

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
January 17, 2023 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor JW Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Council members present: Mayor JW MUSGROVE, Deputy Mayor Emily DOVE, Mike PRESTEGARD, Igor ZAREMBA, Pamela RAWSON, Travis RIESNER, Pete HALLGREN

City employees present: City Administrator Ken Greenleaf, Administrative Assistant Flower Cole, Library Director Tiki Levinson, City Clerk Pat White

City staff present via zoom: Contract Finance Stephanie Groppe

Public present: Eight members from the community were present at the beginning of the meeting, including three on Zoom. The meeting was broadcast over Delta-Greely High School radio, KDHS, 95.5 FM.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Musgrove reported *Repair of L150 Landfill Loader* would be added to *New Business*.

Motion: Hallgren moved to approve the January 17, 2023 agenda as amended; Dove seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Motion: Dove moved to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2023 meeting; Riesner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Musgrove read a report, dated January 17, 2023, from Hats of Wisdom CEO Josie Barry. Summarized, it stated:

- Caring Hearts currently has twelve volunteers. Some completed background checks. Three finished online training for caregivers. All volunteers will train to obtain CPR/First Aid certification.
- Four clients have received meals-on-wheels since January. At least two more will be added in February. Interested residents are asked to call or text Hats of Wisdom (803-7022) for initial in-home assessment.
- Darlene Supplee, Executive Director of Fairbanks Senior Center, donated a \$500 gift card to help with food and \$2,000 for transportation expenses. Area residents and churches donated \$500 in cash and various other items. Hats of Wisdom is researching grants for funding.
- North Star Council on Aging will sign the senior van over to Caring Hearts. It will not be sold or used for anything unrelated to the program. A schedule will be established and posted on the Delta News Web.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Delta Junction Trails Association - Update on River Walk Park

Judy Hicks reported the Delta River Walk Park ranked fourth in the 2015 Delta Junction Trails Association's trail plans. The Brownfields cleanup of public land (contaminated soil in the old shooting range and dump site) started in 2016 by Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Brownfields Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A fence was installed last fall to wall off the dump area.

Mindy Eggleston reported River Walk Park was completed in August 2021. DJTA applied for a Recreational Trails Program grant for River Walk Park Trails Phase II in October 2022. The new grant will connect trail routes within the park footprints, highlighting the Delta River and the Alaska Range. Upon completion, DJTA can move forward with signage, an outhouse, and amenities. In October, DJTA was awarded a \$7,135 grant from Alaska Community Foundation for signage. Metal frames arrived today.

Carol Austin reported volunteers donated 25 hours toward trail work in September and October. The kiosk was installed in October along with the entrance gate, which was built and secured with concrete by Ryan Gilbertson. Signage will be posted on the 8x8 poles behind the gate.

Eggleston said the City holds the easement for the Delta River Walk Park.

Discussion followed regarding whether River Walk South, a project in the next 10-15 years, could be built on the dike or along the Delta River.

See additional comment under *At Large Report* (page three).

CORRESPONDENCE - none**UNFINISHED BUSINESS****Katmai Solutions**

Greenleaf reported the Council voted to hire Katmai Solutions on January 3, 2023 to build a supplemental emergency medical program for ambulance services and to develop a relevant Fire Department. The contract was revised by City Attorney Mike McLaughlin. CEO Steve Gallagher of Cross Road Medical Center in Glennallen will file to incorporate Rural Alaska EMS, another 501(c)3, with the State of Alaska on January 18. The EMS program would provide ambulance services to Delta, Tok, and Glennallen. The City would contract with Cross Road or this new rural company and, at a minimum, would contribute to cost sharing. Everyone would receive the same level of care. If approved, the Cross Road option (#1) would start by July 1. A feasibility study would be done on Option #2 (Katmai) for the first couple of months. Both options are potential solutions to providing ambulance services to the area.

NEW BUSINESS**Repair L150 Landfill Loader**

Greenleaf reported Construction Machinery (CMI) issued a quote of \$20,655.60 on January 16 to replace the hydraulic pump in the small landfill loader. The estimate is two-thirds of the loader's value. Discussion followed regarding the expense of hauling equipment to/from Fairbanks (\$1,700 one way), searching for used equipment to purchase, \$304,000 in the landfill equipment fund, and not yet committing to repairs.

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK #22433 to Airport Equipment Rentals - \$2,849.70 to rent loader for work on Mil-Tan

CK #22434 to State of Alaska, DEC - \$4,000.00 for annual landfill fee

CK #22435 to Delta Building Supply - \$2,390.81 for maintenance of facilities

CK #22436 to Delta Transport Services - \$11,685.38 for heating fuel and equipment fuel

CK #22437 to Numbers Count, LLC - \$1,260.00 for accounting services (12-26-22 / 01-06-23)

CK #22438 to Vitus Energy, LLC - \$5,985.48 for heating fuel at landfill on 11-17-22

CK #22439 to Wells Fargo - \$8,592.75 for credit card charges (library books and DVDs, hotel accommodations during the AML conference in Anchorage, toilet replacements for the Community Center and Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena)

Greenleaf referenced CK#22436 and reported the City has an on-call agreement with Delta Industrial (DIS). The Public Works crew will be responsible to dip tanks and call DIS when necessary. DIS has keys to City facilities.

Motion: Prestegard moved to approve checks 22433 through 22439 as presented; Riesner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call (Hallgren, Zaremba, Riesner, Dove, Prestegard, Rawson, Musgrove).

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove reported Tenali Hicks was moved from the facilities maintenance position to the landfill equipment operator.

Library – Emily Dove reported:

- A full house of the youngest library patrons learned about trucks and other vehicles this morning.
- Library staff trained on the new operating software, Atrium (program) by Book Systems (company).

Transitioning data and learning the new software will be ongoing. Feedback from library users has been overwhelmingly positive. Some long-lost resources were returned because of automatic alerts on overdue material.

- Diane Ruse was chosen as the new Library Board President on January 10th. Sandy Dighton and Rose Winters filled seats vacated by Steve McCombs and Dawn Frazier.

Discussion followed regarding moving library furniture and desktop computers to other City facilities and no more financial support of the library from Fort Greely (average \$13,500+ each year between FY09 and FY20).

Health & Safety – Emily Dove reported the Public Health Center is soliciting interest in hosting a Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, Children (WIC) due to a language barrier with Ukraine refugees.

Schools – no report

Emergency Services – Pamela Rawson reported the Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department responded to four calls in December: one small structure fire, one vehicle accident, and two carbon monoxide alarms. Delta Medical Transport responded to 18 calls in December.

Emergency Preparedness – Travis Riesner questioned test driving the backup generator at City Hall.

Prestegard explained plans to set up emergency power for City Hall, the Library, and the Community Center.

Park & Recreation – Igor Zaremba reported the rink is busy. Snowdrifts were removed from the fire exits on the westside of the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena. The outdoor rink was plowed and cleared of snow. Hardpack was removed from the Skate Shack entrances. There are a few moose tracks, but otherwise the park is quiet.

Landfill – see *City Administrator Report*

Airport – Mike Prestegard reported the runway is available, but there is little activity at the airport.

Musgrove reported an airplane is in the tie-down area until space is available at the hangar. Current drifts between the runway and Rapids Street make the taxiway impassable.

Public Works – see *City Administrator Report*

At Large – Pete Hallgren referenced DJTA discussion (page one) and reported the property for the Delta River Walk Park was put back into public use because of the Brownfields cleanup. Years ago, the Farmer’s Market property turned into a useful area after DEC cleaned up the former tank farm that belonged to the military. [Clerk note: On August 16, 2022 City Administrator Ken Greenleaf reported that the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) gave instructions to survey the Sullivan property in 2000. He filed another extension to lease the property, so the Sullivan Roadhouse Association can use the historic building while the City pursues ownership. The conveyance process will begin once the survey is complete and it will cost nothing to purchase.]

City Administrator – Ken Greenleaf reported:

- A loader was rented from Airport Rentals to manage drifting issues on Mil-Tan Road.
- Only one employee of three that were certified is available to remove Freon to tag appliances. Forty refrigerators and freezers are left of the 150 that were stockpiled at the landfill. Fairbanks North Star Borough charges \$150 to drop off an appliance and \$120 for one that is already tagged. He asked the Council to consider increasing the \$25 fee to dispose of appliances at the landfill.
- The Public Works crew replaced two toilets at the ice arena and two at the Community Center.
- The City received a (\$1,500,000) grant to build the Public Works building (in 2012). The best use of the \$73,854 remaining funds is to construct a heated addition onto the Public Works building to keep sand dry. Greenleaf reported he will work with Delta Surveys and M2C1 to identify a suitable location.

Cemetery – no report

City Clerk – no report

Finance – Stephanie Erickson referenced a Budget versus Actual Budget Summary for FY23 (95% spent). Discussion followed regarding overspending the Ice Arena’s budget because of the asphalt project (\$88,592 of \$84,195 budgeted) plus \$33,911 in unspent savings, 911 Dispatch for the entire community paid in the first two quarters (\$46,669 of \$51,390), 91% of Addressing/Mapping spent (\$8,810 of \$9,700), and mapping software needing more memory to transfer data onto a new computer.

Groppel advised area residents list Delta Junction as their service address when purchasing a cell phone, otherwise the E911 revenue (\$2.00 per phone per month) gets credited elsewhere. \$12,204 has been received since July.

Additional Reports – Emily Dove reported the Legislative Information Office (LIO) in the Columbo Building is open 8:00am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 6:29pm

JW Musgrove, Mayor

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: February 7, 2023