

**City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
July 16, 2024 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor Igor Zaremba called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Council members present: Mayor Igor Zaremba, Deputy Mayor Mary Leith, Pete Hallgren, Lance Stricklin, Pamela Rawson, Michael Prestegard, Travis Riesner

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

Public present: Seven people were present. The meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Zaremba reported three items were removed from New Business: *KATMAI Contract Renewal, FY23 Audit, and check #23150 (\$6,750 to Prestige Homes by Design for down payment to install scale house boiler)* from *Purchases over \$1,000*. The *Executive Session* at the end of the meeting was also removed.

Motion: Leith moved to approve the July 16, 2024 agenda as amended; Reisner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Prestegard referenced his comment from the July 2 meeting about blue cones at the airport that mark the taxiway. He asked to clarify that they “become a hazard when they tip over in tall grass and are no longer visible.”

White read the first part of the *Administrator’s Report* (bottom of page 3), which was revised after the draft minutes were publicized.

Zaremba reported the Public Works grant (\$73,000 remaining) had three days before it expired. It became urgent with no time to go out to bid. One company poured ramps in front of the overhead doors and raised the lift station to pour concrete. Another company installed snow stops and gutters. A third company removed pipe and capped the old well. Several high dollar tools will be bolted to the floor in the Public Works building.

Discussion followed regarding training personnel to use the new equipment, Rural Deltana firefighters utilizing it, and all purchases being preauthorized by the grant administrator.

Motion: Leith moved to approve the July 2, 2024 minutes as amended; Rawson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Hallgren asked to vote on revisions made to the June 4 minutes after they were approved on June 18.

Motion: Hallgren moved to accept the June 4, 2024 minutes that were edited on June 26; Rawson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Alaska Refugee Coordinator – Immigrant Status Update

Liza Krauszer introduced herself, Grant Administrator for Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) in Anchorage, and Sara Shrinkfield, State Refugee Mental Health Manager with Alaska Office for Refugees.

Krauszer reported Catholic Social Services (CSS) has resettled refugees in Delta since the 1990’s. The Department of Homeland Security created *United for Ukraine* for new arrivals from Ukraine after their country was invaded nearly two years ago. A RAIS office opened in Delta in FY24 with expected funding at least through FY25. They currently serve 82 Ukrainian clients who moved here within the last five years. Services include integrating children into schools, teaching English, and a “pathway to citizenship.” Of employable clients, 87% currently have jobs. The Anchorage Community Land Trust will offer an entrepreneur workshop to refugees in 2025.

Discussion followed regarding Congress funding re-parole and contacting the local RAIS office (907-987-7599) about immigration assistance.

Shelly Wade, Ambulance Service Community Advisory Committee (AS-CAC)

Roberts reported Shelly Wade would postpone to the August 6 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – SM-1A Dismantling and Decommissioning Public Outreach Meeting - July 31, 6:00-8:00pm at the Community Center**

Zaremba reported the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host a public outreach meeting at the Fort Greely Community Activity Center, 5:30-6:30, and another one at the Community Center on July 31, 6:00-8:00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**NEW BUSINESS****Airport Upgrades – Add Gravel and Repair Outlet at Tie-Down Area**

Prestegard reported funds from the airport budget would be used to fill a hole with gravel in the tie-down area and replace an electrical post that was sheared to the ground by a piece of equipment.

Landfill Scales Upgrade

Roberts reported parts are no longer available for the existing landfill scales. She asked to purchase parts to upgrade the scales before Phillips Scales arrives in August or September to conduct the annual calibration.

Hallgren expressed favor with the 10-year warranty (100% coverage on parts, labor, travel and mileage, and lightning protection).

Motion: Leith moved to approve up to \$25,000 for parts (\$17,780 quote dated November 6, 2023) and parts/labor (\$24,280 quote dated July 8, 2024) for Phillips Scales to upgrade the landfill scales; Hallgren seconded.

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

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK #23145 to Bill's Small Tractor Service - \$6,009.00 for lawn maintenance contract, payment #1 of 3

CK #23146 to Agnew::Beck Consulting - \$5,956.25 for April and May contract services

CK #23147 to Airport Equipment Rentals - \$2,051.58 for street grader repairs (\$751.58) and Public Works gutters (\$1,300)

CK #23148 to Alaska Communications - \$1,624.80 for July phones and Internet

CK #23149 to Alaska Municipal League - \$1,883.71 for FY25 membership dues

CK #23151 to Best Buy Automotive Equipment - \$49,422.00 for tire changer (\$31,228), balancer (\$12,732), and shipping (\$5,462)

CK #23152 to Delta Building Supply - \$5,147.23 for facilities maintenance supplies for June

CK #23153 to Delta Medical Transport - \$46,000.00 for July ambulance services

CK #23154 to GVEA - \$4,568.15 for June electricity

CK #23155 to Grainger - \$5,419.93 for torch (\$549.81) and hydraulic press (\$4,870.12)

CK #23156 to Rock Tough - \$29,990.00 for landfill grizzly (authorized July 2, 2024)

CK #23157 to Vitus - \$1,603.74 for equipment fuel

Zaremba reported grant funds paid for items installed in the Public Works building (checks 23151 and 23155).

Motion: Leith moved to approve checks #23145 through 23149 and 23151 through 23157; Stricklin seconded.

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

REPORTS**Mayor / Park / School – Igor Zaremba reported:**

- Wanda Sorensen emailed current photos of the new milepost marker at the Visitor Center. The aluminum frame was constructed by High School students enrolled in the Career Advancement Center and bolted in place on July 12. New sign panels plus a set of replacements have been ordered. Mike Phelan and the Boys Scouts donated the concrete to build the foundation. Phelan asked to use community funds that were collected for the project to purchase new flags and flag poles. He suggested preserving the concrete foundation by anchoring the poles away from it.

- The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) released its 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment #1 for public review and comment. The STIP is Alaska's four-year plan to improve roads, highways, and the Marine Highway. The public comment period is open until Monday, August 5. Input can be made online (www.dot.alaska.gov/stip) or letters can be sent directly to DOT&PF. Contact Courtney Kreis (907-465-6987) with questions.

- The replaced "window" in playground equipment at the park (shot out in May 2023 and replaced last July) is broken again. It was discovered on July 13.

- Stephen Hammond, M2C1, recommended tearing down the Kiwanis Pavilion to rebuild it. He will donate his time to engineer a new pavilion, salvaging the four 12x6-foot beams from the original structure. Zaremba said it will be fenced off until a new one is built. Hammond is considering expanding the pavilion to twice its square footage and adding a paved foundation.

- He, Roberts, Chris Morley, and ACS discussed the location of where to bore under Nistler. Morley suggested installing another LED streetlight on the opposite side of the crosswalk to spread lighting through the Elementary School parking lot. Doyon will donate the two poles and streetlights. The streetlights on Nistler used to receive power via one sensor and were triggered on or off when it got light or dark. Each streetlight now has its own sensor.

- Henry Muth, returning as the streets/equipment operator, will need ten days to prepare the roads for winter. He would come back as a contractor without benefits.

Finance – Lori Roberts reported Kaylee Reiersen closed out the FY24 budget. The \$50,000 interest income was from the Wells Fargo account only. FY24 investments were moved to AMLIP savings accounts (\$13,000 - airport, \$150,000 - EMS, \$60,000 – landfill equipment, \$50,000 - landfill closure) and the remaining \$40,662 was moved to the FY25 general fund. Roberts and Reiersen are now working on the FY23 audit.

Library – Mary Leith reported:

- 169 people visited the library in July, averaging 137 items checked out every day.
- The library experienced problems with the Internet due to the switch between the two service providers.
- Over 150 kids registered for the summer READO challenge, funded by the Alaska Community Foundation Grant, which paid for a rocket launch, two pajama parties, an upcoming bicycle event, and tie-dying.
- Employee hours and services will be reduced due to a miscalculation in the library’s budget for FY25.

Health & Safety / Emergency Preparedness – Travis Riesner reported:

- People are catching salmon at Chitna. He cautioned people to watch for new potholes.
- Theft is on the rise. He cautioned residents to protect their belongings.

Discussion followed regarding unplanned middle-of-the-night visitors and an expensive drone casing homes.

Emergency Services – Pamela Rawson reported Delta Medical Transport had 14 ambulance transports to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital since July 1.

Airport – Mike Prestegard reported the airport is active.

At Large – Pete Hallgren reported most homes in Delta are hooked up to GVEA. Electric fees increased to 29¢ per kilowatt hours and are now just a hair over 28¢ per kilowatt. The average household use has cut its electric usage 15-20%. Three phase power has increased also.

Roberts questioned increases because Pogo pays GVEA \$28 million to reduce electricity costs to Delta residents.

City Administrator / Public Works / Park / Cemetery / Landfill – Lori Roberts reported:

- The water at the cemetery is currently turned off. New water lines have been installed, but the electrical system must be moved before the leak in the well is repaired.
- The Fire Department wants Internet, necessary for monthly reporting and searching for grants. Roberts said she is researching costs to link the Fire Department to the Public Works’ Wi-Fi.
- Five sections of fencing, used to keep motorized vehicles from entering the park, were removed. Dave Dawe will replace them while leaving openings large enough for strollers and wheelchairs.
- Progress is evident at the cemetery expansion project. What is too small is being removed and/or mulched before trees are logged for people to cut into firewood.
- She is working on finding funding to install gas well monitors at the landfill.
- Delta Junction was one of six communities to receive a grant from the State of Alaska for heavy equipment. Roberts is researching a small front-end loader (first plan) and a trash compactor.
- She is working on grant reporting for the Fire Department radios.
- She is looking into turning the outdoor rink into a pickleball court due to community interest.

Discussion followed regarding documents and files being removed from City Hall without permission from the new administration.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Zaremba reported a group of volunteers offered to remove willows that have grown into the fence line around the park.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:39pm

Igor Zaremba, Mayor

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: August 6, 2024