

**City Council Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 18, 2023 ~ 5:00PM**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**



**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER**

Mayor JW Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

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

**Council member excused:** Pamela RAWSON

**City employees present:** Library Director Tiki Levinson, Finance Stephanie Groppel, City Clerk Pat White

**City employee present via Zoom:** Administrative Assistant Flower Cole

**Public present:** Six members from the community were present at the beginning of the meeting, including two on Zoom, plus nine hockey players, friends, and families. The meeting was not broadcast over the radio.

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Musgrove requested *Healthy & Equitable Communities Grant Funding* be added to *Correspondence*.

**Motion:** Hallgren moved to approve the April 18, 2023 agenda as amended; Riesner seconded.

**Motion passed** on a roll call with six in attendance.

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**Motion:** Riesner moved to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2023 meeting; Dove seconded.

**Motion passed** on a roll call with six in attendance.

**COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Guy Lene, Coach of the Delta Huskies 10U Girls, introduced himself, Coach Louie Creviston, and the 2023 Champions of the Ponytail Invitational Tournament in Anchorage last weekend. Last year was the first time Delta had an all-girls team to compete in the Ponytail Tournament and they took the championship. This year, they won all their games and retained the title of 10U Ponytail Invitational Champions. Lene presented Mayor Musgrove with a gold medal and thanked the Council for supporting hockey programs in Delta.

Josie Barry, Caring Hearts CEO, reported Caring Hearts continues to make progress, one senior at a time and:

- They have 17 volunteer caregivers. Four completed online training and others will participate in Basic Life Support (BLS) and CPR courses on May 6. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Hats of Wisdom (907-803-7022) or submit an application online (front-desk@hatsofwisdom.com).
- As of March, eight home assessments were done. Nine out of 14 clients receive seven meals delivered to them every Tuesday. Caring Hearts is in desperate need of volunteers to prepare meals.
- As of the end of March, Caring Hearts received \$11,769 in donations plus assorted items. Approximately \$5,200 was spent on food containers, groceries, electronic health records, Care Academy, and vehicle insurance.
- Three more freezers were added to the two that Darlene Supplee, Fairbanks Senior Center, donated.
- Caring Hearts is planning a fundraiser (spaghetti dinner, live music, dance) at the Community Center on May 13. The goal is to acquire space by adding onto Hats of Wisdom.
- The van title officially transferred to Hats of Wisdom/Caring Hearts. The van is insured by Progressive. Mike Kingston oversees meal deliveries every Tuesday and client transportation to appointments. Tressie Case assists with scheduling and transportation. Backup drivers are needed.

Elena Powers, Caring Hearts Client Care Coordinator, said seven of the eight households she recently assessed were people who live alone. They are elderly (70s and 80s) with diminished abilities to care for themselves. Some are terminally ill. Some wish to live independently even though they require 24-hour care. Some are new to Delta. Some have lived here for 30, 40, 50 years. She assesses clients and presents their needs to volunteer caregivers. The only personal contact some have is when meals are delivered once a week. Powers stressed the need for more volunteers. More clients are waiting for services but there are not enough volunteers to help.

Discussion followed regarding four local cooks who prepare food and the sustainability of Caring Hearts.

Sherman Stebbins reported he has been a member of the greater community for 20 years and he served on the City Council between 2009 and 2015. He attended a session at an Alaska Municipal League (AML) conference with State Tax Assessor Steve Van Sant, who relayed a story about going to the Club Paris with friends for steak and

martinis, and that “there’s always one person who doesn’t want to pay their fair share.” Stebbins said he pointed out that big government assumes everyone wants steak and martinis, but some communities are satisfied with macaroni and cheese and light beer. Stebbins questioned the recent purchase of a pickup truck (\$49,995 on April 4, 2023) “because the Fire Department has existed for decades without one.” He also questioned the City’s membership with AML, who are lobbying for borough formation.

Discussion followed regarding member benefits and Delta paying \$1,800 in membership dues.

Hallgren said Delta has done exceptionally well without being in a borough.

**REQUEST TO SPEAK** - none

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Healthy & Equitable Communities Grant Funding**

Musgrove reported he received an email about a funding opportunity through the Division of Public Health. The \$25,000 grant could benefit organizations like Caring Hearts or Five Loaves Pantry.

Discussion followed regarding Hallgren, Riesner, and Dove volunteering to define what organization(s) could utilize the funding and the deadline to submit grant applications (5:00pm, May 2).

Hallgren said he supported using the money for services, but not wages.

Motion: Hallgren moved to authorize Mayor Musgrove to work with Council and staff to apply for the Healthy & Equitable Communities grant; Dove seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Riesner, Hallgren, Dove, Prestegard, Zaremba, Musgrove).

### **Request for Water Fountain at Library**

Levinson reported water fountains at the library have not been used since COVID. They would like to replace one that has bottle-filling capability. Ferguson Plumbing in Fairbanks quoted \$1,416.09. Fountain water is not filtered and not refrigerated. The FY23 library budget will cover the cost of the water fountain and its installation.

Hallgren reported water is tested on a quarterly basis.

Motion: Prestegard moved to replace a water fountain at the library, not to exceed \$2,500.00; Hallgren seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Dove, Prestegard, Zaremba, Riesner, Hallgren, Musgrove).

### **Partners for Progress – Request to use 1997 Kenworth Dump Truck**

Musgrove reported Gary Hall, Academy Administrator for Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc., requested use of the City’s 1997 Kenworth T-800 end dump during the last two weeks of their 17th annual Intro to Heavy Equipment Operator and Mechanic Academy. Hall asked that the truck be delivered to the Delta Career Advancement Center on Monday, June 12 and picked up at the fairgrounds on Friday, June 23. Partners for Progress services the truck and they are responsible for damages.

Motion: Zaremba moved to authorize use of the 1997 dump truck as discussed; Riesner seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Prestegard, Riesner, Hallgren, Zaremba, Dove, Musgrove).

### **Delta Library Association – Request for Gift Certificates**

Musgrove reported the annual library fundraiser will be on May 20, 11:00am-4:00pm. The Library Board is seeking cash donations or donated items, i.e., gift certificates or baskets.

Motion: Dove moved to donate two \$100.00 gift certificates for landfill services; Riesner seconded.

Discussion followed regarding the gift certificates being exclusive for landfill services, redeemed by June 30, 2024, but not practical for customers who pay commercial haulers to pick up trash.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Zaremba, Dove, Prestegard, Hallgren, Riesner, Musgrove).

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Cemetery Expansion**

Musgrove reported approximately ten acres has been utilized at Rest Haven Cemetery. Expanding along Tanana Loop Extension would yield 200 more grave sites. The plan is to survey in May after the snow melts and develop a plan to clear the land. Farm it out? Chip smaller wood products for use in the school district’s biomass boiler?

(In 1988/1989, the Council gave the Pioneers two acres. There are 72 out of 128 plots still available to their membership. There are 81 out of 488 plots available in the rest of the existing cemetery. Between 2012 and 2022, there has been an average of nine burials per year plus six per year that have been purchased and reserved.)

**Fire Department Command Vehicle Equipment Install**

Musgrove reported the City's command vehicle will require installation of basic light/siren/radio systems, which will cost approximately \$6,000. There are no quotes yet. The City brush truck will require \$3,800 for six new tires. Discussion followed regarding using income from contracting the brush truck to Forestry last year (\$32,500).

**NEW BUSINESS****Community Cleanup**

White reported:

- The Delta Farm Bureau and Big Delta Brewing Company hosted Community Cleanup last year and agreed to do it again this year, on May 20. However, that date conflicts with the library's fundraiser.
- The City would purchase yellow bags. The Delta Farm Bureau and Big Delta Brewing would provide a picnic for the event, arrange delivery of dumpsters to the Triangle, and delivery of yellow bags to the landfill.
- She received a suggestion to offer the 50% discount at the landfill on a different day, so people would focus on cleaning up roadside ditches. It has been brought up in the past, but an alternate date was never established. Discussion followed regarding choosing a different date, but not on Memorial Day weekend and not sooner because of this year's amount of snow and cold temperatures.

Motion: Prestegard moved to hold Community Cleanup on June 3, 2023; Zaremba seconded.

Levinson suggested offering discount vouchers as incentive to participate in Community Cleanup.

Hallgren suggested cleanup be only on one day.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Riesner, Prestegard, Hallgren, Zaremba, Dove, Musgrove).

Motion: Hallgren moved to authorize a 50% discount on tipping fees for all refuse delivered to the landfill, excluding the minimum fee (\$5), refrigerant fees (\$25), and non-covered loads (\$10), extending landfill hours (9:00-5:00), and to waive tipping fees from commercial haulers on all yellow-bagged refuse delivered to the Triangle during Community Cleanup on June 3, 2023; Zaremba seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Hallgren, Zaremba, Dove, Prestegard, Riesner, Musgrove).

**Schedule Budget Work Session**

Discussion followed regarding scheduling a work session on May 3, 5:00pm and introducing the budget on June 6.

**City Purchases over \$1,000**

CK #22539 to Alaska Communications - \$1,799.57 for April Internet and phones

CK #22540 to Buffalo Service Center - \$3,627.75 for March equipment fuel

CK #22541 to Giant Tire - \$3,085.00 for tire replacement at landfill

CK #22542 to GVEA - \$7,200.88 for March electricity

CK #22543 to Vitus Energy - \$11,788.82 for heating and equipment fuel

CK #22544 to Numbers Count, LLC - \$3,420.00 for accounting services (4-3-23 /4-14-23)

Motion: Riesner moved to approve checks 22539 through 22544; Prestegard seconded.

Discussion followed regarding \$1,500 for a used tire on the L220 loader plus \$1,000 for the mechanic's travel to the landfill (CK #22541) and Groppe working with ACS to clarify phone charges (CK 22539).

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Dove, Hallgren, Prestegard, Riesner, Zaremba, Musgrove).

[Clerk Note: CK#22545 (May 2, 2023 agenda) was incorrectly listed as #22544 (April 18, 2023 agenda). Check #22544 was payroll related, under \$1,000, and did not require Council approval.]

**REPORTS**

**Mayor** – no report

**Finance** – Stephanie Groppe reported:

- A third quarter budget summary was distributed on April 11. To date, 84% of expenses have been spent.
- \$93,000 in FY23 Community Assistance (previously known as Revenue Sharing) arrived yesterday.

**Library** – Emily Dove reported:

- This week's featured library service is printing. Library staff assist with printing legal documents, return labels, articles, certificates, etc. Staff provide Notary Public services Monday through Wednesday.

- Patron numbers from the past six days: 55 attended the Easter Scavenger Hunts, 16 participated in Book Club, 195 searches were made on the new library catalog, 902 items were checked out, 60 items were renewed (extended), 113 children participated in kid programs, and 871 people used the library, averaging 145/day.

- During National Library Week (April 23-29), take time to consider what this grand institution contributes to our community. Throughout the week, library staff will be asking patrons various trivia questions.

**Health & Safety** – no report

**Schools** – Travis Riesner reported the Delta Elementary School is map testing (to gauge student levels).

Zaremba reported the strongest tongue-depressor bridge withstood 1,800 pounds of force.

Dove reported the Army Band visited the Elementary School.

**Emergency Services** – no report

**Emergency Preparedness** – Travis Riesner reported:

- The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) met on April 10 and discussed communication plans with the local radio club in the event of grid failure or catastrophe.

- Arctic Man is this weekend, April 20/23. Riesner cautioned people to factor in military traffic, vehicles hauling trailers, and heightened law enforcement.

**Park & Recreation** – Igor Zaremba reported:

- The canopy at the park held up throughout the winter despite the snow load.

- Ice at the Liewer-Olmstead Arena was well maintained all year by brothers, Todd and Jerry Zachgo.

**Landfill** – no report

**Airport / Public Works** – Mike Prestegard reported the Public Works crew are removing snowpack from streets and the airport tie-down area.

**At Large** – Pete Hallgren reported:

- The upcoming Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting is scheduled at City Hall on May 10, 6:00pm.

- The mayor issued a letter to Kinross and the Department of Transportation (DOT), dated March 3, regarding concerns about the Kinross ore transportation plan. DOT did not respond, but Kinross provided a good response. He said he is eager to hear from DOT. Both letters were posted on the City website (deltajunction.us).

Musgrove said he is awaiting answers from DOT regarding bridge capability to withstand Kinross ore trucks.

- Caring Hearts requested a reduced rate to lease the Community Center for their fundraiser on May 13.

Musgrove reported Caring Hearts is affiliated with senior functions, which qualifies them for exemptions.

**Motion:** Hallgren moved to waive the rental fees associated with Caring Hearts using the Community Center on May 13, 2023; Zaremba and Dove seconded.

**Motion passed** on a roll call with six in attendance (Prestegard, Zaremba, Hallgren, Riesner, Dove, Musgrove).

**City Administrator** – JW Musgrove reported in Ken Greenleaf's absence:

- Adequate cover material has been stockpiled at the landfill, enough to get through breakup.

- There were problems with the rented equipment from Delta Industrial Services (crack in bucket) but it and replacing teeth were resolved. The cost of replacing teeth (\$1,500), a wear item, was split with DIS.

- Delta Surveys will determine the remaining lifespan of Cell 1 on April 21. They will also recommend how much more material can be dug out of Cell 2.

- Research continues to locate a suitable bucket for the 2003 L150E loader that was sold on March 10.

- Delta Surveys will survey the Sullivan Roadhouse land according to the Department of Transportation's specifications. Thereafter, ownership can be transferred from the State of Alaska to the City of Delta Junction.

- The City and Rural Deltana are discussing an agreement about responding to fires in each other's districts and the two departments sharing equipment. It is taking more time than he anticipated.

**Cemetery** – see *Unfinished Business: Cemetery Expansion* (page two)

**City Clerk** – no report

**Additional Reports** – none

CITY  
SEAL

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JW Musgrove, Mayor

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS** – none

**ADJOURNMENT** – 7:34pm

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Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: May 2, 2023