

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 4, 2022 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor JW Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

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

Council members excused: Erin CATTERSON, Peter HALLGREN

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

Public present: Eleven members from the community and one guest speaker were physically present at the beginning of the meeting. Three residents and one from Senator Shower's office attended by phone. The meeting was not broadcast over KDHS 95.5 radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Levinson moved to approve the October 4, 2022 agenda; Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

White reported two corrections on page two (refuge to refuse and Rural Deltana to Rural Deltana resident).

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

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

LTC Joey Orr reported he has worked with the Department of Defense for the past 16 months to reopen the Fort Greely installation and share use of the Community Activity Center (CAC). The CAC has an eight-lane bowling alley, movie theatre, Fahrenheit Bar & Grille, and activities for children. A 9,000-square foot expansion of the indoor playground will be finished in two years. Mayor Musgrove endorsed and signed the plan on September 20, 2022. Orr said he would give an update in ten months if the plan is not already in place. It will serve as a test pilot to open other installation amenities.

Al Edgren thanked the Council for hosting the public forum (September 28 at the Community Center). He asked if a smaller working group could be established to work through ideas that were presented at the meeting and he offered to participate to represent the community that lives outside of the city limits. He suggested both the City and Deltana Community Corporation recommend five names each.

Levinson said it was clear that people at the public forum wanted to keep the current level of ambulance services. The question was how to pay for it. The working group could continue to gather input, which could be useful when drafting the new ambulance contract's Request for Proposal.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Blake Phillips, Director of Alaska Permanent Capital Management (APCM), referred to two recommendations for the City's Permanent Fund for FY23 under *New Business, Resolution 2023-01*, Model 4 or Model 5. He also referenced *Investment Review for the period ending August 31, 2022*, showing the City's Permanent Fund (\$1,602,866) in September 2019 when APCM began managing it and its current market value, \$1,787,275. Discussion followed regarding inflation rates expected to increase, current global issues, APCM adjusting rates for FY23, and deciding on which recommendation to accept without "kicking the can down the road."

Phillips said APCM focuses on meeting client goals with the least amount of risk. The City could lower risk and receive the same amount of return (Model 4) or maximize a healthier return with little increased risk (Model 5). See continued discussion under *New Business - Resolution 2023-01* (page two).

CORRESPONDENCE**2022 Municipal Election - Sample Ballot**

White reported she delivered an extra 50 ballots in case there were more poll voters. Today's election ends at 8:00pm and the turnout as of 5:00pm was 16%. [Clerk note: 250 ballots were printed, but only 187 were used.]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS**Resolution 2023-01, A Resolution of the Council for the City of Delta Junction, Alaska, Pertaining to the Authorized Investments of, the Investment Allocations of, and Establishing Appropriate Benchmarks to Measure Performance of the City's Permanent Fund for Fiscal Year 2023**

See previous discussion under *Request to Speak* (page one).

Heinbockel reported he was part of creating the Permanent Fund, being cautious to not lose the people's money. Instead "we have managed to lose purchasing power." He was quoted in 2015 as saying, "the City's purchasing power decreases every year, so why not spend it all while it still has some value." Heinbockel said he would like to choose Model 5, which is less conservative, but he would prefer making the decision with a full Council.

Levinson said Alaska Permanent Capital Management was hired to manage the City's Permanent Fund and they recommended two options. He asked to not "kick it down the road."

Motion: Levinson moved to adopt Resolution 2023-01, Model 5 to invest the City's Permanent Fund for FY23; Dove seconded.

Heinbockel agreed with making a choice instead of putting the burden on three new Council members.

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

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Grant

Tiki Levinson distributed handouts and said libraries in Alaska were invited to apply for two grants through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Delta Community Library received both grants, one for \$6,000 and the other, \$40,000. Only a few libraries received the larger grant. Levinson listed how money was spent: seven new public-use computers, three larger computer monitors for the circulation area, ten laptops for in-house use, three new library carts, security cameras, Wi-Fi signal booster, backup generator, etc. Levinson shared a fossil and dinosaur-themed kit that teaches engineering, mathematics, or logical thinking skills; a game about counting, memory, and other thinking processes; a challenge kit that presents a scenario and a bag of items to solve it; and the popular Book Bag Buddies. Each child shares their experience with the stuffed animal by writing in a journal. Some animals are returned for a spa treatment. One child informed library staff that his stuffed animal did not want to return to the library. It was at home, under his bed.

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK #222231 to Aetna - \$11,195.58 for October group health insurance

CK #222236 to Alcan Auto & Truck (NAPA) - \$1,481.83 for oil for landfill (\$1,215.51) and equipment supplies for landfill, Public Works, and Fire Department (\$266.32)

CK #222237 to Change Creative - \$1,360.00 for contract work at library (ARPA grant)

CK #222238 to DEMCO - \$1,124.76 for library supplies

CK #222239 to Follet Content Solutions - \$1,535.83 for library books and DVDs

CK #222240 to Tiki Levinson - \$4,412.37 for reimbursement of computers and supplies at library (ARPA grant)

CK #222241 to Vitus Energy - \$1,628.83 for landfill equipment fuel

CK #222242 to Wells Fargo CC - \$10,821.41 for miscellaneous credit card charges (\$366.20 cash back, \$2,166.61 for library books and DVDs, \$5,181.90 for library supplies, \$970.00 for new refrigerator at Community Center, \$517.62 for electricity at Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena, \$689.77 for administration supplies, \$88.55 for postage, \$982.01 for refrigerant removal system, \$591.15 for snow gate attachment)

CK #222243 to Delta Medical Transport - \$138,000.00 for FY23 ambulance contract, payment 2 or 4

CK #222244 to Numbers Count, LLC - \$2,505.00 for accounting service (9-19-22 / 9-30-22)

Motion: Levinson moved to approve checks 222231 and 222236 through 222244; Prestegard seconded.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported a public meeting was held at the Community Center on September 28 to solicit input on how to afford the ambulance service.

Heinbockel suggested the State of Alaska initiate a lottery for emergency services. It would be a way for people to contribute on a voluntary basis, not mandatory.

Airport – Alan Levinson reported:

- There is less traffic at the airport, which is typical for this time of the year, yet the tie-down area remains full. Volunteers installed a dozen duckbill anchors for four more tie-downs.
- Equipment was rented to open new spaces for tie-downs and Airport II Subdivision roads.

Library – Emily Dove reported:

- The library will host the Alaska Reads Program with Paul Greci on October 8. He will share how he became a writer and he will do readings from his four young adult books. Everyone is welcome.
- Map making, bears, and hunting were part of today’s Story Hour. Two more groups plan to go on a bear hunt tomorrow.
- A large amount of books and movies that were donated to the library’s sale table are available to purchase.

Health & Safety – Emily Dove reported:

- Flu vaccines are available at the Delta Public Health Center (PHC). They are currently out of high dose flu shots for residents 65 and older and COVID home test kits.
- People are asked to test at least five days after being exposed to COVID and to isolate and get tested if symptoms develop. Isolate until test results are known.
- COVID boosters are available at the Delta PHC. The updated bivalent boosters target the most recent Omicron subvariants. Visit the Alaska Department of Health Covid-19 or CDC websites for more information.

Schools – no report

Emergency Services – no report

Emergency Preparedness – Mike Prestegard reiterated his message to gather wood, prepare travel kits for vehicles, and carry cold weather gear.

Park & Recreation – Mike Prestegard referred to *Request to Speak* (page one) and expressed appreciation for LTC Joey Orr’s efforts to offer recreation opportunities for the local youth.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel reported gravel roads are in good condition “as we head into winter.”

Landfill – Lou Heinbockel reported the landfill is very busy. He expressed concern about the space that tires take up and that the reuse bin is also very full.

Discussion followed regarding landfill fees not increased since 2014 and concerns about projected fuel prices that could cause people to dump trash in backroads, riverbeds, and gravel pits.

See additional landfill discussion under *City Administrator Report*.

Cemetery – Pat White reported an Anchorage funeral home oversaw a cremation burial on Sunday, October 1. Two new memorial plaques are in the final stages of being processed.

Heinbockel asked to initiate plans to expand the cemetery.

Greenleaf reported the first phase would be to remove the trees in the upcoming year and resurface it once it’s dried out. It will be a two-year project, depending on funding.

At Large – no report

City Administrator – Ken Greenleaf reported:

- Kits to process stockpiled refrigerants at the landfill are here, but the tanks for the coolants are not.
- The Department of Environmental Conservation accepted the City’s deferred plan to install the gas monitor thermo sensors. Neil Lehner is expected to look at the required core depth this month. Greenleaf said it is possible the new program could cost \$125,000 or \$150,000 as opposed to the initial \$250,000 estimate.
 - Donovan Whittemore, a late summer hire, is temporarily filling the Landfill Equipment Operator’s role while he is out on medical leave.
 - The landfill is filling at an alarmingly fast rate. Accessing the second pit will be part of discussion when Neil Lehner visits. The approved extension (building the pit in layers) will hopefully last through the winter.
 - Every City-owned equipment with a bucket or fork attachment has broken at some point this year. The Public Works crew has fabricated parts that are no longer available.
 - Pogo’s annual contribution of \$200,000 arrived. Greenleaf said he was grateful and wanted to publicly thank them.
 - A former librarian from Fort Wainwright was hired to research infrastructure grants and those that would support the ambulance service.

- He signed a Restricted Use Authorization, issued by the Division of Mining, Land, & Water, on October 4, 2022 with the mayor's verbal endorsement. Denali Fenceworks will begin to install the fence, funded by the Department of Environmental Conservation, around the Brownfield reclamation project (historical dump site near the River Walk Park Trail).

City Clerk – no report

Finance – no report

Additional Reports – Alan Levinson questioned why the City Council does not set goals for a year with some type of evaluation of those goals. He suggested assessing the goals once or twice a year, preferably in November after new Council members take office.

Musgrove said goals involve financing and they are discussed during every budget cycle (May/July).

Discussion followed regarding getting guidelines from Alaska Municipal League or the local school district.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Tiki Levinson reported representatives from the Fairbanks League of Women Voters will be at the library on October 13 to explain Rank Choice Voting. [Clerk note: Date changed to October 19.]

Igor Zaremba, candidate running against incumbent Lou Heinbockel, expressed appreciation for Heinbockel's dedication to the community. He asked Heinbockel if he could contact him with questions, if he wins the seat. Discussion followed regarding election smear tactics posted on social media.

Dave Neuburger, Rural Delta Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD) firefighter, reported the Fort Greely Fire Department, RDVFD, and the City's Fire Department played a big part in the Delta Elementary School's Fire Safety Week. Students toured fire engines and participated in classroom discussions with firefighters.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:08pm

JW Musgrove, Mayor

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: October 18, 2022