City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 15, 2026, ~ 5:00 PM
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PRAYER

Mayor Igor ZAREMBA called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Council members present: Mayor Igor ZAREMBA, Deputy Mayor Mary LEITH, Sherry HEINBOCKEL, Mike PRESTEGARD, Tim WEBB, Pete HALLGREN, and Rena CASE.
Council excused: None
City staff present: City Administrator Lori Roberts and City Clerk Andrea Peters
City staff on Zoom: Finance Officer Kaylee Trofimov and Fire Chief Erin Trainor
Public present: Approximately eleven community members were present, plus two viewers remotely.

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA – September 15, 2026

Motion: Leith moved to approve the agenda as presented; Webb seconded.
Motion passed on roll call (Heinbockel, Prestegard, Webb, Hallgren, Case, Leith and Zaremba).

AMENDMENTS ~ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Webb – noted a correction needed to be made on page four in Emergency Services 'fuel truck' should be corrected to 'Black Gold truck.'
Motion: Leith moved to approve the minutes from September 1, 2026 as amended; Webb seconded.
Motion passed on roll call (Prestegard, Webb, Hallgren, Case, Leith, Heinbockel, and Zaremba).

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Stebbins – asked the Council to look into grant for equipment funding that AML received on behalf of Delta Junction in March 2024.
Mr. Sloan - asked the Council to address rink maintenance before winter, including broken Zamboni garage doors, crumbling entry doors, too few keys, and roof leaks, and suggested using DSA's unspent budget to pay for it.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Ellen Clark – Vice President of the Delta Junction Trails Association (DJTA) gave an overview of the group's year, including the Riverwalk Park lookouts, youth ski lessons, and a new pavilion paid for partly with $2,000 from the City, and invited the Council to an open house at Riverwalk Park on Saturday.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Alaska Business Accelerator –** is an eight-week program for small-business owners seeking to improve their businesses. Interested applicants can apply at interioraccelerator.com. The application deadline is September 22.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Final Approval for Rest Haven Cemetery Plat
Mr. Saarloos – asked for any corrections to the cemetery plat as presented last week. He asked the council for final approval for the Rest Haven Cemetery third addition plat.
Motion: Case moved to grant final approval of the Rest Haven Cemetery third addition plat; Leith seconded.
Motion passed on roll call (Webb, Hallgren, Case, Leith, Heinbockel, Prestegard, and Zaremba).

NEW BUSINESS

CD Maturity Reinvesting

Peters – read a text message to the council from Finance Officer Mrs. Trofimov which is summarized by the following. A $307,823.62 CD in the TVI main general savings account has matured, and the Finance Officer recommended reinvesting it in a treasury bond or if the council preferred investing in CDs.
Hallgren – stated the City shouldn't take risks with public money and moved to follow Finance Officer's recommendation to invest the matured $307,823.62 in a treasury bond.
Leith – asked when the treasury bond investment would mature.
Trofimov – explained that the maturity date for the treasury bond would be November 2029
Motion: Hallgren moved to invest $307,823.62 into a treasury bond; Case seconded.
Motion passed on roll call (Hallgren, Case, Leith, Prestegard, Webb, Heinbockel, and Zaremba).

Hopper Spreader

Roberts – explained that the current hopper spreader is inoperable because of electrical issues with the choke.
Zaremba – stated that since the City won't be sanding the roads within the next two weeks, we should attempt to fix the electrical problems.
Roberts – asked who a good contact for would be for fixing the electrical issue on the truck.
Zaremba – stated he can provide the contact information for someone that would be able to potentially fix the problem.

Purchases Over $2,000

EFT 15 - $2,974.68 to Alasconnect for September 2026 IT Services
EFT 16 - $8,326.84 to Bank of America for August 2026 Credit Card Charges
EFT 17 - $44,000 to Big Delta Rescue Inc. for September 2026 EMS Contract
EFT 18 - $13,860 to Delta Surveys Associates for Remaining Cemetery Expansion Contract
EFT 19 - $6,055.90 to GVEA for August 2026 Electricity
EFT 20 - $51,491.00 to Heritage General Contracting for Library Boiler Conversion
Motion: Leith moved to approve EFTs #15 through #20 as presented; Heinbockel seconded.
Motion passed on roll (Case, Leith, Heinbockel, Prestegard, Webb, Hallgren, and Zaremba).

REPORTS

Mayor/ Parks and Recreation – Igor Zaremba reported: The old City Park pavilion has been removed and the site cleaned up so the new pavilion can go forward the sign was saved but the beams are questionable. He encouraged everyone to support the volunteers at the Riverwalk Park open house on September 19.
City Administrator – Lori Roberts reported: The USDA grant was approximately $70,000 for a Public Works equipment request, now a grader brush-mower attachment is awaiting USDA approval. She asked whether the Council wanted to pursue RHTP grant applications for parks and EMS and provided details about the Safe Streets for All grant received by the City.
Finance – Kaylee Trofimov reported: The City had received a $200,000 donation from Pogo, and the fiscal year 26 audit prep is going well.
City Clerk – Andrea Peters reported: The election process is going well and that candidates will be posted publicly very soon. She explained that all information for a council meeting must be given to the Clerk no later than the Wednesday before the next council meeting to be included in the agenda.
Library/Cemetery – Mary Leith reported: Pat led a rock-picking cleanup at the cemetery on the 5th with parents and kids. She brought concerns of approximately 8 unmarked graves at the cemetery with no living relations. She explained that there has been contact with a company in Anchorage that would be willing to send simple headstones which could cost the City approximately $4,000. She states that story hour and toddler time are back, kids logged more than 1,000 summer reading hours, 14 new library cards have been issued during Library Card Sign-Up Month, and the Library Association's sale went well.

Landfill/Public Works – Sherry Heinbockel reported: The landfill scale will be updated Thursday and work on covering waste continues. Public Works has septic pumping scheduled at the visitor center, park, and library while crews clean the shop and grade roads.
Airport/Emergency Preparedness – Mike Prestegard reported: Hunting season has kept the airport busy, that some pilots are tying up the runway by taxiing on it instead of the taxiway (which the member will discuss with Alan), and reminded everyone to prepare for winter.
Emergency Services/Health and Safety – Tim Webb reported: Chris had provided information about 15 EMS dispatches from September 1–14: seven transports to Fairbanks, two patients treated on scene, one refusal, and five cancellations. Two of the canceled calls involved mutual aid being denied; the patients reached care on their own. Webb encouraged residents to get flu shots and noted that September is Suicide Prevention Month.
Schools – Rena Case reported: The elementary school's Farm Day was a hit, and school activities are going well and asked that a large pothole on Nistler Road in front of the elementary school be filled, even temporarily.
At Large – Pete Hallgren reported: The cost of electricity is still at 37 cents per kilowatt hour GVEA suggestions ways to cut the power bill. GVEA is also looking at cutting energy cost with alternative energy sources.
Additional Reports – none
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
Mr. Stebbins – stated some residents are concerned about the City pursuing RHTP funding for a competing EMS service instead of supporting Big Delta Rescue.
Hallgren – explained that the City was Big Delta Rescue's biggest supporter, with a contract to pay approximately $500,000 that year after spending several hundred thousand dollars from reserves to keep ambulance service operating. He said the City was not trying to replace Big Delta Rescue but might keep a backup plan in case the service did not work out.
Zaremba – explained that the City has never intended to undercut Big Delta Rescue. The City applied for an ambulance only as a backup when the service's future was uncertain. He said the City would meet with Big Delta Rescue about the RHTP funding and step aside if Big Delta Rescue had a better chance of receiving it. He expressed gratitude to Big Delta Rescue for stepping up.
Executive Session – Personnel Review
Motion: Leith moved to enter executive session for personnel review; Webb seconded.
Motion passed on roll (Leith, Heinbockel, Prestegard, Webb, Hallgren, Case, and Zaremba).

Motion: Case moved to exit executive session for personnel review; Prestegard seconded.
Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Motion: Hallgren moved to authorize the Mayor to send a response letter canceling the work-from-home agreement to the employee; Case seconded.
Motion passed on roll (Prestegard, Webb, Hallgren, Case, Leith, Heinbockel, and Zaremba).

ADJOURNMENT – approximately 7:38pm

CITY SEAL

Igor Zaremba, Mayor

Andrea Peters, City Clerk

Minutes are a summary of Council meetings. Recordings are available at City Hall. Approved: October 2026