

**City Council Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 1, 2024 ~ 5:00PM**  
**City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**



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

Deputy Mayor Mary Leith called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

**Council members present:** Deputy Mayor Mary LEITH, Pete HALLGREN, Travis RIESNER, Lance STRICKLIN (until 5:44pm), Michael PRESTEGARD

**Council present via Zoom:** Mayor Igor ZAREMBA

**City staff present:** City Administrator Lori Roberts, Finance Officer Kaylee Reiersen, Library Director Tiki Levinson, City Clerk Pat White

**Public present:** Seven in attendance, including Shannon Monear, Granite Avenue property owner, on Zoom. The meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: Stricklin moved to approve the October 1, 2024 agenda; Riesner seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

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

Leith questioned the landfill report (page 4), which appeared incomplete.

White asked to postpone approving the September 17, 2024 draft minutes to October 15, 2024.

**COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** - none

**REQUEST TO SPEAK** - none

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**2024 Election Schedule**

Hallgren reported a special meeting on October 8 will be held to certify the October 1 election results and swear in the newly elected. Any protests must be submitted by Monday, October 7 or at the meeting on October 8. The regular term of office begins thereafter on the Monday (October 14) following certification (October 8).

**2024 Election Ballot Sample**

White reported nine election officials were appointed at the September 3 Council meeting. Two had to be replaced due to medical reasons. Both were replaced with eligible residents who reside inside the City limits. According to City Code 2.15.010(b) "if any appointed election official is not able ... to serve on Election Day, the Clerk may appoint a replacement ..."

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Final Approval – Watson Replat**

Sebastian Saarloos, Delta Surveys, reported the plat number was corrected in the Title Block and there were no inquiries about the Watson Replat since the preliminary plat was approved on September 17.

Motion: Stricklin moved to approve the Watson Replat as presented; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Prestegard, Hallgren, Stricklin, Riesner, Zarembo, Leith).

**Landfill Scale House Boiler** – postponed to October 15

**Landfill Loader**

Roberts reported it will cost \$2,000 to transport the L220 loader to Fairbanks. Eastside Auto has not provided quotes for both minimal repairs and more extensive repairs. Construction Machinery quoted \$32,402.69. Yevgeniy Chenkov submitted three estimates, \$11,600 for obvious fixes, \$40,280 for a kit to rebuild the transmission, and \$51,880 for all repairs and to replace the transmission.

Zarembo said the \$11,600 quote includes replacing the oil cooler, which might stop the transmission from overheating.

Motion: Stricklin moved to pay Yevgeniy Chenkov \$11,600.00 to get the L220 in service; Riesner seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Riesner, Zarembo, Stricklin, Prestegard, Hallgren, Leith).

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Service International Plow Truck (\$648) and Kenworth Dump Truck (\$3,658)**

Roberts reported parts for the plow truck will be \$1,200 to \$1,400 more than the \$648 quote. She briefly described labor and parts needed to service the dump truck also. The condition of the tires on both the plow truck and the dump truck are good.

Motion: Stricklin moved to pay Yevgeniy Chenkov to repair the International plow truck, and the Kenworth dump truck as discussed; Riesner seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with six in attendance (Stricklin, Prestegard, Hallgren, Zaremba, Riesner, Leith). Zaremba reported he appreciated Chenkov's willingness to conduct work on City vehicles in the Public Works building, eliminating the expense of transporting the trucks to him.

### **Develop Granite Avenue**

Shannon Monear, new property owner on the platted, undeveloped Granite Avenue, reported he needed legal access to Lots 17 and 18. The shortest route would be from the north, Grizzly Lane.

Hallgren explained history about Granite Avenue; congestion of wells and sewers, electric poles, and structures in the platted street rights-of-way. Monear's request is reasonable, but part of the most complicated issue the City has faced in the past 25 years. Because of multiple encroachments, a leach field was built in the platted street (2009), a portion of Granite Avenue was vacated (2009), and West Second Street (from Jarvis Avenue) was constructed to provide an alternate access to Lot 11 (2016). The current condition of the undeveloped Granite Avenue is overgrown but passable from West Second. The City is not required to provide access to lots, nor maintain them. A berm close to Grizzly, which may prevent snow buildup, may need to be removed. Granite Avenue would not be a priority on the City's maintenance list (not a school bus route). Hallgren suggested reducing the width of the proposed 26-foot road per a December 2013 survey (West Addition – Delta Junction Townsite FRD Plat 63-7859) and removing the berm, trees, power, and phone obstructions.

Stricklin asked to be excused at 5:44pm.

Roberts reported GVEA issued a letter stating they would remove electrical poles (installed in 1959) if necessary.

Monear said he wanted to build access over the winter. He would contact his nearest neighbors, Dave and Jackie Becker, to discuss extending their driveway, which he would maintain.

Motion: Hallgren moved to grant Shannon Monear's request to install access to Lot 17 and 18 via the platted, undeveloped Granite Avenue right-of-way and to keep the Council informed on its status; Riesner seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance (Riesner, Zaremba, Prestegard, Hallgren, Leith).

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

CK #23264 to Aetna - \$18,920.54 for October group health insurance

CK #23265 to Delta Medical Transport - \$46,000.00 for October EMS contract

CK #23266 to Grainger - \$2,507.79 for air filters (\$287.52), cautions signs for milepost marker (\$42.15), and school crosswalk sign (\$2,178.12)

CK #23267 to Guess & Rudd - \$2,175.00 for October legal services

CK #23268 to Yevgeniy Chenkov - \$4,842.00 to repair Engine 161 (approved September 3, 2024)

Motion: Riesner moved to approve checks #23264 through 23268; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with five in attendance (Prestegard, Riesner, Zaremba, Hallgren, Leith).

## REPORTS

### **City Administrator / Public Works – Lori Roberts reported:**

- The Medicare Enrollment Application is being reviewed. Supplemental Emergency Medical Transport (SEMT) funds would reimburse 55% of ambulance bills that are not covered by insurance. Funding can be recovered for Medicare and private insurances, but not Medicaid. Other revenue will be needed to support an ambulance service. Contracting the billing will be cheaper than doing it in-house.

- Six membership applications for the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) were received.

Discussion followed regarding postponing the subject to the October 15 meeting, three new applicants and three from the initial group, and appreciation for public participation in the decision making.

- Elijah Koppers, Koppers Communications, will attend the October 15 Council meeting to answer questions pertaining to installing security in seven of the City's facilities. (Koppers Communications was awarded the bid for \$46,631.51 on September 3, 2024.) Roberts reported she was publicly accused of having a friendship with Koppers

and conflict of interest. She reported Koppers’ quote was dated January 11, 2024, from the previous administrator’s employment (Ken Greenleaf was employed April 2022 / May 2024).

Prestegard expressed concern with a lapse in Koppers’ business license and conducting background checks.

Discussion followed regarding Koppers in business since 2018, letting his license lapse at the time of the bid, licenses issued for two-year periods, and derogatory posts on Facebook pertaining to the bid.

- The Public Works crew finished grading roads. They are still preparing winter graves at the cemetery.

Discussion followed regarding needing a new plow truck and not converting an ambulance into a 4WD utility vehicle.

- She will research quotes for winter tires for both the backhoe and grader.
- The ramp at the school crosswalk is finished. Joel Wiggins will link the fence entrance to the crosswalk. The light posts will be installed before signage.
- Bids were advertised for fuel-at-the-pumps, but none were received. Local gas stations do not bid competitively for drive-ups, nor do they give discounts.
- The bid opening for seeding the new section at the cemetery and restoration of three offices at City Hall was September 20. There were no bids for grass seeding and only one bid to restore City offices. Roberts reported no mold was found in the walls and the insurance would reimburse the \$1,950 contract.
- AT+T will conduct work on local phone lines between October 7/19.

**Finance** – Kaylee Reiersen reported she will have a current first quarter budget report on October 15.

**Library** – Mary Leith reported:

- The Delta Library Board is seeking three board members. Interested individuals can contact the library for more information about the duties of board members and how to submit their candidacy.
- The upcoming month will be busy at the library. A service dog will teach patrons about the role of service animals and how to act around them. Library patrons will also learn the role of firefighters. Two sourdough baking classes will be held on October 26. Story Hour is back in session.

**Health & Safety** – Travis Riesner reported:

- There were seven fire tone-outs, and 35 ambulance runs between September 16 and 20.
- The Alaska Health Fair (reduced cost for lab tests) will be held at the Delta Elementary School on October 12, 8:00-11:00am. More information is available online (alaskahealthfair.org).

**Emergency Preparedness** – Travis Riesner encouraged people to stock up on food and emergency supplies due to stock market and other concerns across the globe.

**Airport** – Mike Prestegard reported the portable outhouse, removed from the tie-down area, would have been handy during hunting season.

**At Large** – Pete Hallgren encouraged Council members to attend the annual Alaska Municipal League (AML) conference in Anchorage December 9-13. The newly elected officials training is on December 9.

**City Clerk** – Pat White asked Council to commit to either the AML Conference in December (register before November 15) and/or to evening classes offered by Maisie Thomas from Fairbanks Community Economic Development (CED) during the first week in November.

Discussion followed regarding paying Thomas’ car rental (\$100) and hotel (\$200) for the first evening and conducting classes via Zoom thereafter, the CED option eliminating the need to take time off work, AML membership voting on AML-backed legislative bills and resolutions, and AML being exempt from the Open Meetings Act.

**Additional Reports** – Mike Prestegard reported Stormie Mitchell held a campaign rally at the Community Center on September 23. Two City employees were eavesdropping behind a door.

Roberts reported she and Reiersen intended to attend the rally but overheard her name and the City being trashed by the people that were present, mostly Sherman Stebbins. The opportunity presented itself and they listened. The trash-talking stopped once they joined Mitchell’s public meeting. Roberts reported she filed a restraining order against Stebbins because of his threat of “taking me to the train station.”

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Leith reported the Community Center was reserved for the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 28, 12:00-3:00. Contact Shayna Bialik (907-202-1326) to donate time, pies, or side dishes.

Tim Webb, a 40-year resident, asked if he needed permission to brush along the east side of Mil-Tan Road, using his DR mower. He tries to mow in the spring and in the fall.

Roberts expressed appreciation for Webb’s brushing. She explained the difficulty with hiring operators.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 7:11pm

<p>_____ Mary Leith, Deputy Mayor</p>	<p>CITY SEAL</p>	<p>_____ Pat White, City Clerk</p>	<p>Approved: October 15, 2024</p>
---	----------------------	--	---------------------------------------