

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 6, 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, Emily DOVE, Alan LEVINSON

Council member attending by phone: Erin CATTERSON

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

Public present: One guest speaker and five members from the community were physically present at the beginning of the meeting, three people attended by phone, and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the September 6, 2022 agenda as presented; Dove seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2022 Council meeting; Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Five Loaves Pantry – Request for Funding

Amber Lorenzana, Vice President, reported Five Loaves Pantry (5LP) is a local non-profit that provides grocery cards to residents who have food shortages. They collect donations from local residents, local businesses, and grants. 5LP distributed \$31,625 [September 12 correction = \$31,125] in gift cards to 72 different households in 2021, plus \$25,000 in fresh farm food boxes to 125 households. To date in 2022, 5LP has distributed \$31,840 [correction = \$33,960] in grocery cards to 94 households plus \$50,000 in fresh farm food boxes to 200 households. 5LP has no overhead expenses and do not pay volunteers. Because of projected increases in food prices and utility costs, they anticipate an increase in public needs as well as a struggle to meet them.

Motion: Hallgren moved to donate \$1,500.00 to Five Loaves Pantry if matched by the local community, retroactive to July 1, 2022; Levinson seconded.

Discussion followed regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds already committed to extending the ambulance contract.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call (Prestegard, Heinbockel, Levinson, Catterson, Hallgren, Dove, Musgrove).

Ukrainian Refugees

Issa Spatrisano, Alaska State Refugee Coordinator for Catholic Social Services (CSS), reported refugees chose to move to Delta Junction in the late 1990s, which prompted the federal government to approach the State of Alaska about establishing a refugee assistance program. Because of it, Alaska can receive federal money to serve refugees. The majority of Ukrainian refugees settle in the Anchorage area, but many have family ties in the Delta Junction area, making it the third largest community in Alaska for Ukrainian arrivals. The *Uniting for Ukraine* program, administered by the Department of Homeland Security, welcomed 100,000 Ukrainians into the United States. It allows a community member to sponsor a refugee who is approved for resettlement. So far, there have been 114 sponsor requests in the entire country, 79,000 Ukrainians approved for travel, and 42,600 who have arrived. Spatrisano reported Congress passed *Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriation* in May 2022 and currently CSS is serving 46 individuals in Delta who qualify for those refugee benefits.

Discussion followed regarding CSS advertising a case manager position in Delta, working with the local school district, normal wait time to resettle (17 years), background checks once referred to a refugee program (one and a half to three years), Humanitarian Parolees status (portion of *Uniting for Ukraine* that shortens the path to citizenship), Temporary Protective Status (not allowing a refugee to stay permanently, but also recognizing

inability to return to their homeland), and over 400 refugees settling in Alaska from other countries, i.e. 115 Afghans in early 2022.

CORRESPONDENCE

October 4 Municipal Election – Candidate Filing Period Ends September 9

White reported two petitions were filed today for one of the three seats (B, D, G) on the October ballot. Two people competed for one seat in two different elections (2008, 2020). Otherwise there has been little contest in the past 20 years (only data collected). There are three days left in the filing period.

#3999 Liquor License Ownership Transfer (AB-01) from Juice, Inc. (dba Alaska Steakhouse) to The Big Delta Brewing Company, LLC (dba The Draft House and Lodge)

Motion: Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to the liquor license transfer from Juice, Inc. to The Big Delta Brewing Company, LLC; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

#3999 Restaurant Designation (AB-03) - The Big Delta Brewing Company (dba The Draft House and Lodge)

Motion: Heinbockel moved to show no opposition to the restaurant designation of The Big Delta Brewing Company where alcohol will be served; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

Delta Junction Trails Association – River Walk Park Updates

Mindy Eggleston, President of DJTA, reported an update on the River Walk Park:

- Grizzly Construction was paid \$25,000 to develop and compact a road and parking area in June.
- Volunteers host a work party every Thursday, 4:30-5:30pm, at the gate entrance. People are encouraged to bring work gloves, eye protection, shovels, and rakes.
- Forestry employees removed firewood and debris. They also built benches from larger trees.
- Referencing a handout, Eggleston reported the DJTA and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) are currently working on a Restricted Use Authorization that identifies the extent of the historical dump site and the proposed fence (not yet installed). The four-foot fence will direct trail users, but not obstruct animals.
- DJTA is researching grants for amenities (outhouse and amphitheater). The proposed amphitheater is on an existing right of way on both city and DNR property. To build on a ROW, it must be vacated. Forestry's road into the biomass area would suffice as the alternate access. DJTA will approach the Council for a resolution to vacate the property when they apply for the \$275,000-\$300,000 grant. It will be at least a two-year process and will cost \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Heinbockel objected to giving up an easement to an established road (Remington) as well as constructing another amphitheater because of the one that was built in the City Park thirty years ago and rarely used.

Richardson Highway Milepost 206-233 Planning & Environmental Study

Greenleaf stated as Alaska grows, the demands on its roads grow also. The Department of Transportation is soliciting public input (October 1, 2022 deadline). What are concerns that need to be addressed? Greenleaf suggested guardrails on dangerous turns.

Discussion followed regarding drafting a letter from the City of Delta Junction, supporting \$200 million in roadwork south of Delta Junction on the Richardson Highway to straighten it between milepost 206-233, and replacing narrow bridges on the Johnson and Gerstle rivers not part of the proposed realignment.

Musgrove reported he submitted a letter of support to Alaska Municipal League about a week ago pertaining to replacing two bridges on the Alaska Highway. The Kinross ore project is expected to accelerate their decline.

Heinbockel suggested reducing the speed limit because of slow moving school buses.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Election Officials for 2022 Municipal Election

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the six election officials as presented; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2023-01, an Ordinance Establishing Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

Motion: Heinbockel moved to introduce and hold the first reading of Ordinance 2023-01 and set the date for the second reading, public hearing and possible adoption on September 20, 2022; Levinson seconded.

Hallgren reported the ordinance simply states Alaska Statutes, what the City Council has followed for many years.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call (Dove, Prestegard, Heinbockel, Hallgren, Levinson, Catterson, Musgrove).

Musgrove reported he was asked by a resident in Deltana why the City considered assisting the local electric company, GVEA, in conducting an aerial mapping project several years ago. It was the driving force behind establishing extraterritorial jurisdiction. He is researching history behind annexing Rest Haven Cemetery property.

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 222187 to ACS - \$1,816.23 for August phone and Internet

CK# 222188 to Arctic Fire & Safety - \$5,119.50 for House Identification posts and rivets

CK# 222189 to Bill's Small Tractor Service - \$5,834.00 for the lawn contract, payment 3 of 3

CK# 222190 to Fluent IMS - \$1,200.00 to lease equipment for cell phone pager service used by Delta Volunteer Fire Department

CK# 222191 to Interior Hardware - \$1,138.00 for facility maintenance supplies and tools

CK# 222192 to Numbers Count, LLC - \$3,120.00 for accounting services (August 11 / September 1)

CK# 222193 to Vitus Energy, LLC - \$5,663.15 for heating and equipment fuel

Catterson reported the new cell phone pager service does not replace handheld radios, but it does help firefighters locate fires (CK# 222190).

Motion: Levinson moved to approve checks 222187 through 222193; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported he and Greenleaf are researching funding for various projects.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported the airport is busy, three more parking spots were added to the tie-down area, gravel was hauled to upgrade Airport Subdivision II roads, equipment was rented to compact them, and the ski strip was voluntarily mowed by Deltana resident, Greg Turner.

Library – no report

Health & Safety – Emily Dove reported:

- The Alaska Department of Health is monitoring monkeypox transmission to track cases and offer vaccines.
- Naloxone, a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose, can be obtained through medical providers or the Project Hope website. The Delta Public Health Center (895-4292) offers Naloxone kits, fentanyl testing strips, and medication disposal bags.
- Make appointment at the PHC or medical providers to update childhood immunizations.
- The new suicide prevention hotline is 988.
- Refugees are required to get vaccinations and TB blood tests.
- The Alaska Health Fair is scheduled for October 1 at the Delta Elementary School. Participants must register online (alaskahealthfair.org).

Schools – JW Musgrove reported on Erin Catterson's behalf:

- The Junior High School had their first track meet at North Pole on August 31. The DJHS Grizzlies took first place against the North Star Borough teams.
- Seventh graders attended the Salcha-Delta Soil Water Conservation Outdoor School today, the 16th year tradition. Students who participate in these programs show significant gains in science scores, problem solving, and peer relations.
- Delta High School hosted their annual home cross-country race on September 3.
- Delta High School played their last soccer games against Tri-Valley on September 2 and 3.

Heinbockel reported fencing was replaced at the school district, so it does not loop around the school (as reported at the August 16 Council meeting).

Emergency Services – Erin Catterson reported Delta Medical Transport responded to 31 calls since August 6. The Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department responded to two fire calls in the same timeframe.

Emergency Preparedness – Mike Prestegard encouraged the public to gather firewood, clean chimneys, and winterize vehicles.

Park & Recreation – Mike Prestegard reported activity at the park slowed down compared to its use over the summer. He expressed concerns about the lack of activities for youth and asked what they are interested in. He would like to encourage alternatives to hanging out on top of the park pavilion.

Public Works / Landfill – Lou Heinbockel reported the Public Works crew are busy on airport subdivision roads and will grade/compact other gravel roads soon.

Cemetery – Pat White reported the lawn at the cemetery looks exceptional because the grass is healthy and thick.

At Large – no report

City Administrator – Ken Greenleaf reported:

- There is a significant increase in vehicle maintenance issues. Equipment is getting old. A Fairbanks mechanic is scheduled to inspect the landfill Volvo tomorrow. Fire trucks are leaking and will continue a nickel and dime trend. At some point the juice is not worth the squeeze.
- Henry Muth delivered ten loads of gravel to build up the airport subdivision roads.
- Donathan Whittemore was originally hired as maintenance assistance, but has been hired as a temporary Public Works.
- He is compiling a list for Kinross about local non-profits who focus on community needs.
- Freon abatement components are gradually showing up, one giant box with one small component at a time. Greenleaf said he is anxious to build the kits to get rid of stockpiled refrigerators and appliances.
- DEC is expected to conduct the annual landfill inspection within the next two weeks. The fill-rate will be a topic because it is alarming. It is possible to incur additional fiscal expense for a new survey and abatement of the second pit as well as a new operation plan.
- September 15 is the goal to get all the thermal sensors in the ground. There are no designated funds for the drilling or an additional survey, which will cost \$150,000 to \$200,000. Greenleaf will inquire with Neal Lehner at DEC on September 7 to navigate the new EPA requirement; how to marry compliance (new EPA rule) with reality (no money budgeted for it).
- Sample results are back from the Class V Injection Well. The system is good, but the samples were contaminated, however it happened at the lab. Stephen Hammond will facilitate resolving the \$500 test fee.
- The upgraded City website will be launched soon (September 15).

Hallgren asked about Pogo Mine's annual contribution to the City.

Greenleaf reported Pogo gave the City \$200,000 last year instead of the annual \$150,000, but the advisory board for the \$150,000 to the community disbanded two years ago.

City Clerk – Pat White reported as City Clerk, she is the Municipal Election Supervisor and is required to accommodate all registered voters in the City precinct (976 as of September 9, 2022), even though voter turnout is low. She hopes for a better turnout in 2022.

Finance – no report

Additional Reports – JW Musgrove reported a meeting is scheduled on September 7 with Darlene Supplee to discuss senior citizen issues within the community.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Igor Zaremba asked if Kinross could buy a new ambulance for the community because the existing ambulances will continue to have problems.

Heinbockel suggested researching Interior Region Emergency Services (IREMS) grants for new ambulances.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:27pm

JW Musgrove, Mayor

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: September 20, 2022