

McGrath City News

City Council

February Meeting Highlights

REGULAR MEETING – February 26, 2008

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 22, 2008 - regular meeting, January 29, 2008 –special meeting, VPSO work session special meeting

VOTE: 5 of 5 present Yes. **Motion carried**

Topics discussed that required clarification or had no formal action included:

- * Checkpoint preparation is well underway.
- * Acknowledgement of Athena Wittenkeller’s passing and extending condolences to her family.
- * No major problems with water mains or sewer lines this winter.
- * Receipt of \$55,000 from MNVC’s Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) funds for road maintenance, which is greatly appreciated.
- * Donlin Creek update, the possibility of a peat-fired electric generation plant is on the back-burner. They are moving forward with further development at Donlin while investigating ways to lower their capital investment in construction and operation of the mine.
- * DEC’s correspondence regarding an old fuel spill in 1979 at the former city tank farm.
- * VPSO/Public Safety report format submitted to the council was discussed and it was suggested that more detail, like a narrative be submitted. Also, encouraging the VPSO to do educational activities at the school
- * Fundraising contributions: Clarification that it is city policy to not make cash donations. The city has supported fundraising efforts, by giving certificates for free vehicle safety inspections, soda pop, children’s prizes (toys) for bike-a-thon, Community Cleanup Day, 4th of July, McGrath Fair, etc.). The city recently donated 3 vehicle inspection certificates to NYO.
- * Unfunded by direct allocations (i.e. no State Revenue Sharing) are the Public Safety (Fire Dept., Rescue Squad and VPSO) expenses like worker’s compensation, gasoline, heating fuel for ambulance and fire truck bays, vehicle insurance, electricity, etc.

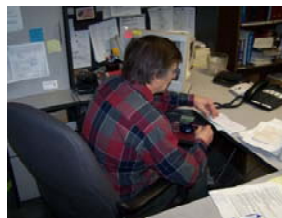
Iditarod 2008

Lance Mackey – First Team to McGrath & he’s gone in a flash!



Lots of activity has been taking place since about 10:30pm Tuesday March 4th, when Lance Mackey arrived, followed by numerous teams throughout the night and morning. The volunteers are cooking and baking... and the delectable aroma of home-cooked food are wafting throughout the building. Outdoor activity on all sides of the building continues as dogs are curled up sleeping on thick beds of straw, some being fed and cared for by the drivers, Vets check the dogs and visitors move quietly along the sleeping teams... to get a first-hand glimpse of activities at “a favorite checkpoint” along the Iditarod Trail.

Welcome to new & returning city staff



City Clerk-Treasurer Phil Graham and the fashionable office dog “Pooper”, shown here sporting her – 40F outdoor gear, have returned to work at the front desk.



VISTA member Quinn Lane works on the Community Plan project.

Chris Bybee assumes Janitorial responsibilities just in time to experience the Iditarod related duties.





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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 and participate.

Public Works Comm.
Tuesday March 11th
5:00pm

Planning Commission
Wednesday March 12th
7:00pm

Public Safety Comm.
Thursday March 13th
5:00pm

Administration & Finance
Monday March 17th
7:00pm

**Volunteer Fire Dept. and
KVRS Joint meeting**
Wed. March 19th
7:00pm

City Council Meeting
Tuesday March 24th
7:00pm

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The new McGrath Brochure link is on the right column just below the "Webcam" icon. Click here:



Sally Andrews for over 5 Years of employment as the City's Janitor.

McGrath Native Village Council for \$55,000 IRR Road Maintenance funding.

Nadra Lepper's class from Brooksville ME for the contribution of an electric dishwasher in the Iditarod

Does this warm weather have you thinking Spring?

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Insurance is available for McGrath property owners through your Homeowner's Insurance or Lending Institution. While McGrath is in the "Emergency Phase", an Elevation Certificate is not required and McGrath residents pay a flat rate. It is advised to get the process underway soon in order to have your policy in affect this spring. If you or your Insurance Agent has any questions, call the city office.

Development Permit applications are available at the city office, which is required if you plan to build, renovate, add on, bring in fill material, excavate or make significant improvements to your property. The purpose of the Permit is to protect property and structures from flood damage by verifying that building activity is at least 2' above the Base Flood Elevation.



An Iditarod team rests and is cared for while at the checkpoint in McGrath.



Local Iditarod racers share memorabilia.



The Tochak Historical Society Museum "Cookbook Recipe" Dinner was a huge success, serving many out of town visitors and locals. The Museum store (below) features arts & crafts created by residents of the Upper Kuskokwim Valley.



The new Beaver Dam display located in the trapping display.