

**City Council Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 17, 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,  
Alan LEVINSON, Erin CATTERSON, Pete HALLGREN, Lou HEINBOCKEL

**Council member excused:** Emily DOVE

**Staff present:** City Administrator Ken Greenleaf, Administrative Assistant Flower Cole, City Clerk Pat White

**Public attendance:** Three members from the community were physically present, two attended via Zoom, and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Levinson moved to approve the May 17, 2022 agenda; Hallgren seconded.

**Motion passed** on a roll call with six in attendance.

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

**Motion:** Levinson moved to approve the May 3, 2022 minutes; Hallgren seconded.

**Motion passed** on a roll call with six in attendance.

**COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Angela Glass reported the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) will meet at City Hall on June 14 at 6:00pm.

**REQUEST TO SPEAK** - none

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Virtual Public Meeting – Richardson Highway Passing Lanes Between Delta Junction and North Pole**

Musgrove reported the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities scheduled a virtual meeting on May 19 to discuss passing lanes between milepost 266 and 341 on the Richardson Highway.

Hallgren reported upgrades to the Richardson will affect the Tetlin-to-Fort Knox ore hauling project, but the meeting is to discuss passing lanes only.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Ambulance #186 Repairs**

Greenleaf reported two businesses chose not to submit quotes. Two others had quotes within \$1,500 of each other. Seekins offered a two-year warranty on parts. Both would require roughly five to eight months, based on availability of a repair kit. Eastside was the only local business that was interested.

Heinbockel reported a new ambulance would cost \$200,000 plus a two-year wait. The 2012 has value and it handles well. He supported awarding repairs to Eastside Truck & Auto.

Musgrove reported maintenance of ambulances qualified for use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and they were also available in the general budget. He called to reconsider the failed motion on April 19, 2022 (to spend up to \$15,000 to repair the 2012 ambulance).

**Motion:** Hallgren moved to award repair of the 2012 ambulance to Seekins, not to exceed \$16,000.00, based on their warranty of parts for two years, and to include the cost of to/from transportation; Heinbockel seconded.

Levinson questioned comparing lease of an ambulance at \$500/month for two years (\$12,000) to current repair costs (\$14,000), ambulance rotations, and whether the financial responsibility will ever be shifted to the contractor.

Musgrove reported, like an insurance policy, expenses are not always recovered. Governments do not break even.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

Auto-pay GVEA - \$5,508.91 for March electricity  
CK# 222017 to Cache Accounting - \$1,500.00 for April bookkeeping

CK# 222018 to Delta Building Supply - \$1,209.81 for supplies and repairs

CK# 222019 to Delta Powersports - \$1,598.00 for two Honda pumps

CK# 222020 to Vitus Energy - \$22,798.49 for March and April heating fuel

**Motion:** Levinson moved to approve payments as presented; Heinbockel seconded.

**Musgrove** reported he decided to bring back a single point of contact to oversee City finances because the current arrangement was not working (part-time local accountant filling in and AML Shared Services doing payroll). The City will continue to look for a full-time accountant, but in the meantime Stephanie Erickson agreed to work 25 hours/week for \$60/hour.

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

### **Kiselev Subdivision – Request to Waive One-Acre Lot Size (#8 on checklist)**

**Sebastian Saarloos** reported his client wants to subdivide his property on Rebecca Lane (Lot 7, Block 4, Riverview Subdivision) into 7A (0.93 acres) and 7B (1.58 acres). Saarloos asked to waive the one-acre requirement (adopted April 17, 2007) and approve the design before the platting process is started. If not, the dividing line would be angled and create confusion. Each lot has a house, independent well, septic, and power drop.

**Musgrove** said wells do not often move, but septic systems do. He disagreed with granting a variance.

**Motion:** Levinson moved to approve the deviation as requested; Heinbockel seconded.

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

### **Community Cleanup**

**White** reported Big Delta Brewery and Delta Farm Bureau will host Community Cleanup on May 28. Pop & Sons and Delta Environmental Services will provide 30-yard dumpsters at the Visitor Center parking lot. Residents that started early were given permission to leave yellow-bagged garbage along roadsides. White asked if the Council would offer a discount to the general public for garbage delivered to the landfill.

**Heinbockel** said the intent of Community Cleanup is to support cleaning the entire community. The discounted price is not for commercial haulers who have paying customers.

Discussion followed regarding extending landfill hours (9:00-5:00 instead of 9:00-3:00), commercial haulers not delivering residential trash to the landfill, and offering discounted rates to the public (4¢ per pound instead of 8¢).

**Motion:** Heinbockel moved to authorize a 50% discount for all refuse delivered to the landfill on Community Cleanup Day and to waive tipping fees on yellow-bagged refuse delivered to the landfill by commercial haulers; Hallgren seconded.

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

### **Schedule Budget Work Session**

**Musgrove** asked to schedule a work session to review the FY23 budget before introducing it on June 7 and adopting it by June 30.

Discussion followed regarding using savings (\$30,000 approved June 1, 2021) instead of general funds to pay the bill from Becker Arena (\$6,577.96 approved on May 3, 2022) and discussing the new budget on May 24.

## **REPORTS**

**Mayor – JW Musgrove** reported:

- He is revising airport tie-down guidelines to make accounting run smoother.
- Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) membership is given opportunity to vote in the upcoming GVEA Board election. Ballots are distributed by membership, not the number of hookups. The City (POB 229) received two by-mail ballots with accompanying electronic voting options. Musgrove reported he shredded them because each Council's membership already allowed them to vote.

**Airport – Alan Levinson** reported:

- Airport activity has increased. The runway is clear of snow, but the tie-down area is still soft. More temporary tie-down spaces are available for visitors.

Discussion followed regarding removing tree debris on airport roads and adding material to elevate others.

- Ken Greenleaf is getting bids from fuel vendors and researching grants to improve the runway.

**Library** – Alan Levinson reported:

- The annual library fundraiser is May 21 at the library and Community Center. There will be all types of themed baskets, raffles, gift certificates, music, food, and a corn hole tournament. Library Director Tiki Levinson said, “We sincerely hope to see you all there. It is amazing to see the community support of the Delta Library.”

- All elementary classes and a few homeschool students visited the library on field trips over the past two weeks. They faced chilly weather, rain and snow as they made their way to and from the library. It was very exciting to have students bring their parents or grandparents back to the library after school. Tiki Levinson also visited two kindergarten classes at the Delta Elementary School.

- Sign-ups for the summer reading program, *Read Off the Beaten Path*, start June 1. Space is limited for 60 students, kindergarten through 3rd grade, and 30 students, 4th through 8th. The library programs help students retain their reading skills over the “summer slide.”

**Health & Safety** – JW Musgrove reported there is an increase in local COVID cases, but symptoms appear milder.**Schools** – no report**Emergency Services** – Erin Catterson reported:

- Delta Medical Transport had 16 calls between May 1 and May 17. The Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department responded to four flood calls, one motor vehicle accident, and two fires in the same timeframe.

- DMT, DJVFD, and Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department participated in the High School graduation parade and the Elementary Husky Hustle. Alaska State Troopers, 49<sup>th</sup> Missile Defense Battalion, and the Fort Greely Garrison provided traffic control.

- The DJVFD used \$4,454.59 in the State of Alaska Forestry grant to purchase wildland firefighting gear.

**Emergency Preparedness** – Mike Prestegard reported flooding from unprecedented snow this past winter, did not occur as expected due to freezing temperatures at night.

Discussion followed regarding gathering winter wood supplies in June and July instead of later in the summer.

**Park & Recreation** – Mike Prestegard reported:

- A Skidsteer with a snow blower attachment was used to prepare the ballfields for home games.
- Shawn Donathan replaced the fence gates at the park that were vandalized last September.

Heinbockel said substantial damage was done to the park fence near the Deborah/Aurora intersection during snow removal. When the fence is repaired, he asked that it be moved east into the wooded area. Otherwise, he favored shutting down Aurora during the wintertime.

Musgrove said keeping Aurora Avenue open stops when snow is several feet high and requires heroic efforts.

White questioned purchasing a spare canopy cover. [The City acquired a 60-foot by 60-foot playground from Fort Wainwright in June 2013. It had half of its 25 to 30-year life left and cost approximately \$16,000 to transport and install at the City Park. A yellow canopy came with the playground equipment.] A spare was purchased in August 2013 for \$2,517 and used as a replacement in June 2020. Another spare was never purchased. It was quoted to cost \$3,551 (including \$500 in shipping) on August 4, 2020 and \$6,078.22 (including \$850 in shipping) on May 16, 2022. Grounds for Play in Texas changed their name to Superior Recreational Products and moved to Georgia.

Hallgren said he was surprised by the amount of use the canopy gets and how long it holds up. He suggested purchasing a replacement for when it is needed in the future.

**Public Works / Landfill** – Lou Heinbockel reported:

- Roads are in great condition, there is no flooding, and the landfill is busy.
- A neighboring property owner needs to quit using the old landfill entrance as a private parking area. The condition of the old pit was unclear. The building at the old landfill is deteriorating. He asked to dispose of it.

Musgrove reported a lot of cleanup is necessary.

**Cemetery** – Pat White reported two residents requested corners of their graves be marked so headstones can be placed. One memorial plaque is ready to mount and another one is in the process of being ordered.**At Large** – see *Emergency Preparedness***City Administrator** – Ken Greenleaf reported:

- The Welcome-to-Delta sign that was near Jarvis Creek Bridge is now in the Public Works building. He is working on a plan to resurface it.

- Park gates on Deborah Street have been replaced. So far \$450 has been spent on gate repair (plus \$2,600 that was paid to have the gates rebuilt). Referring to Heinbockel's comment (*Parks & Rec Report* – page 3), Greenleaf said it won't be difficult for Denali Fenceworks to move the fence on Aurora Avenue.

- Plumbing issues damaged the inside of the exterior wall at the Visitor Center. It was repaired, a cracked toilet was replaced, a roof vent was recapped, and water samples were collected for testing. A Great Horned Owl that was nestled into the side of the Visitor Center was given to Fish & Game to investigate.

Heinbockel questioned why the Farm Bureau was not responsible for building maintenance of the Visitor Center. Discussion followed regarding the Delta Farm Bureau's five-year lease, not opening the Visitor Center last year because of the Canadian border closure, tourists flowing through the border now, and winterization of the Visitor Center likely the City's responsibility.

Heinbockel recalled when two restaurants catered to tourists and as many as 35,000 stopped at the Visitor Center in one summer. He feared the tourist industry had gone belly up.

- The Skidsteer was returned today.
- The Library Aide, Summer Maintenance, and Backup Scale House Operator jobs were advertised.
- Landfill personnel created a barrier out of tires to reduce the amount of wind and blown trash.
- An abatement plan is necessary to remove material from second hole within the next 36 months.
- Turf MVP, a compound mixture that improves the quality of soil, is being dispersed into the ballfields.
- He is researching NIXLE, a messaging system to communicate with the general public, i.e. where to park to attend an event, what areas to avoid due to road maintenance or fire activity. The service is \$2,000/year through the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center. Residents must subscribe to receive the automated messages.
- Some residents are working behind the scenes to ensure the Community Cleanup on May 28 is a success.
- Keys to City facilities and equipment are being inventoried and restructured.
- The Department of Transportation (DOT) lacks manpower. Should the City locate a contractor, DOT will do their best to work with them on crack sealing City streets, once their scheduled work is done.

Discussion followed regarding whether any funding was left over from paying DOT last year.

- Topsoil would be added to level some graves at the cemetery.

**City Clerk** – Pat White reported Bert Cottle emailed an alert from Governor Dunleavy's office, dated May 16, about an increase in drug deaths in Alaska based on 2021 data. Alaska had a 71% increase between 2020 and 2021. Fentanyl is involved in 75% of opioid overdose deaths. [Citizens are asked to report suspected drug trafficking or other crime tips by texting (AKTIPS to 847411) or to contact them online ([dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips/](https://dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips/)).]

**Finance** – JW Musgrove reported Stephanie Erickson, the main City finance contact, is preparing a draft budget for the May 24 work session.

**Additional Reports** – Mike Prestegard encouraged everyone to vote in the Special Primary Election to replace Congressman Don Young (June 9, 1933 – March 18, 2022). Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by June 11. He also encouraged voters to become familiar with the new voting process and take part “to protect our way of life.”

#### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS** (added to different reports)

Flower Cole reported tour bus companies have contacted City Hall, trying to reach the Chamber of Commerce (folded in 2019) to make arrangements to get End of the Alaska Highway certificates at the Visitor Center.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 7:33pm

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Pat White, City Clerk

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SEAL

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JW Musgrove, Mayor

Approved: June 7, 2022