

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
January 16, 2024 ~ 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 Igor ZAREMBA, Mike PRESTEGARD, Pamela RAWSON, Emily DOVE, Travis RIESNER

Council attending via Zoom: Pete HALLGREN

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

City staff attending via Zoom: Contract Finance Stephanie Groppe

Public present: Thirteen attended the meeting, including five on Zoom. The meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM Radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Riesner moved to approve the January 16, 2024 agenda; Dove seconded

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Motion: Dove moved to approve the January 2, 2024 minutes as presented; Rawson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Sherman Stebbins reported:

- The City Attorney gives legal advice to protect the Council, not represent the community or “the people.” Referencing check #22951 for \$1,140 (*City Purchases over \$1,000* – page 2), Stebbins suggested the Council motion to find out what attorney fees the mayor incurred without the permission of the Council.

Hallgren said the City Attorney provides expert advice that eliminates wasting time arguing.

- He asked if the Council reviews checks before they are signed and distributed. Checks show the public where money is spent. He asked for a definite answer. Will issuing checks without Council approval continue?

Kerri Mullis quoted Alaska Statutes 29.20.500(2), “As chief administrator the manager shall supervise the enforcement of municipal law and carry out the directives of the governing body” and 29.20.500(4) “make monthly financial reports and operations as required by the governing body.” She referred to previous discussions about hydroseeding at the landfill (November 7, 2023, December 19, 2023, and January 2, 2024) and said she contacted three hydroseeding businesses in Fairbanks who could have provided the service late in the season but were not contacted. FW Scott Enterprises completed the project on September 28/29. Mullis gave a timeline of what she thought resulted in inconsistencies and inaccuracies. Referencing City Code §1.35.060, “No checks of \$1,000 or more may be issued or disbursed without the prior approval of the City Council,” she said \$46,000 is paid to Delta Medical Transport every month but have not been mentioned since the August 1, 2023 minutes.

Musgrove said monthly payments were previously approved (*Ordinance 2022-05* discussion - June 7+21, 2022).

Greenleaf encouraged Mullis to contact Stephen Hammond of M2C1, the Stormwater Pollution Protection Plan (SWPPP) inspector, about tackifying details and the structured timeline.

Tony White, Fire Chief, reported Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD) closed its doors January 11 due to an administrative issue, no insurance on either firefighters nor equipment, and a complete change in their admin staff. White is working with Josh Olson, Acting RDVFD Chief, to absorb Rural Deltana personnel and train them on Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department (DJVFD) equipment until they can respond with their own.

Hallgren said he appreciated the explanation and was proud of the unification to meet the needs of the community.

Greenleaf reported DJVFD temporarily expanded its response area to include Rural Deltana while they reorganize. It will cost approximately \$1,750 for the City to cover workers compensation insurance for Deltana firefighters.

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE**Bureau of Land Management Environmental Impact Statement**

Musgrove reported he attended the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) meeting on January 11. He recommended goldminers, hunters, fishermen, trappers, and snowmachiners familiarize themselves with the land withdrawals (<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2018002/510> or contact BLM Project Manager Racheal Jones at 907-290-0307) before the comment period ends (February 14, 2024).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**NEW BUSINESS****City Purchases over \$1,000**

CK #22946 to Airport Equipment Rentals - \$4,159.34 to rent loader (12-22-23 / 12-29-23)

CK #22947 to Bristol Engineering - \$8,846.00 for landfill permit renewal

CK #22948 to Buffalo Center Service - \$5,460.08 for December fuel

CK #22949 to Delta Building Supply - \$1,366.91 for maintenance / repairs (appliance and extension cords for circulation pump at library, locks at Ice Arena, outdoor electrical outlet at City Hall, headlamp for David Dawe, repair stop sign at Nistler/Mil-Tan, replace light ballasts at library, tools for Public Works, etc.)

CK #22950 to GVEA - \$8,310.79 for electricity (11-22-23 / 12-22-23)

CK #22951 to Guess & Rudd - \$1,140.00 for legal services

CK #22952 to Hale & Associates - \$1,386.49 to add fire truck to insurance policy

CK #22953 to Numbers Count LLC - \$4,060.00 for accounting services (1-1-24 / 1-11-24)

CK #22954 to State of Alaska, Administrative Services - \$4,000.00 for landfill permit

CK #22955 to Vitus Energy LLC - \$2,664.74 for heating fuel

Motion: Dove moved to approve checks #22946 through 22955; Zaremba seconded.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – no report

Finance – Stephanie Groppe reported quarterly budgets, *FY24 Budget v. Actual*, were distributed. There is \$448,343 remaining in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant and \$73,854 in the Public Works grant. [Note: ARPA funding may be used toward continuing ambulance services and the rest of the Public Works grant will be used to purchase a jib crane.]

Library – Emily Dove reported:

- The new library software program tracks the value of items checked out to patrons. Items checked out in 2023 were valued at just under \$500,000. This does not include all other services the library offers.
- The Fort Greely Child Development Center brought a lively group of 15 children to the library for stories, crafts, and popcorn before Christmas. A generous patron donated holiday books and gifts. And Mrs. Claus visited.
- The Levinsons set up a Story Walk, a hike/ski event at the River Walk Park, that 100+ people participated in on New Year' Day.
- Paper Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) applications are available at the library.
- Tiki Levinson submitted a grant application to the American Library Association to develop a more robust young adult program.
- Another gnome-making event is planned for Valentine's Day. It is another opportunity to socialize during the cold winter.

Health & Safety – Emily Dove reported:

- January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Modern day slavery affects 27.6 million people globally. Those most susceptible are affected by abuse, violence, poverty, unstable living situations, social disconnect, and discrimination. Alaskans are most often recruited into human trafficking between ages 14 and 16. Contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) for help, text 2333733 (BEFREE), or call 911.
- Alaska currently has the highest reported cases of syphilis in the nation and is the reason why health officials recommend Alaskan adults get tested.

Schools – Pamela Rawson reported:

- High School Principal Michael Lee expressed appreciation for everyone who helped make the Dean Cummings Memorial Basketball Tournament a success last weekend.
- Junior High Principal Jeff Lansing requested a streetlight at the intersection of Mil-Tan and Jack Warren.

Emergency Services – Pamela Rawson reported there were 22 ambulance runs and zero fire calls between December 22 and January 14.

Emergency Preparedness – Travis Riesner reported cold temperatures are predicted. He cautioned residents about freezing pipes, keeping vehicles fueled, maintaining a supply of food and water, and being prepared for issues that arise during extreme weather conditions.

Park & Recreation – Igor Zaremba reported skating rinks are busy. He cautioned parents to be watchful that their children’s toes, fingers, and noses do not get frostbit.

Airport – JW Musgrove reported he asked Public Works to keep one lane open in the Airport II Subdivision.

Public Works – Mike Prestegard reported the Public Works have done well in keeping up with snow removal.

At Large – see Pete Hallgren comment under *Non-Agenda Items*

City Administrator / Landfill – Ken Greenleaf reported:

- What snow that did not blow across the Delta River, somehow migrated to Mil-Tan Road. Equipment was rented to build snow walls on the west side of Mil-Tan.
- Spare cutting edges for both the Skidsteer and the grader will be part of FY25 budget discussion.
- The landfill permit is expected to arrive within the next week.
- Agnew::Beck is issuing committee packets to the people sitting on the EMS Advisory Board.
- During the next two weeks, the City will receive a free assessment from the Alaska State Troopers on the physical security of City properties. Staff will receive training in dealing with angry or disgruntled people.
- Bids for the new fuel contract have been advertised. [Bid opening will be 4:00pm, March 1, 2024.]

Cemetery – no report

City Clerk – no report

Additional Reports – none

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS – comments under individual agenda topics

ADJOURNMENT – 5:49pm

JW Musgrove, Mayor

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: February 6, 2024