

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 20, 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, Alan LEVINSON

Council member excused: Erin CATTERSON, Emily DOVE

Staff present: City Administrator Ken Greenleaf, Contract Finance Officer Stephanie Erickson,
Library Director Tiki Levinson, City Clerk Pat White

Public present: Eight members from the community were present at different times during the meeting, up to four joined by phone, and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove reported *2009 Ambulance Repair* would be added to *Unfinished Business*.

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the September 20, 2022 agenda as amended; Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Heinbockel moved to approve the minutes from the September 6, 2022 meeting; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Lance Stricklin introduced himself and said he was running a write-in campaign for Seat G in the October 4 municipal election. He does not identify with a certain party, but considers himself a constitutionalist. He aligns with views that are best for his children, family, and community.

Travis Riesner introduced himself and said he was running for Seat G. He was born and raised in Delta. He moved his family to Oregon in 2018 and returned in 2021, but was unable to file for Council because of the one-year residency rule. He wants to preserve Delta's unincorporated status, small town feel, and liberty to live without sacrificing values to benefit others. He wants his children to be able to pursue their interests and to know what it means to be free.

Mary Leith reported she filed for Seat G also, prior to anyone else filing. She has almost 35 years with the local government. She said, "even if you want no government, you sometimes have no choice because government puts responsibilities on smaller communities." She is also glad to see people under the age of 60 running for office.

Stormie Mitchell reported she is running for Seat B. She has been employed for most of her life at Fort Greely, most notably during the base realignment as union president and with the Alaska delegation in Washington DC. Afterwards she started the Job Center for all the workers who lost their jobs. She is presently involved in local services for senior citizens, disabled, and retired veterans.

Lou Heinbockel, Seat D incumbent, reported he has lived in Delta Junction since 1969 and has served on the City Council for over 30 years. He too is grateful for interest in serving on the City Council. He would appreciate being elected but thinks his competitor, Igor Zaremba, would also serve the community well.

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE

Notice of Municipal Election – October 4, 2022

White reported the Municipal Election is held the same day of the next Council meeting. Ballots will be counted once the polls close at 8:00pm. The Canvas Board recounts the ballots the following morning at City Hall at 10:00am. Election results will be certified at the October 18 Council meeting and a Deputy Mayor will be chosen by the Council body on October 25.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**2009 City Ambulance Repair**

Greenleaf reported two ambulances that belong to Delta Medical Transport are at East Side Auto awaiting minor repairs. Seekins was paid \$12,750 in August to repair the engine in #186 (2012 City-owned ambulance). It is now experiencing other problems. It took 18 months to get the 2009 ambulance (#181) repaired. It is now having fuel system issues. Quotes range from \$5,000 to \$32,000. \$700 in tests proved it did not need a complete engine repair.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to pay H&H \$5,935.23 to repair the 2009 ambulance; Hallgren seconded.

Discussion followed regarding H&H reducing repair costs by \$3,000 because components were under warranty and using unexpected PILT funds to pay for current repairs.

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

NEW BUSINESS**Second Reading, Public Hearing and Adoption of Ordinance 2023-01, an Ordinance Establishing Extraterritorial Jurisdiction**

Motion: Heinbockel moved to open the public hearing portion of Ordinance 2023-01; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

Al Edgren said establishing extraterritorial jurisdiction is long overdue since the cemetery and refuse facility are already established outside the City limits. He asked if the ordinance would give the City ability to tax the entire community to support areawide medical services, even though generating revenue is not mentioned in it.

Musgrove reported the City Council has no authority to tax outside the city limits, even though services are provided to the entire community. According to Title 29, soliciting input from outside the City boundaries is not required, but he did reach out to Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD) and Deltana Community Corporation (DCC). Neither cared to provide letters of support or offer any input. A Rural Deltana resident had a concern prior to November 2020 (when Musgrove resigned from the City Council) that the City and Golden Valley Electric (GVEA) were going to collect aerial photos and not share the data with the public.

Discussion followed regarding the Department of Labor notifying Delta Medical Transport that their employee wages were inadequate, no plans of a sustainable income to pay for areawide ambulance service once the American Rescue Plan Act funds run out, and the local government trying to serve the entire community in which three-quarters of the population live outside of the City.

Mary Leith questioned not listing all services in the ordinance that the City provides, i.e. the translator located on Donnelly Dome and the Delta Community Library.

Heinbockel said the City also owns the old landfill on Tanana Loop Extension.

Hallgren said the genesis of the ordinance is not borough formation or to resolve ambulance service issues.

Ambulance or landfill operations could be run by private businesses, i.e. private septic haulers.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to close the public hearing of Ordinance 2023-01; Levinson seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

Motion: Heinbockel moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-01, Establishing Extraterritorial Jurisdiction; Levinson seconded.

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

Renew Shared Resources Between Fire Departments

Musgrove reported he is still researching a mutual arrangement between fire departments, Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department (DJVFD) and Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD), to revise/update automatic and mutual aid agreements and to schedule joint training of shared resources.

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK# 222211 - \$10,989.86 to Aetna for September group health insurance

CK# 222212 - \$5,884.72 to Airport Equipment Rentals to rent loader to expand tie-down area and to purchase new blades for the grader

CK# 222213 - \$1,815.41 to ACS for September phone and Internet

CK# 222214 - \$2,819.48 to Delta Building Supply for parts/supplies for EPA system, facility repairs/maintenance, Fire Department supplies

CK# 222215 - \$1,500.00 to Five Loaves Pantry for FY23 donation match

CK# 222216 - \$4,702.84 to Follet Content Solutions for annual renewal of Destiny Program (\$1,368.95) and books (\$3,333.89)

CK# 222217 - \$4,743.73 to GVEA for August electricity

Motion: Levinson moved to approve checks 222211 through 222217; Prestegard seconded.

Discussion followed regarding Five Loaves Pantry meeting the City match (CK# 222215) and money budgeted in airport *Contracted Services* to pay for tie-down expansion (222212).

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

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported he is drafting provisions for the *Employee Handbook* about employee's stepping in to cover a supervisor's absence. It was apparent recently when the Library Director was gone and when an employee covered the Landfill Equipment Operator's position.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported:

- The Public Works crew improved the tie-down area by adding three new spots. They also finished developing roads in the Airport II Subdivision.

- The ski strip and airport ditches were mowed.

- Ten anchors for tie-downs (\$20/each) will be installed before snow flies.

Library – JW Musgrove reported:

- Library staff participated in a joint event with Fort Wainwright Library staff on September 17 at Fort Greely's Community Activity Center to encourage more people to use the library and sign up for library cards.

- The Delta Library Board is seeking new members.

- The Delta Library Board raised over \$1,000 at the fundraiser at the Community Center on August 26+27.

- The Fall schedule is in full swing at the library. Over 40 patrons attended today's children activities. Over 5,000 have attended library events in the past year.

Tiki Levinson reported the library received a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) grant from the federal government to purchase material for take-home kits and for students to participate in after-school activities at the library.

Health & Safety – no report

Schools – Ken Greenleaf reported:

- Delta Elementary School (DES) was one of two schools in Alaska to receive the National Blue Ribbon Award.

- The DES Book Fair will be held October 3/6.

- Delta Junior High hosted a cross-country meet last weekend, using Delta Junction Trails Association trails.

- The Delta High School's vocational-technical program used a grant to design and weld a boat that would be sold to raise money for future classes. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at the end of the school year.

Emergency Services – Ken Greenleaf reported Fort Greely's Emergency Services and DJVFD will host classroom presentations and walk students through a smoke house during Fire Prevention Week at DES on October 3+4.

Emergency Preparedness – Mike Prestegard encouraged residents to get their wood supply for the winter, clean their chimneys, and prepare a 72-hour travel kit for vehicles.

Park & Recreation – Mike Prestegard reported he continues to solicit ideas for youth activities in the community.

Public Works / Landfill – Lou Heinbockel reported removing gravel from intersections is needed, but not critical.

Cemetery – Pat White reported a burial is scheduled for September 24. There are 84 available plots left.

At Large – Pete Hallgren reported Fred Sheen was elected to the GVEA Board, District 6 and Hallgren was appointed to the GVEA Member Advisory Committee, replacing former Council member, Audrey Brown.

City Administrator – Ken Greenleaf reported:

- The Visitor Center was winterized on September 19.

- The temporary summer hire has heavy equipment experience and is filling in for the Landfill Equipment Operator who is on medical leave.

- Henry Muth (Public Works) and Tenali Hicks (Maintenance) are moving cover material for the landfill.

- The Public Works crew will likely have to fabricate parts for the 150 loader. They are also trying to locate parts for the Case backhoe.

- Television reception failed at the Donnelly Dome translator tower when one station installed new equipment and caused all four of the television and radio stations to overheat. Dave Castor from KTVF will visit

the Donnelly tower on September 21. The City owns the structure, leases the land from the Bureau of Land Management, and pays approximately \$800/month in electricity, but the service providers own the equipment. Discussion followed regarding the need for larger equipment to receive signals from Ester Dome, using fans to resolve issues with overheating, and preventing freeze-up during the winter.

Lance Stricklin said plans are to bury portions of the power line near the military training site.

- The first public forum is scheduled at City Hall for 6:00pm, September 28 to discuss emergency medical services. The community will be asked 1) what level of emergency medical service (ambulance response) they want and expect and 2) how they intend to pay for it.

City Clerk – Pat White reported:

- For the record, the indoor ice rink at the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena was paved with asphalt on August 24, 2022. The grand opening of the Ice Arena was on February 15, 1993 according to Ron Liewer’s handwriting on the Fairbanks Daily News-miner article, dated February 16, 1993. The article was researched through an Inter-library loan with the Rasmuson Library at the University of Alaska. It read, “The Huskies of Delta Junction clicked their skates and moved inside last week, much to the relief of their fans and opposing teams. For years, the Huskies played their home games outside, where the almost-constant wind and Tanana River silt made for miserable skating.”

Discussion followed regarding when the ice arena officially opened (1990 or 1993), sound systems stolen twice, and the Fairbanks Fire Marshal locking the doors of the metal building because it was not fireproofed.

- An inspector reviewed City Hall’s passport processing procedures on September 16. [The last inspection was conducted on July 25, 2018, prior to COVID.]

Finance – no report

Additional Reports – Mike Prestegard encouraged people to vote in upcoming elections: School Board and City Council on October 4 and the General Election on November 28.

Alan Levinson asked about exterior maintenance (fascia boards) at the Visitor Center and replacing shingles on the log cabin and outbuildings.

Discussion followed regarding whether to remove the outbuildings, the Delta Farm Bureau turning off the heat during the winter, and past history about replacing an old septic system that has yet to be done.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 7:08pm

JW Musgrove, Mayor

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: October 4, 2022