficulty providing the service. The pre-fund has approximately \$9,000 left.
- He fielded an inquiry about a dead moose on private property and notified the Alaska State Troopers. A group requested use of the park for Nordic Walking classes on Saturday and Sunday mornings. They will check back to make sure there are no conflicts with scheduled ball games. The park outhouses were opened.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported the runway and most subdivision roads are dry. The ski strip is unusable and tie-downs are in short supply until snow is gone. The City Administrator is researching fuel service at the airport.

Library – Emily Dove reported:

- The fundraiser on May 21 will feature baskets, raffles, food, music, and an adult Corn Hole Tournament.
- Delta Elementary classes are visiting the library for the next two weeks.

Health & Safety – Emily Dove reported:

- COVID testing and vaccines are available at local clinics and the Public Health Center (PHC).
- The Delta PHC sponsored *Immunity in the Community* on April 30. Attendees were given kits of vitamins and supplements to boost immune systems. Another event is scheduled for May 21.
- The Delta-Clearwater Seniors are hosting *Alaska Commission on Aging* at the Community Center on May 11 to discuss the needs of local senior citizens.
- *Nurses News*, offers Public Health information on local websites (deltanewsweb.com and dgsd.us).
- The next Alaska Health Fair in Delta Junction will be scheduled in late September or early October. Information is available on their website (alaskahealthfair.org) and Facebook.

Schools - Erin Catterson reported Kindergarten Roundup is on May 4. The Junior High Spring Concert is also on May 4. The Elementary School Patriotic Concert is on May 5. The Elementary Husky Hustle is on May 13.

Emergency Services – Erin Catterson reported there were 25 ambulance runs and two fire calls since April 1.

Emergency Preparedness – Mike Prestegard reported sand bags and material are available at the Public Works building. Local residents are asked to contact the Fire Department for assistance.

Park & Recreation – Mike Prestegard reported Denali Fenceworks will replace gates once the snow is melted, but the damage to the park fence is more extensive than just replacing the gates. [The gates were rebuilt and half of the cost was paid (\$1,300 approved on November 16, 2021).]

Heinbockel suggested burying posts in Styrofoam to keep posts in place. Referring to Leah Stoner’s request (page one), Heinbockel reported the City has a longstanding agreement with the School District for them to maintain the ballfields. The Delta-Greely Softball Association maintains the softball fields and rebuilt the field closest to Deborah Street (in 2019). The Fire Department used to burn grass so it would green up faster. This year would have been ideal because of the amount of snow surrounding the edges of the park. Heinbockel agreed with a user agreement between the City, Delta-Greely High School, and other leagues that use the ballfields.

Public Works / Landfill – Lou Heinbockel reported:

- The landfill pit is close to its lifetime limit (Cell 1 was built in 2005 to last 20 years). Landfill Operator Shawn Meek has piled cover material around the outer perimeter of the pit, which can be raised up to ten feet to extend its life. [The Council approved Bristol Engineering’s September 30, 2020 proposal to raise the height of the landfill and file the permit with the Department of Environmental Conservation at the October 20, 2020 meeting.]
- The loader had to have two tires replaced, each one costing \$9,800.
- Water is moving under the Jarvis Creek Bridge, which is good news because of concerns about flooding. Some water is showing up at the Emmaus/Nistler intersection.

Cemetery – no report

At Large – no report

City Administrator – Ken Greenleaf asked anyone to contact him if they identify anything that needs repaired. He reported the Volvo 220 needs armor to protect its hydraulic hoses and oil tank. Sam Porter quoted \$5,793 to construct a detachable, custom-crafted skid plate for the loader’s undercarriage.

Discussion followed regarding moving forward and using available funds that are budgeted in *Contracted Services*.

City Clerk – no report

Finance – See *Mayor Report* (page two)

Additional Reports – Mike Prestegard reported citizens can do their part to assist the Division of Elections update voter information by notifying them when there is a discrepancy. If a ballot is delivered to someone who no longer resides at the address to which it was mailed, write “Not at this address – RETURN TO SENDER” and place it back in the mailbox. If a ballot is delivered to someone who is deceased, write “Deceased – RETURN TO SENDER” and place it back in the mailbox. The Postal Service will return these ballots to the DOE, which will void them and update the voter’s information. Prestegard suggested mailing unused ballots back after the June 11 deadline.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 7:26pm

Pat White, City Clerk

CITY
SEAL

JW Musgrove, Mayor

Approved: May --- , 2022