

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 16, 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,
Mike PRESTEGARD, Pete HALLGREN, Pamela RAWSON

Council members excused: Igor ZAREMBA, Travis RIESNER

City employees present: City Administrator Ken Greenleaf, Administrative Assistant Flower Cole,
Library Director Tiki Levinson, Contract Finance Officer Stephanie Groppe

Public present: Two members from the community were physically present and two attended via Zoom.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Dove moved to approve the May 16, 2023 agenda; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Motion: Hallgren moved to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2023 meeting; Dove seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Wanda Sorensen - Upgrade Visitor Center Milepost Marker

Wanda Sorensen introduced herself and explained her involvement with the Delta Farm Bureau. She and husband, Stephen, volunteered to spruce up the milepost marker this year in front of the Visitor Center.

Stephen Sorensen reported he owned a structural engineering company in Palmer in the 1980s. He and Jairo Cruz from Dry Creek inspected the milepost sign that was originally built by Larry Cox, also from Dry Creek. A new sign was constructed over the original carcass. Both will need to be dismantled to determine how the three-dimensional sign was constructed and to inspect its foundation. It could be dismantled in September, reconstructed during the winter, and installed next spring. Labor and material (\$150-\$400/square foot) would cost \$40,000.

Musgrove said it's a tough sell when competing for funds to support an ambulance service.

Discussion followed regarding involvement from Partners for Progress students, discussing it when the FY24 budget is introduced on June 6, no money allocated toward the milepost project at this time, Hallgren suggesting budgeting \$25,000 and soliciting the rest from community donations, whether local businesses would support the project, and Welcome-to-Delta signs needing upgrades also.

CORRESPONDENCE

Memorial Day Ceremony at Rest Haven Cemetery

Musgrove reported the American Legion Jack Warren Post 22 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Bison Post 22 will host the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the cemetery on May 29. A barbeque will follow at the Trophy Lodge.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Deltana Fair Association - Donation(s) for Multi-Item Raffle

Musgrove reported the City donated \$1,000 to sponsor the Deltana Fair (April 4, 2023). In the past, gift certificates for City services, i.e., addressing or landfill services, were also donated for the Fair's multi-item raffles.

Motion: Hallgren moved to issue two \$100 gift certificates to the Deltana Fair Association to be redeemed by the end of the next fiscal year (June 30, 2024); Prestegard seconded.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Allocate Projected FY23 Surplus

Musgrove asked to allocate \$150,000 in projected FY23 surplus to create a sinking fund to expand the landfill.

Greenleaf reported Cell One has 7,500 cubic yards of space left. How much life is not known, but it is filling up quickly. Cell One will begin closing within four or five months. Vacating Cell 2 is limited to only three or four

months of the year, which will be challenging because of planned construction projects. This year is expected to be one of the biggest construction seasons in the past 10 or 20 years. Equipment is difficult to locate. Only one bulldozer that is compatible at the landfill is available in Anchorage, too far to transport. Operators are also scarce. To prepare Cell 2, 280,000 yards of material must be moved.

Motion: Hallgren moved to allocate \$150,000.00 from the FY23 budget surplus to a dedicated landfill expansion sinking fund; Dove seconded.

Discussion followed regarding Hallgren sharing history about the landfill operation and reconciling the FY23 budget in October.

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

Resolution 2023-02, A Resolution Renewing the Community Center Lease with North Star Council on Aging

Musgrove reported the agreement with North Star Council on Aging (NSCA) to lease office space at the Community Center was updated and reviewed by City Attorney Mike McLaughlin. Verbiage pertaining to penalties for late payment of (zero) rent and parking the senior van and using space for freezers in the garage were removed. Caring Hearts took over transporting senior citizens and delivering meals. The office at the Community Center is currently occupied by the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). Musgrove said the seniors subscribe to Internet through AT+T. When ADRC moved in, the account was renegotiated and split between the seniors, the City, and ADRC. Internet is available to people who lease the Community Center.

Motion: Hallgren moved to adopt Resolution 2023-02, renewing the Community Center lease; Dove seconded.

Discussion followed regarding drafting a new resolution for Caring Hearts to utilize space for freezers and terms of the three-year lease (expires May 16, 2026) with NSCA.

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

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK #22574 to Alaska Public Entity Insurance - \$5,000.00 for damage to rented excavator (insurance deductible)

CK #22575 to C&R Pipe and Steel - \$3,695.00 for steel tubing used to build stand for sander, stored at landfill

CK #22576 to Delta Building Supply - \$1,136.32 for repair/maintenance of City facilities

CK #22577 to GVEA - \$7,217.99 for April electricity

CK #22578 to Numbers Count - \$2,640.00 for accounting services (5-1-23 / 5-12-23)

CK #22579 to Vitus Energy - \$18,030.66 for heating fuel (1-4-23 / 4-26-23)

Motion: Prestegard moved to approve checks 22574 through 22579 as presented; Hallgren seconded.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – JW Musgrove touched on several administrative duties (landfill, cemetery, and employee paychecks).

Finance – Stephanie Groppe reported the budget would be introduced on June 6.

Library – Tiki Levinson reported:

- Staff and the Library Board have created 65 baskets so far for the fundraiser on May 20. A cornhole tournament is planned. There will be hotdogs, cookies, cake, and live music, including a violinist from Palmer.
- Wednesday's Story Hour will continue throughout the summer, 10:00 and 11:15, but Tuesday's programs, Baby Lap Time and Story Hour, will take a summer break.

Health & Safety – Emily Dove reported trained counselors will respond to calls or texts to 988, the Careline Alaska suicide prevention crisis hotline.

Schools – no report

Emergency Services – Pamela Rawson reported the Fire Department responded to four calls in April. Delta Medical Transport had 27 transports in April.

Emergency Preparedness – no report

Park & Recreation – Ken Greenleaf reported:

- The playground insurance inspector will visit the park in July. A part will be ordered to replace what was vandalized on May 10.
- Henry Muth removed brush piles with a bobcat. Topsoil and grass seed will replace sink holes.

Hallgren warned not to fill in the French drains at the park.

- The volleyball court will be upgraded. A tear in the yellow canopy will be patched. Sand and D1 will be added to the playground area. A new bench is being built. The park fence that is bent will be straightened.

Landfill – Ken Greenleaf reported the landfill in Tok and Tetlin is not big enough to support Kinross. They will present a formal request to utilize the local landfill to dispose of construction material, initially four tons per day.

Airport – Mike Prestegard reported the airport and ski strip are drying up. The taxiway needs graded.

Public Works – Mike Prestegard reported the Public Works crew appear to be busier.

At Large – Pete Hallgren reported:

- The annual Community Cleanup is Saturday, June 3.

Greenleaf reported a couple businesses donated food for a barbecue at the Triangle. Provisions were made for the Moose Lodge to deliver their yellow bags to the landfill on June 10. Delta Environmental will have three dumpsters available at the Triangle on June 3. A City employee will be available to pick up yellow bags left along roadsides.

Musgrove reported he and the City Administrator or Deputy Mayor will be available to help at the landfill.

- A public hearing about the US Army Garrison Alaska Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) is scheduled the Community Center on June 21, 5:00-7:00pm. The LEIS evaluates potential impacts on land withdrawn for military use (Yukon Training Area, Donnelly Training Area East, Donnelly Training Area West). The Army proposes to extend the withdrawal of 869,862 acres of land from public use for 25 years or more. Withdrawing lands requires congressional action. The draft is available online and at the Community Library.

- Several highly qualified scientists attended the Restoration Advisory Board meeting on May 10. They conducted testing at what used to be Fort Greely cantonment area and Allen Army Airforce Base. The cleanup started over 20 years ago, and they hope to finish within the next ten. Cleanup standards keep getting higher and new machines are invented that can find lower concentrations of contaminants.

- Area residents will attend another meeting with Fort Greely External Mission Partners on May 23.

City Administrator – Ken Greenleaf reported:

- He attended a Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting in Fairbanks today to discuss the Alaska-Richardson-Steese Highways Corridor Action Plan. The Department of Transportation (DOT) conducted the initial survey and hired Kinney Engineering to conduct more impact studies up to 20 years, including proposed usage by Kinross Manh Choh. They are studying mathematical formulas, likelihood of increased automobile accidents, age and depths of sections of the highways, numbers of bus stops, braking capabilities of Kinross trucks on various road conditions, etc. Bridges were not discussed until the last 30 minutes of the four-hour meeting, but it was disclosed that the Gerstle, Johnson, and Robertson bridges are 80 years old, over the 75-year national standard. Concerns about age, width, and height are valid. The bridges are designed with built-in indicators to warn of pending catastrophe. All three bridges will be replaced, but the analysis is not yet done, and funding is not appropriated. Greenleaf reported Kinross is investing a lot into risk mitigation. Their trucks may be outfitted with technology to receive notifications, such as a stopped school bus one mile ahead. There will be more opportunities to discuss transportation needs at the upcoming Interior Alaska Transportation Plan (IATP) meeting at City Hall on May 25, 5:30-7:00pm. The next TAC meeting is in July.

- There is a big push to change Memorandum of Agreement 29 (Ordinance 2006-06 with the US Army Alaska, dated May 16, 2006). The MOA with USARAK was drafted following fires that were potentially catastrophic. The community had trust issues about whether the Department of Defense had adequate safety precautions. MOA-29 is a very expensive policy for the Department of Defense (DOD) to maintain and risk mitigation processes are much more stringent. The Fort Wainwright Garrison has more control and will have a better response in the event it is necessary. The MOA will come back to the Council to be revised.

Hallgren recalled the MOA cost the City \$250,000 in a lawsuit with the Army in federal court. They settled, resulting in MOA-29. A fire in 1999 burned down the guard shack at the entrance of Fort Greely and spread north toward Delta Junction. The wind shifted and stopped the fire. The MOA requires a helicopter “on site,” but that is at Fort Wainwright, not Fort Greely. Missile Defense has never been part of the problem.

- Fort Greely Garrison Commander, LTC Joey Orr, leaves his command next month.
- More information will be available about Rural Alaska Emergency Medical Services by June 6. Each partnering community would pay a portion for dedicated ambulance services.

- Three boilers failed inspection on April 26. Parts will be ordered and replaced.

Cemetery – JW Musgrove reported the school district applied for a grant to purchase an industrial woodchipper, which will be useful in clearing trees to expand the cemetery. It will take roughly nine acres to develop five acres of usable land.

City Clerk – no report

Additional Reports – Pete Hallgren reported \$40,000 was budgeted to expand the cemetery.

Musgrove reported \$35,000 was appropriated to paint the Community Center, replace doors, strip floors, and upgrade the restrooms so they are compliant with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Tiki Levinson reported the winning raffle ticket for the boat that the Delta High School students built will be drawn on May 25.

ADJOURNMENT – approximately 7:05pm

JW Musgrove, Mayor

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: June 6, 2023