

# McGrath City News

## City Council

### April Meeting Highlights

REGULAR MEETING – April 22, 2007

- **Public Works Foreman Report:** Duane and Stan will be concentrating in the next week or two on getting the maintenance on the water and sewer systems, building and grounds ready for summer. There are a number of projects to be completed this summer, although the two large water and sewer construction projects (National Weather Service housing and SCF McGrath Health Center) will take place next year, rather than this summer as originally thought.
- **DNR's steel sewer tank is failing** and needs a complete replacement. Emergency funds have been sought, but we have not yet found a source of funding where the criteria includes an agency owned tank. A new replacement tank will cost a minimum of \$5,000 landed in McGrath. We are looking into a couple of possible options for a temporary replacement tank, as all of the 48 piped sewer system tanks are scheduled for replacement in the third year phase of the Village Safe Water grant.
- The **marine "fuel header"** will be relocated inside of the containment area around the city's bulk fuel farm. This will save the city \$1,500 annually that is currently required for an inspection.
- **Dishna Subdivision "setbacks":** Building setbacks of 10' on each property line will be included on the final Plat.

**Note:** 15' Utility Easements are already shown on the Plat, effectively giving a "building setback" of 15' (30' combined on adjoining property lines), where no permanent structures can be constructed.

### JOB OPENING

The **Public Works Foreman** position is open and the full job description is on the [www.mcgrathalaska.net](http://www.mcgrathalaska.net) Message Board.

This is a full-time, permanent position. Closing date is Fri. June 15<sup>th</sup> or until filled.

Application packets are available at the city office during business hours or can be emailed.

## McGrath participates in the National Flood Insurance Program



**Development Permit required** for construction and substantial improvements in McGrath.

With the river at such a low level this spring, the least likely topic of conversation these days is the possibility of flooding and needing flood insurance. But, it does indirectly relate to the season, when McGrath residents are busy with lots of construction and remodeling activity getting into full swing.

Although this information has been shared through the City Council meetings, public notice of the Ordinance and for 3 years notices were published in the *City News*, it is apparent that few people are aware that McGrath has an Ordinance requiring a **Development Permit** when constructing or making substantial improvements on property within this flood hazard area.

Following the wide-spread flood damage in 1996, and subsequent years flooding damage requiring FEMA Flood Mitigation measures to be taken, McGrath initiated the process to be a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program and was accepted in the "Emergency Phase" in 2002. This participation and compliance with the floodplain development program assures McGrath property owners the availability of flood insurance that otherwise would not be available.

The City of McGrath Municipal Code states that the National Flood Insurance Program's purpose is "to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of McGrath, and to minimize flood losses".

The communities go through various phases as they enter the program and McGrath is at the first, "Emergency Phase". We do not yet have mapping. With the exception of land going up to and including Cranberry Ridge, all of the land within McGrath's city limits is classified as being in a flood hazard area. The McGrath base flood level is **337.7 MSL**.

Flood waters on road and properties on B Street (by Lyman's) in downtown McGrath.





## City of McGrath

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*Army Corps of Engineers  
Public Input Meeting –  
Erosion Control for all river  
banks in McGrath  
Monday June 11th  
7:00pm*

*Public Works Comm.  
Tuesday June 12th  
5:00pm*

*Planning Commission  
Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm*

*Public Safety Comm.  
Thursday June 14<sup>th</sup>  
5:00pm*

*Administration & Finance  
Monday June 18<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm*

*Volunteer Fire Dept. and  
KVRS Joint meeting  
Wed. June 20<sup>th</sup>  
7:00p*

*City Council Meeting  
Tuesday June 26<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm*



**State and Federal assistance for small rural communities:** The small rural cities will have some financial “revenue sharing” assistance this year, averting immediate financial disaster for many communities.

**--- A Municipal Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) grant** will provide McGrath with **\$90,080** and the

**--- Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) \$43,227** again this year.

**--- The McGrath Native Village Council (MNVC)** is earmarking approximately **\$50,000 of McGrath’s federal Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) funding**, to go toward **McGrath Community Road Maintenance**, which is approximately the annual amount that the Roads/Equipment fund is in deficit, as it has not been funded from any source over recent years.

These sources of funding will afford the City of McGrath the opportunity to develop sustainable, local sources of revenue for the city’s operating budget and community development.



### City News now online!

Past & the current copy of McGrath City News are available online at [www.mcgrathalaska.net](http://www.mcgrathalaska.net). Click on the tab at the top left side of the home page for this and archived back issues.

There is no fee associated with obtaining the Development Permit.

New construction or a “substantial improvement” requires that the property owner get a Development Permit from the city. **Substantial Improvement** means any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either:  
(a) before the improvement or repair is started, or  
(b) if the structure has been damaged, and is being restored, before the damage occurred.

For the purposes of this definition “substantial improvement” is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure.

#### **McGrath Flood Insurance Information**

City of McGrath participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)  
Community Effective Date **November 18, 2002**  
Community No.: **020128**

McGrath is in the **EMERGENCY PHASE** of the NFIP

Elevation Certificates are not required to obtain flood insurance.

#### **Emergency Program Rates**

##### **Annual Rates per \$100 of Coverage**

	<u>Building</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Residential	.76	.96
Nonresidential	.83	1.62

##### **Emergency Program: Amount of Insurance Available**

	<u>Building</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Residential	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,000
Nonresidential	\$150,000	\$100,000

Anyone planning to develop (new building, excavation, fill, etc.) must obtain a floodplain **Development Permit** from the City of McGrath. A copy of the complete Ordinance is available at the city office. Even if you have already begun, it’s not too late. To date, no “Stop Work” orders have been posted and code enforcement has not taken place.

For further information on flood insurance, go to: <http://www.floodsmart.gov/>

Contact the city office at 524-3825 to make an appointment with the Public Works Foreman for an on-site visit and to fill out your **Development Permit application**.

*“Wheeled” Vehicle Safety Inspections  
Due during month of June*



**McGrath Municipal Code 10.04.040 Safety Inspection requirements.**

A. It is unlawful to operate a motorized vehicle which fails at any time to meet the safety inspection requirements identified in Table 10.04.040 or which has not been inspected by the city for operating safety in accordance with those requirements.

B. A city safety inspection sticker shall be issued and placed by the issuing authority in the following locations on each motorized vehicle which meets the inspection requirements as identified in Table 10.04.040:

1. Cars, trucks and vans-lower driver side windshield or lower left rear window;
2. Snowmobiles-upper left corner of cowling;
3. Three and four-wheel all terrain vehicles-front left fender.

**Table 10.04.040**

	Snowmachine	Motor Scooter, Motorcycle, Motor Driven bicycle, three wheeled, four wheeled & other off- road vehicle	Car, Truck, Pick-up, other wheeled vehicle
1) Adequate brakes and brake lights indicators if originally equipped	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
2) Cowl or safety for drive chain belt and/or clutch	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
3) Adequate noise suppression system	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
4) Throttle with automatic return	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
5) Steering within safe operating conditions	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
6) Taillight(s) and/or taillight reflector(s) if originally equipped	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
7) Headlight(s)	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>