

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 6, 2025 ~ 5:00PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska



CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor Igor Zarembo called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Council members present: Mayor Igor ZAREMBA, Deputy Mayor Mary LEITH,
Michael PRESTEGARD, Stormie MITCHELL

Council attending via Zoom: Lance STRICKLIN

Council excused: Pete HALLGREN, Travis RIESNER

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

Public present: Approximately 30 people (8 on Zoom) were present at the beginning of the meeting. The meeting was broadcast over KDHS 95.5 FM radio.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Zarembo reported *Earl McNabb, Salcha-Delta SWCD – Aufeis Update* was removed from *Request to Speak*.

Motion: Leith moved to approve the May 6, 2025 agenda as amended; Stricklin seconded.

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

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Leith moved to approve the edited version of the April 1, 2025 regular meeting minutes; Stricklin seconded.

Leith asked to change “sign” to “gate,” under her report about the Pioneer’s replacing the gate at Rest Haven Cemetery (page 4).

Mitchell argued that history is being altered if the terminated employee’s name is not documented in the minutes.

Discussion followed regarding adding a clause that “the recorded meetings are available upon request” at the bottom of every set of minutes, recorded meetings posted on SoundCloud for the two weeks between meetings, summary minutes versus verbatim, and not including all Council or public comments in the minutes.

Motion passed on a roll call with four voting in favor (Stricklin, Leith, Prestegard, Zarembo) and one opposed (Mitchell).

Motion: Leith moved to approve the draft minutes from the April 15, 2025 regular meeting; Stricklin seconded.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Alan Levinson, Airport Manager, Friends of Delta D66, reported that the purpose of the users (pilots) group is to manage, improve, add value to local transportation infrastructure, and reduce burden on the City’s budget and staff. The airport is a necessary component during emergencies involving State Forestry, Alaska State Troopers, medivac transports, and receiving medical supplies. It also attracts residents and businesses. Previous airport manager JW Musgrove and volunteers led past maintenance and improvements. The majority of three priorities that were identified last winter can be accomplished this summer with remaining FY25 funds (\$5,000) and airport savings (\$35,000):

- Resurface the crosswind runway, aka ski strip. A \$4,500 bid was received to disc and break up the surface. Another bid for \$12,000 will grade, seed, and fertilize the runway. Overgrown trees at the north end of the ski strip are more than 30 years old and the 30–40-foot trees are a hazard in the approach path to southeast landing on the crosswind strip, especially during high wind conditions.
- Protect and separate ATV traffic and pilots by rerouting the trail off the Alyeska Pipeline right-of-way that intersects the crosswind strip and the east end of the main runway and parking area. The new trail will accommodate future expansion of the parking area and still maintain ATV access to those (other) areas in town.
- Clear trees to expand the parking area. A bid was received for \$15,500 to remove trees, stumps, and debris from the tie-down area. Three more tie-downs at the west end of the runway near the State Forestry campground would accommodate campers.

Levinson referred to preliminary plans drafted by Earl McNabb, Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District, and said gravel and equipment will be a significant expense. An established French drain (at the intersection of the two runways) protects the airport and neighboring residences from potential flooding caused

by Aufeis overflow each spring. Gravel from the French drain was used to build airport subdivision roads and it will provide material for future airport improvements.

Motion: Stricklin moved to approve airport improvements as presented, including utilizing the French drain for airport-related projects; Leith seconded.

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

Motion: Prestegard moved to use FY25 budget funds and airport savings toward airport projects; Stricklin seconded.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

New Brewery Repackaging Endorsement Application – The Big Delta Brewing Company (#5959)

[License #5959 was formerly a Brewpub License that converted to a Brewery Manufacturer License with the Alaska Statutes Title 4 rewrite, effective January 1, 2024. The Brewery Repackaging Endorsement type changed with the new regulations (AS 04.09.520) and it caused a backlog of applications.]

Jennifer Murray, The Big Delta Brewing Company Operations Manager, reported laws changed with how they produce, package, and sell their beverage. Because of the backlog, they were issued interim endorsement so that the new law did not obstruct their ability to do business.

Motion: Leith moved to show no objection to The Big Delta Brewing Company's repackaging endorsement application; Stricklin seconded.

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

Delta Girls Softball Association - Request for Funding

Zaremba read a request, dated April 16, 2025, for a \$1,000 donation to support the Delta Girls Softball participation in IGSA (Interior Girls Softball Association). The 10U, 12U, and 14U teams travel to Fairbanks each week to compete, but practice on the local ballfields at the park during the week. Jamie and Earl McNabb will continue to mow inside the softball fields.

Motion: Leith moved to donate \$1,000.00 from FY25 to support the Delta Girls Softball Association; Prestegard seconded.

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

Delta Junction Trails Association (DJTA) – Request for Funding

Mindy Eggleston, DJTA President, reported an Alaska Community Foundation Grant for \$7,300 was awarded to DJTA in 2023 for signage at the River Walk Park Trail. She asked for \$2,300 to fence off the newly constructed lookouts *before* the signage is installed. One lookout over the Delta River, will have signage about the Alaska Range and a memorial bench, purchased with community donations to honor Steve McCombs, will be placed in a separate lookout. Chain-linked fencing will barricade people and pets from the bank drop off and help prevent bank erosion, even though there has not been any yet.

Motion: Leith moved to donate \$2,300.00 to fence lookouts along the Delta River, \$1,000.00 from FY25 and \$1,300.00 from FY26; Stricklin seconded.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Altered Title I Revisions

Motion: Prestegard moved to table discussion about altered code revisions to May 20, 2025; Leith seconded. Discussion followed regarding not having information to discuss why changes were made to the City Code that were not part of the approved documented changes and Prestegard replying to Roberts' email, dated April 28, expressing appreciation for the explanation.

Zaremba reported Roberts received more input from Council members after the first ten pages of edits to Title I were approved (March 18, 2025). An updated version, intended to be revisited once all the chapters of Title I were updated, was issued prematurely. It was not done intentionally."

Motion passed on a roll call with four voting in favor (Leith, Stricklin, Prestegard, Zaremba) and one opposed (Mitchell).

Purchases over \$1,000.00

CK #23535 to Airport Equipment Rental - \$10,900.00 to rent loader for one month to use at the landfill

CK #23536 to Delta Building Supply - \$1,136.29 for April supplies (ladder, springs, chainsaw chain, boiler parts)

CK #23537 to Delta East Side Auto LLC - \$3,914.94 to repair Dodge R35 exhaust system (\$2,261.76) and repair Ford F350 coolant system and wiring for plow (\$1,653.18)

CK #23538 to Delta Medical Transport - \$85,404.17 for May 2025 contract

CK #23539 to GVEA - \$6,152.98 for April electricity

CK #23540 to Heritage General Contracting - \$5,234.00 to replace water heater at Liewer-Olmstead Ice Arena

CK #23541 to LN Curtis - \$10,347.42 for Fire Department equipment (paid through Forestry grant funds)

CK #23542 to Vitus - \$6,861.59 for April heating and equipment fuel

CK #23543 to Guess & Rudd - \$12,311.95 for March legal services

CK #23545 to Alasconnect - \$3,166.55 for May IT services

Motion: Leith moved to approve checks 23535 through 23543 and 23545; Stricklin seconded.

Mitchell asked what equipment was purchased for the Fire Department (#23541).

Stricklin reported that miscellaneous equipment was replaced in preparation for the upcoming fire season.

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

Conex Containers for Public Works, Airport, Landfill

Reierson reported Conex containers are needed for the airport, landfill (two), and Public Works (two).

Discussion followed regarding the need to replace the ones at the landfill because of deterioration and whether the quality of the wind and water-tight shipping containers will be reflected in their cheap price.

Motion: Stricklin moved to purchase five 20-foot shipping containers from Conex Depot in Nevada for \$14,813.00; Leith seconded.

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

FY25 Q3 Budget Update

Reierson referenced the *FY25 Budget versus Actual*, dated April 30, 2025, and explained a couple changes. She reported that 73% of the FY25 budget has been spent.

Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI) Renewal

Reierson reported the City's three-year insurance coverage with APEI expires at the end of June 2025.

Discussion followed regarding switching property insurance from Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association (AML/JIA) to APEI in 2021 and researching changes in available coverage that may be cheaper.

Records Disposal

Reierson reported she compared the City's records detention schedule, last updated in 2016, to Alaska Statutes.

Discussion followed regarding the process of records destruction, no objection to 2016 and 2017 records (audits complete) and delaying discussion to the May 20 meeting, so the *Disposal of Records* form can be reviewed, and more input is received from other Council.

REPORTS

Mayor / Personnel - Igor Zaremba reported:

- He and Roberts are conducting interviews to fill two full-time positions, Public Works maintenance and landfill equipment operator.
- He asked Council and the general public to bring issues forward, so they do not escalate into bigger problems. If something is wrong, bring attention to it. Referring to the debacle of Title I changes (page 2), he said there was no corruption, malicious intent, nor any conduct that could undermine the public's trust. Referring to the recent recall election (April 18) and certifying it (May 13), he said it has been handled correctly and the social media threats to voters were all false.

Finance - Kaylee Reierson reported:

- The FY23 audit was forwarded to the State of Alaska, which is a requirement to receive Community Assistance Program (CAP) funding.
- The FY24 audit prep has begun. Actual audit is scheduled to begin the first week of June.
- The FY26 budget draft has been distributed. She asked for input prior to the budget work session, which was moved to May 19.

Library - Mary Leith reported:

- The Delta Library Board's annual fundraiser (May 10, 11:00-4:00) will feature baskets, raffles, refreshments, a bouncy house, music, and lots of socializing.

Zaremba reported four \$100 certificates were issued for the library fundraiser. The certificates are specific to landfill services. There is no money exchange; just a tally of landfill charges equal to \$100. Zaremba called for objections with none being offered.

- Elementary students are hiking from school to tour the library and learn about the summer reading program.
- The library is advertising for an assistant to help with the summer reading program.

Cemetery - Stormie Mitchell asked to correctly identify veterans in the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony.

Zaremba reported he spent half a day with his Skid Steer backfilling 12 graves that had settled and adding topsoil to other graves. Damaged crosses and headstones on gravesites are not to be disturbed.

Airport - Michael Prestegard referred to Alan Levinson's airport improvements report (pgs 1+2).**Additional Report** – Michael Prestegard reported:

- He has researched speakers, microphones, and cameras to outfit the Council chambers (large conference room) and seating arrangements to make it easier for the public to address the Council as a whole.
- He is also working with the school district to interface the City's zoom with the school's radio station.

Park & Recreation – Igor Zaremba referenced an email from Laura White, dated April 16, and an anonymous letter received around April 25. Both letters address unkempt conditions at the park.

Discussion followed regarding needed maintenance of dugouts and metal bleachers, removal of graffiti, and removal of brush in the fence lines.

Two men from the public spoke about stopping "three kids on bikes" from vandalizing the park last week.

Discussion followed regarding the extent of the damages (destruction of wooden picnic tables, crushed garbage cans and a cooking grill), notifying parents and the Alaska State Troopers, teaching kids to respect people and property, whether Partners for Progress would have picnic tables to replace those that were destroyed, and the Delta Softball girls cleaning garbage and debris prior to double header games with Fairbanks teams on May 3.

Emergency Services - Lance Stricklin reported:

- Firefighters responded to a recent chimney fire and a possible propane-related fire, which was a false alarm.
- Ambulance transports have run back-to-back.
- The Fire Department is gearing up for the wildland fire season.
- Firefighters still meet for training on Thursdays.
- State Forestry is conducting the Red Card Class May 26-30.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – See *Park & Recreation***ADJOURNMENT** – 6:40pm

Igor Zaremba, MayorCITY
SEAL

Pat White, City Clerk
Approved: May 20, 2025

Recorded meetings available at City Hall upon request.