

# McGrath City News

## City Council

### Meeting Highlights

#### REGULAR MEETING – January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008

- **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** To approve Minutes of November 27, 2007, December 28, 2007 and January 16, 2008

**VOTE:** 7/7 Yes votes

Unanimous, motion carried

- **Ordinance 08-03 – to amend the FY08 Water and Sewer Utility Budgets for FY08**

**MOTIONS:** To go into public hearing, out of public hearing and to adopt the motion.

**VOTE:** 7/7 Yes

Unanimous, motions carried

This amendment reflected the \$10,000 contribution to the Water and Sewer Systems.

- **Resolution 08-09 – to urge DNR to proceed with the Dishna Subdivision**

**MOTION:** Moved to approve Resolution 08-09

**VOTE:** 7/7 yea votes

Unanimous, motion carried

- **Resignation of City Clerk and Janitor**

**MOTION:** Moved to accept the resignations of the City Clerk and Janitor.

**VOTE:** 7/7 Yes votes,

Unanimous, motion carried

City Clerk's ending January 31 and Janitor February 29.

#### SPECIAL MEETING – January 29, 2008

A special meeting was called when TCC VPSO Program Coordinator Jim Knopke notified the city that he would be coming to McGrath and would be available to meet with the City Council and MNVC as well as other interested residents.

The City Council and representatives of MNVC were able to go over each provision of the annual Letter of Agreement between the community (City) and the VPSO program administered by TCC. This was very helpful to all and numerous questions were answered and clarifications were made.

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A working group of the *Community Collaboration* effort met in January with guests Peter Olsen and Bill Wall of Alaska Village Initiatives as they shared the progress of the McGrath Integrated Biomass Project. As well as conducting field investigations on transportation routes to deliver the Biomass to a “wood yard” in McGrath, they also met with M.T.N.T. Limited regarding the Forestry Stewardship plan that they are developing for them. A Feasibility Study proposal will be submitted to the Denali Commission for the next stage of this sustainable alternative energy project.

### *Did you know?*

The *Tundra Drums* is available online at:

<http://www.alaskanewspapers.com/tundradrums.asp>

*CEO Express*, n mammoth “Information Portal” is available online at:

[www.ceoexpress.com](http://www.ceoexpress.com)

WARNING! You may get lost for days as you explore!

### Watch for upcoming Job Announcements for part time:

- ❖ **Janitorial (evenings)**
- ❖ **City Clerk-Treasurer Trainee position (afternoons)**



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### Special Meeting January 29, 2008

The LOA outlines the expectations of the VPSO and how the City shall support the VPSO position. The VPSO is employed by TCC. Duties of the VPSO are set by the Alaska State Troopers, who also provide training. Besides law enforcement, the VPSO may serve as a probation/parole officer under the Department of Corrections. VPSOs are trained in Basic Life Support (BLS) and Emergency Trauma Training (ETT) and can respond to medical emergencies. VPSOs are charged with promoting fire prevention, water safety and in search and rescue missions.

As a TCC employee, the VPSO is limited to a forty-hour workweek, although the hours are not typical business hours. The specific hours worked should meet the needs of the community. The VPSO is technically not "on call", but is expected to respond to after-hour emergencies, and is paid overtime for this. It is up to the VPSO to determine if the call requires emergency response. If he does respond to an after-hours emergency, he will sometimes take off early or come in late to make up for these after hours calls.

The Public Safety Department section of the McGrath Municipal Code, as well as some public safety ordinances needs updating. Clarifications made during this meeting will help that process move forward. The words "traffic" and "patrol" were defined. "Patrol" means moving about the community during a normal workday monitoring activities. "Traffic" implies radar, traffic stops and pursuit. VPSOs do not do traffic stops or pursue speeders. It is not part of their training. The purpose of the VPSO is to enhance public safety. While on patrol, if an infraction is observed, the VPSO must use his judgment on how to best handle the situation to maintain public safety.

Trooper Gibbens announced that another State Trooper would be moving to McGrath within the next several months. In response to concerns voiced during this meeting as well as by others, he pointed out that addition would not overload McGrath with law enforcement. It is a regional assignment for a Trooper with a plane who will be more efficiently located to respond to upper Kuskokwim villages and closer Yukon villages. The new Trooper will deal with "people problems," which will free Trooper Gibbens to work on "animal problems," his area of expertise.

### UPDATES:

■ A Grant Agreement was signed with State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Village Safe Water Program. This provides for the first phase of a nearly \$10 million *Water and Sewer Renovation and Replacement* project. This phase, funded for \$1,013,000.00, will provide for Design and Engineering of the 3-year construction project.

■ NRCS Erosion Project (repair 1,100' Levee)- Legal processes move forward and an extension has assured that the city still has the \$1,895,200 available. The revised timeline would be to solicit bids for the project around mid-May and award a contract by the end of July.

■ The City has been notified that a Resolution was signed on 1/02/08 by MNVC to provide a portion of their Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) funding for road maintenance to the city in the amount of \$55,000. This funding that MNVC receives for road maintenance within their community is an excellent example of community collaboration. The state is no longer the conduit for monies from the federal government for road maintenance in the rural communities. Alaskan Tribal governments are now receiving that money and additional road monies directly for their communities. The city is very grateful for this source of revenue being added to the Budget to maintain the roads.

■ Community Collaboration Meeting: Projects are moving forward. The MOA between agencies in or representing McGrath is in the final stages of development and 5 more entities will be invited to participate. The Community Brochure design is underway and should be available for distribution prior to the Iditarod.

All city meetings are held at the Cap'n Snow Center, upstairs in the Assembly Room and are open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend

**Volunteer Fire Dept.**  
**Tue. February 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

**Administration & Finance**  
**(Rescheduled)**  
**Monday February 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

**Public Works Comm.**  
**Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00pm**

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

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

**Holiday Closure**  
**President's Day**  
**Monday February 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Volunteer Fire Dept. & KVRIS**  
**Joint Meeting**  
**Tue. February 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

**State of Alaska – Gas Pipeline**  
**Town Meeting, Wed. Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:00pm Cap'n Snow Center**

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

### WELCOME! NEW CITY STAFF:

**Phil Graham**, returning City Clerk –Treasurer (+Trainer)

**Quinn Lane**, VISTA in the Village Council Management Program  
(focusing on Community Planning)

Current and past issues of McGrath City News are published online at [www.mcgrathalaska.net](http://www.mcgrathalaska.net). On that page, click on the *City Newsletter tab* in left column or here.

