

**City Council Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
January 7, 2025 ~ 5:00PM  
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska**



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

Mayor Igor Zarembo called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

**Council members present:** Mayor Igor ZAREMBA, Michael PRESTEGARD, Lance STRICKLIN, Stormie MITCHELL, Travis RIESNER

**Council present via Zoom:** Pete HALLGREN

**Council excused:** Deputy Mayor Mary LEITH

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

**Public present:** Nine people, including three on Zoom. The meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

**AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Zarembo reported *Request to Speak: Library Staff* and *New Business: Fuel Tank for Public Works* were removed. *New Hire Pay* and *Community Center Renovation Bids* were added to *New Business*.

Mitchell objected, stating there was no time to prepare for the new topics.

White referenced the Open Meetings Act and said changes to the agenda that were advertised today should not pose any hardships to the public.

Hallgren asked if inspecting the roof and insulating the ceiling are part of Community Center renovations.

Roberts reported two bids were received (to replace doors, replace flooring, and renovate restrooms to ADA compliance).

Motion: Stricklin moved to approve the January 7, 2025 agenda as amended; Riesner seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call with four in favor (Riesner, Stricklin, Hallgren, Zarembo) and two opposed (Mitchell, Prestegard).

Roberts said a potential hire was interviewed today for the Seasonal Manager of the Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena, which has been advertised for over a year.

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

Prestegard said his airport report in the December 17 minutes had nothing, except “not much was going on at the airport.” He did not have a report because no one gave him one. What Roberts reported (removing snow from a tie-down spot) should have been his report, but he knew nothing about it.

Roberts asked Prestegard to stop at City Hall to have a conversation with her.

Zarembo reported Prestegard’s comments should be added to the minutes.

Mitchell said she was not given a report on the cemetery nor any mention of the decorated Christmas tree.

[Note from City Clerk: White placed a cemetery report in Mitchell’s box, but did not recall when. She informed Mitchell that two more winter graves were prepared on November 9 and 10. Mitchell reported on December 17, “we had to dig more graves.” White did not provide Mitchell with a report about the decorated tree outside the gate of the Rest Haven Cemetery.]

Zarembo said he would report on the Christmas tree.

Discussion followed regarding Mitchell accusing Zarembo of not reaching out to all Council members, not providing her with necessary information that she is entitled to, particularly the Christmas tree, and difficulty in communicating with her.

Riesner asked to revise his comments about the Richardson Highway being blocked (page three under *Emergency Preparedness Report*).

Reiersen asked to correct the spelling of her name (“Rierson” - page one - *Insure RDVFD 2004 International*).

Zarembo reported approval of the December 17, 2024 minutes would be moved to the January 21, 2025 meeting.

**COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Prestegard asked if Stricklin had a conflict of interest in reporting on emergency services due to his new employment with the Fort Greely Fire Department.

Stricklin reported Tony White is one of two assistant fire chiefs, and White had nothing to do with his being hired.

Discussion followed regarding Stricklin’s position as a probationary fireman, falling under six captains and an assistant chief before Tony White, Assistant Fire Chief with the Fort Greely Fire Department.

Mitchell insisted Stricklin had a conflict of interest, and she has had numerous people speak to her about it. Zaremba asked Mitchell to bring proof (that Stricklin’s employment poses a conflict) to the January 21 meeting.

Mitchell, reading off a list, requested position descriptions of all City employees, wages, and health & welfare packages. “According to Ordinance 1.35.070, it is provided during quarterly budget reporting by the Finance Officer.” She said she has not been afforded that since being on Council. She asked for job announcements when employees were hired, each contract and grant from 2024, to include RFPs, bids, processes used to award contracts, a list of all businesses that the City contracts with, copies of their licenses, insurance, bonds, and scope of work. She asked for the documents by January 13.

Reierson reported a quarterly report will be presented at the January 21 meeting.

Roberts reported she is updating job descriptions. Mitchell already received Public Works and landfill descriptions. Discussion followed regarding Mitchell not checking her email, her wanting job descriptions to match when employees were hired, her researching alcohol tax, and Mitchell reading email correspondence between Kaylee Reierson and the State of Alaska.

Zaremba asked Mitchell to stop reading the private email, that it was no different when she demanded he not share the City attorney’s response to her grievance letter (November 19, 2024).

Mitchell argued that she had not received a copy of the attorney’s letter.

Zaremba reported she has not received it because it has not yet been cleared by the Council.

Mitchell argued that the public deserved to hear information about her research on alcohol tax. She continued to read Reierson’s email, refusing to stop after Zaremba asked her repeatedly.

Zaremba called to end the meeting because of Mitchell’s disruption; Riesner seconded. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT – 5:25pm**

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Igor Zaremba, Mayor

CITY  
SEAL

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Pat White, City Clerk

Approved: January -- , 2025