

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
August 2, 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, Pete HALLGREN, Erin CATTERSON

Council members excused: Alan LEVINSON, Emily DOVE

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

Public attendance: Six members from the community were physically present and three attended by Zoom.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove reported *Preliminary Plat - Brooks Subdivision* would be moved to the first part of the meeting.

Motion: Hallgren moved to approve the August 2, 2022 agenda as amended; Heinbockel seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the July 19, 2022 minutes; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary Plat – Brooks Subdivision

Sebastian Saarloos, Delta Surveys, reported the Brooks Subdivision plat on North Eielson Avenue off Tanana Loop Extension would subdivide Lot 1, Block 4 of Jack Subdivision into two lots, 1A (1.253 acres) and 1B (3.429 acres). A 60-foot wide driveway off North Eielson already exists and the power installed on 1B will also serve 1A. There are no liens against the property and the title report is clean.

Motion: Hallgren moved to approve the preliminary plat for Brooks Subdivision; Catterson seconded.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Request to Reduce Tipping Fees – Deltana Fair Association

Greenleaf reported a photo of a \$225.60 ticket was received today for trash delivered to the landfill from the Deltana Fair (July 22/24).

Discussion followed regarding the City sponsoring the Deltana Fair (\$1,000) and donating \$100 toward their multi-item raffle (March 15, 2022).

Motion: Heinbockel moved to postpone discussion about reducing tipping fees to August 16; Hallgren seconded.

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

Municipal Election Schedule – Filing Period (August 25 – September 9)

White reported the filing period for the October 4, 2022 Municipal Election is August 25 through September 9. Three seats will be on the ballot: B (Catterson), D (Heinbockel), and G (Levinson). All are three-year terms.

Hallgren reported discrepancies in the election schedule, contesting election results, when the regular term of office begins, and electing a Deputy Mayor on an annual basis, but not the Mayor (two years left in term).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena Paving Grant

Musgrove referred to his August 2 memo and communications from City Attorney Mike McLaughlin and Finance Officer Stephanie Erickson about paving the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena. Funding would be a grant using \$23,440.14 left from the FY21 sinking fund, \$10,000 from the FY22 sinking fund, and \$31,500 from the FY23 budget. McKenna Brothers Paving quoted \$69,920 and Neeser would donate approximately \$20,000 in labor.

Motion: Hallgren moved to authorize \$64,940.14 to the Delta Skating Association to pave the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena by September 30, 2022; Heinbockel seconded.

Hallgren emphasized that DSA is responsible for the paving and any expenses over the authorized amount. Discussion followed regarding the local government serving as a pass-through agency for grants and DSA's fundraising efforts (approximately \$43,000 including sponsorships).

Ana White expressed appreciation for recreational opportunities for youth during the winter months and said the rink, once paved, can expand its usefulness to concerts, flea markets, or other venues during summer seasons. Comparing the library's annual budget (\$266,999 for FY23) to the ice arena's (\$54,195), she said it's a huge bargain to spend \$50,000 to operate the ice arena and let DSA volunteers manage it.

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

NEW BUSINESS continued

Reinvesting Undedicated Savings

Musgrove referred to Stephanie Erickson's August 2 memo, *CDs for Undedicated Savings and Landfill Closure Fund*, and recommendation to move money.

Greenleaf stated not taking action on the 3% increase would be a missed opportunity.

Hallgren reported yields on short term rates are currently better than long term.

Musgrove suggested bringing the topic back at the August 16 Council meeting.

Heinbockel asked to research better returns on the City's Permanent Fund also.

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 222128 to ACS - \$1,805.17 for July telephone and Internet

CK# 222129 to Alaska Farmer Co-op - \$2,397.00 for fertilizer

CK# 222130 to Alaska Library Network - \$1,155.70 for annual membership fee

CK# 222131 to Alcan Auto & Truck - \$3,065.36 for Tender 162 parts (\$2,705.84), Public Works (\$60.04), and landfill (\$299.48)

CK# 222132 to Alliance CPAs, LLC - \$7,964.05 for FY21 audit – travel and draft financials

CK# 222133 to Bill's Small Tractor Service - \$5,833.00 for FY23 lawn maintenance, payment 2 of 3

CK# 222135 to Numbers Count, LLC - \$1,650.00 for accounting services July 11 - July 22

CK# 222136 to Yukon Equipment, Inc. - \$3,300.00 for backhoe bucket to be used at cemetery

CK# 222142 to GVEA - \$4,243.51 for June electricity

CK# 222143 to Delta-Greely Skating Association - \$64,940.14 toward paving of Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena

Motion: Prestegard moved to approve ten checks as presented; Hallgren seconded.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported:

- He attended an External Mission Partner Visit at Fort Greely today with City Administrator Ken Greenleaf. The meeting was hosted by Lt. Col. Joey Orr and Deputy to the Garrison Commander Richard Fromm.

- He has been researching grants, particularly ones to sustain the ambulance service.
- A meeting with Tony White, Delta Medical Transport, will be scheduled to discuss maintaining the local ambulance service and updating mutual and automatic aid agreements.

Catterson reported some communities rely on subscription donations to support their ambulance services.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported accommodating airplanes in an overflow tie-down area on the opposite side of the runway, providing space for a helicopter, and continued mowing of the airport.

Library – no report

Health & Safety – JW Musgrove read Emily Dove's report:

- COVID transmission is spreading throughout Alaska, but hospitalizations remain below the omicron wave.
- The first case of Monkeypox in Alaska was reported in Anchorage.
- Naloxone, a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose, is available through medical providers or the Project Hope website. Overdose rescue kits and medication disposal bags are available through Project Hope. Fentanyl test strips are available through the Delta Public Health Center.
- Local providers and the Delta PHC emphasize getting children immunized as they return to school.
- The new suicide prevention hotline (988) goes through Careline Alaska.
- Delta PHC staff will be at the Farmer's Market to hand out free COVID test kits and information about opioid abuse, COVID, Disaster and Family Preparedness, and Play Every Day.
- Ukrainian refugees are required to get vaccinations and TB blood tests.

Schools - Erin Catterson reported:

- The school district encourages attendance from parents to analyze local safety protocols and prevention of school shootings at a meeting on August 9 at 5:30pm in the Junior High gymnasium.

- Junior High student orientation is August 16, 3:00-4:00pm followed by schedules and assigned lockers.

Emergency Services – Erin Catterson reported the Community Center is reserved for a chocolate party, hosted by Chris Wardlaw, August 13, 7:00-9:00pm. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Fire Department.

Emergency Preparedness – Mike Prestegard encouraged residents to prepare for winter, i.e. travel items for vehicles and practical items for power outages.

Park & Recreation – Mike Prestegard reported the David Scifres Memorial Softball Tournament was held at the City Park July 30/31. The Scifres family and local residents spent four days preparing the fields. Six teams participated, five traveling from out of town. The event did not end until almost midnight on the 31st.

Public Works– Lou Heinbockel reported grass needs cut at the airport subdivision.

Landfill – Lou Heinbockel reported the 10’x10’ hole at the Pioneer Park was filled.

Discussion followed regarding cover material and the grassy knoll reserve that will be used to elevate the current pit and replacing signage at the landfill to show where to dispose of trash and aluminum cans.

Cemetery – Pat White reported the Public Works crew mounted three plaques on the memorial wall and marked several gravesites for families to place headstones and/or bury ashes. There have been two casket burials this year.

At Large – Pete Hallgren reported how grant hunting was in the past (through legislators) and suggested reaching out to both the State and Federal legislators now. Lisa Murkowski, campaigning to retain her U.S. Senate seat, is advertising millions of dollars earmarked in grants for Alaska.

City Administrator – Ken Greenleaf reported:

- The two-year oil and water separator saga has ended. The system was put together today minus a \$14 flow meter that will be delivered by the end of the week. Greenleaf spent several hours in Fairbanks last week discussing the entire testing process and will walk through it with Stephen Hammond, M2C1, once the flow meter arrives. Once testing is complete, the City will be in compliance. Each test costs \$500. A response was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with a consent agreement from M2C1.

- The 2009 ambulance (#181) needs \$2,000 to \$3,000 in repairs. Quotes are being researched.

- Tenali Hicks was hired to fill the Facilities Maintenance position and Colin Carr was hired as Landfill Operations Assistant. Summer-hire Kai Elkins’ went back to school last week and Matthew Medlin starts tomorrow as summer maintenance for the next month.

- A large tree that crashed in the middle of the cemetery was cut up and stacked for the public to salvage.

- Henry Muth is preparing for winter: pulling grader blades, changing parts, replacing lights on vehicles, etc.

- A plan to address a new EPA requirement, to monitor explosive methane gas, must be in place by September 1. Greenleaf proposed obtaining compliance to the requirement when the landfill permit is renewed with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) in 2023. There are no funds designated to pay for installation and the first year of monitoring, which are expected to cost \$100,000 to \$150,000.

City Clerk – no report

Finance – no report

Additional Reports – Mike Prestegard reported the State-run Primary Election is on August 16, 7:00am-8:00pm at the Community Center. Absentee voting is available at City Hall August 2, 4, 9, 11, 1:00-6:00pm. Prestegard encouraged residents to visit elections.alaska.gov for sample ballots (House District 36) and to understand Ranked Choice Voting.

Heinbockel expressed disappointment with the newly-adopted redistricting plan.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 6:50pm

CITY
SEAL

JW Musgrove, Mayor

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: August 16, 2022