

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
December 17, 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 5:01pm.

Council members present: Deputy Mayor Mary LEITH, Michael PRESTEGARD,
Stormie MITCHELL, Travis RIESNER, Lance STRICKLIN

Council excused: Mayor Igor ZAREMBA, Pete HALLGREN

City staff present: City Administrator Lori Roberts, Finance Officer Kaylee Reiersen, City Clerk Pat White

Public present: Six (three on Zoom) attended and the meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leith reported check #23389 for \$8,618.56 was voided and replaced with check #23395 for \$4,529.56.

Roberts asked to move *Unfinished Business: Employee Policy Plan Revisions* to January 7, 2025.

Motion: Stricklin moved to approve the December 17, 2024 agenda as amended; Prestegard seconded.

Motion carried without objection.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Stricklin moved to approve the November 19, 2024 minutes as revised; Prestegard seconded.

Motion carried without objection.

Motion: Prestegard moved to approve the December 3, 2024 minutes as presented; Stricklin seconded.

Motion carried without objection.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Phil Kaspari, Cooperative Extension Services (CES), reported livestock industry is the economic driver for much of the local agriculture. Forage and grain (livestock feed) equates to the number of acres under production. Lack of veterinary care is a hindrance. CES initiated a needs assessment of veterinary care for current livestock, future livestock, small animals, and pets. Factual numbers could encourage potential vets to establish businesses in Delta. Discussion followed regarding Mitchell offering to donate two and a half acres for a vet clinic, accessing the survey online (bit.ly/DeltaVetSurvey), and more information online (deltaces@alaska.edu).

REQUEST TO SPEAK - none

CORRESPONDENCE - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Hess Property

Roberts reported she asked the Hess property owner to stop all construction prior to November 5, but has had no contact since. The Division of Environmental Conservation is addressing a complaint from a local resident.

Prestegard reported lumber was delivered on December 11. He asked Roberts to issue a written request to the Hess property owner to cease construction.

Insure RDVFD 2004 International

Reiersen reported one year's worth of coverage will be \$1,494.45, prorated to \$980 as of December 4.

Motion: Stricklin moved to insure Rural Deltana's 2004 International fire truck; Riesner seconded.

Motion passed without objection with five in attendance (Prestegard, Stricklin, Riesner, Mitchell, Leith).

Employee Policy Plan Revisions – Postponed to January 7, 2025

Loader Quotes

Roberts reported seven rural communities in Alaska received an equipment grant. Each community will be expected to pay one-quarter of costs. Airport Equipment Rentals' 724K loader with enclosed cab is \$249,950. Sourcewell's Volvo L150H is \$501,516 minus \$6,200 (freight to Delta). Brandt Tractor's 2018 Bomag compactor is \$202,200. The 2015 Caterpillar 816F compactor has 7,295 hours and is \$340,000. The 2018 CAT 816K compactor has 2,655 hours and costs \$500,000. The 2019 CAT 816K has 7,510 hours and costs \$375,000.

Reiersen reported landfill equipment savings had \$450,577 as of September.

Riesner suggested buying equipment that can multitask. Newer models would be less likely to break down. Prestegard said he preferred purchasing a compactor first.

Discussion followed regarding compactors used at the landfill and loaders used at Public Works, recent chain purchases (approved November 19) for landfill loaders, another equipment grant that just recently became available, and researching less expensive freight.

Motion: Stricklin moved to purchase the Volvo L150H loader from Sourcewell for \$495,316.00; Riesner seconded.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Award Audit Contract

Reierson reported only two firms submitted bids out of nine agencies that were recommended by Alaska Municipal League (AML). The two bids were almost identical. Altman Rogers bid \$40,050 for 2024 (\$50 more than Newhouse & Vogler), \$41,200 for 2025, and \$43,025 for 2025. Altman Rogers submitted three outstanding references; one having contracted with them for 30 years. Newhouse is a newer company that started in 2022. Reierson recommended awarding the contract to Altman, Rogers & Co. based on the references included in their bid packet and all the people she spoke with at the recent AML conference. Altman Rogers employees are Certified Public Accountants with government audit experience.

Motion: Stricklin moved to award Altman, Rogers & Co. the three-year audit contract with the option to extend for two additional years; Riesner seconded.

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

2025 City Holiday Schedule

White asked to move the *2025 Holiday Schedule* to January 7, to coincide with revisions to the *Employee Policy Plan*. City services will be closed on Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25 and New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1, 2025. Neither affects the 2025 holiday schedule.

GIS Mapping Contract

Reierson reported there is no formal agreement with Duncan GIS who has provided on-call mapping services since 2018. There are no changes, except for the written contract with Tom Duncan.

Motion: Stricklin moved to establish a contract with Duncan GIS, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; Prestegard seconded.

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

Festival of Lights

Roberts reported she is working with Dana Mock, Lions Club, to bring back the Festival of Lights (Chamber of Commerce hosted for many years through 2019). Caring Hearts scheduled the Community Center, February 15, 2:00-4:00, for a fundraiser, two-year anniversary celebration, and volunteer recognition. Delta Junction Trails Association will host the Walk of Lights at the Liewer Community Trail on the same day, 6:00-8:00. A fireworks display could tentatively be scheduled for 5:00 or 5:30pm at the City Park or at the fairgrounds. The possibility of a parade is not a consideration for this year.

Update Street Priorities

Roberts reported all bus routes are Priority 1 streets. She asked for input to update the Street Priorities List.

Discussion followed regarding all Brewis Subdivision streets being bus routes, West Remington (Richardson Highway to Family Medical Center) considered Priority 1 and Remington Road (FMC clinic to North Taxiway) considered Priority 2, neither being bus routes, subdivision roads or driveways not maintained by the City (Buddy Lane, South Bear Court, Veltoby), and Stricklin not recusing himself "for the greater good of the community."

Motion: Leith moved to approve the updated Street Priority List as amended; Prestegard seconded.

Motion passed without objection with five in attendance (Mitchell, Prestegard, Riesner, Stricklin, Leith).

City Purchases over \$1,000

CK #23383 to ACS - \$1,452.94 for December phones and Internet

CK #23384 to Alasconnect - \$3,166.55 for November IT management contract

CK #23385 to ARG Industrial - \$9,986.46 for four tire chains for the L220 (approved November 19, 2024)

CK #23386 to Arctic Fire & Safety - \$1,480.00 for two emergency lights for Tender 161
CK #23387 to Book Systems - \$1,915.00 for annual library software
CK #23388 to Duncan GIS - \$1,425.00 for November mapping contract
CK #23389 VOIDED (replaced with 23395)
CK #23390 to GVEA - \$8,630.06 for November electricity
CK #23391 to Morley Electric - \$7,576.11 to reimburse for school crosswalk signs
CK #23392 to Prestige Homes By Design - \$6,750.00 for down payment to install boiler at landfill scale house (approved December 3, 2024)
CK #23393 to Vitus Energy LLC - \$7,957.30 for November heating and equipment fuel
CK #23395 to Forestry Suppliers - \$4,529.56 for fire hoses (paid from CY24 Forestry Grant)

Mitchell questioned paying businesses who have ability to write off expenses.

Discussion followed regarding Chris Morley being able to buy crosswalk signs cheaper than what the City could (CK #23391) and reimbursing Yevgeniy Chenkov \$4,300 for fuel (CK #23234 on September 3) when he cleared ground to expand the cemetery and limbed and stacked trees for the public to harvest firewood (volunteering his time, his employees time, and his equipment in July and August).

Motion: Riesner moved to approve checks #23383 through 23388, 23390 through 23393, and 23395; Leith seconded.

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

REPORTS

City Administrator – Lori Roberts reported the plow truck was back in service last week after taking it to a different mechanic because of multiple issues. The Public Works crew is working to catch up with snow removal.

Finance – Kaylee Reiersen reported there were no complaints since doing a soft disconnect on mystery phone lines on November 8.

Discussion followed regarding potential savings (\$500/month) and guessing where the phone lines originated.

Library – Mary Leith reported:

- There were 21 entries in the Gingerbread House Competition.
- The Book Club met last night for their end of the year gathering with a cookie exchange.

Schools - Mary Leith reported schools are closed for the holidays and will reopen on January 8.

Health & Safety – Stormie Mitchell cautioned drivers to stay alert to road conditions and large trucks.

Cemetery – Stormie Mitchell reported two more winter graves were dug.

Airport – Michael Prestegard reported the airport is pretty quiet.

Roberts reported the Public Works crew was asked by Alan Levinson, the airport manager, to clear snow from a tie-down spot. They were not going to put the blade down, just pack it enough to get the plane out.

Prestegard said he was unable to give guidance because he was not given the information.

Landfill – Lori Roberts reported the L220 is still leaking hydraulic fluid.

Emergency Services – Lance Stricklin reported:

- There have been multiple car accidents because of icy roads.
- Delta Medical Transports installed the new radios. They have been running non-stop.
- Firefighters are utilizing the winter months by taking online training courses.

Park & Recreation – Travis Riesner reported the 12UA hockey team dominated the Winterfest Tournament in Anchorage December 13,14,15, bringing home another championship trophy. They played against Kenai, Palmer, Anchorage, and Homer, bigger communities who have an extra two months of ice before and after every season.

Emergency Preparedness – Travis Riesner advised people traveling to Fairbanks to make sure they have a full tank of gas, snacks, and provisions. A truck and trailer slid down Tenderfoot on Saturday and blocked traffic. He spent about an hour and a half waiting for the road to clear.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 6:37pm

Igor Zarembo, Mayor

CITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: January 21, 2025