

City Council

March Meeting Highlights

REGULAR MEETING – March 25, 2008

- **Motion:** To approve the corrected minutes from the February 25, 2008 meeting.
VOTE: Yes, 5 of 7 present. Two abstained due to not being present at meeting of Feb. 25. **Motion passed.**
- **Motion:** Request to rent vacant (former) Elder's House for two months.
VOTE: Yes, 7 of 7 present. **Motion passed.**
- **Motion:** Zebulon Vanderpool's time extension request for moving the Old Schoolhouse. To grant Mr. Vanderpool until August 1, 2008 to move the Old Schoolhouse off city property.
VOTE: Yes, 7 of 7 present. **Motion passed.**
- **Motion:** Operator in Training (OIT)/Public Works. To allow Natalie to advertise for the Operator in Training position.
VOTE: Yes, 7 of 7 present. **Motion passed**

April Meeting Highlights

REGULAR MEETING – April 22, 2008

- **Motion:** To approve the corrected minutes of the March 25, 2008 meeting.
VOTE: Yes, 5 of 5 present **Motion passed**

Ordinances and Resolutions

- **Resolution 08-10** – City support of AGIA
Motion: To approve Resolution 08-10, expressing continuing support for the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act (AGIA).

VOTE: Yes, 5 of 5 present **Motion passed**

May Meeting Highlights

REGULAR MEETING – May 27, 2008

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 22, 2008 meeting.
VOTE: Yes, 5 of 5 present. **Motion passed**
- **Motion:** To adopt **Resolution 08-11** to authorize filing a "Land for Public Purposes Application" with the Department of Natural Resources. (Re-apply for 3 BLM Federal Reserve lots located adjacent to the Cap'n Snow Center to be used for the location of the new Water Treatment Plant.)
VOTE: Yes, 5 of 5 present. **Motion passed**
- **Motion:** To accept Kathy Birkenfeld's resignation due to her family's upcoming move from McGrath.
VOTE: Yes, 5 of 5 present. **Motion passed**

Landfill Update

Landfill: As snow had receded and ground thawed, scheduled spring maintenance was being carried out last week. The accumulated winter's "burn" was being pushed away from the wall and buried, and the landfill exposed itself to the consequences of "use and age"; necessitating a temporary closure for further maintenance and "shoring" of the "wall" will. A temporary drop-off location has been established and those dropping off trash are asked to follow the clear directions at the first road entrance to the landfill.



Shortly after this discovery, **an unauthorized fire was set at the wall** right after accumulated trash and burned debris had been "pushed and buried".

Early the following morning, **a large unauthorized fire was reported and investigated on the "Salvage" side of the landfill.** This fire was either deliberately or carelessly ignited during the early hours of the morning. It quickly developed into a very hot, fast spreading fire burning underground in an extensive and rich supply of "fuel" consisting of demolition debris, tires, brush, soils and other items buried over the years.

City staff/Public Works, McGrath Volunteer Fire Dept. and DNR personnel responded and reevaluated options throughout the day, resulting in the MVFD bringing the brush truck and large tanker truck to the scene to put down some flames and to see what could be done to mitigate smoke. Earlier, grass & brush were extinguished on the outside of the landfill clearing. It is estimated that this fire could burn for a long time if further action is not taken. Under consideration is soaking the area with river water through fire hose and sprinklers. Public Works Foreman Stan Magnuson cut in a fire line with the dozer as a wildfire mitigation measure.

Batteries, used oil, antifreeze and other hazardous materials require special handling and are not allowed in any section of the landfill. Other drop-off locations are available. Considerable extra work will be required to prepare and remove items improperly disposed of on the Salvage side of the landfill.



John Ramsey of the State Dept. of Homeland Security & Emergency Management gathers data for emergency erosion control assistance if needed in the future.



State and local responders discuss options as they begin to develop a plan to take immediate and future actions.



City of McGrath

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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 June 10th
5:00pm

Planning Commission
Wednesday June 11th
7:00pm

Public Safety Comm.
Thursday June 12th
5:00pm

Administration & Finance
Monday June 16th
7:00pm

**Volunteer Fire Dept. and
KVRS Joint meeting**
Wed. June 18th
7:00pm

City Council Meeting
Tuesday June 24th
7:00pm

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Highlights of current projects

NRCS 1,100'erosion project: The legal requirements and permits are in line and the Solicitation process is underway. The Pre-Solicitation is on the www.fbo.gov website and is project: AG-0150-S-08-005. Construction and grant closeout will be completed by December 31, 2009.

Village Safe Water Project: The three finalist companies paid a site visit to McGrath recently, responding to the request for proposals. The scope of their work is to complete the design of a new Water Treatment Plant and to identify a new water source and drill the wells in this initial design and engineering phase of a 3-year construction project. Proposals will be reviewed, scored and oral presentations given by each on June 4th, prior to selection and award of the contract. Work will commence this summer.



Sustainable Garden: The greenhouse has been completed, tilling work and planting is under way at the garden site. As prices go up, more and more of us will be gardening to lower the cost of living and to have healthy, organic food available.



UAF McGrath Center:

The WWII vintage building housing the center saw its last students and has been permanently closed. Deteriorating conditions and safety issues resulted in the decision. Subsequently, the future of the UAF McGrath Center is now being discussed by UAF officials. A public meeting with UAF leaders will be held in McGrath a bit later this summer. The May Breakfast Club gathering discussed the years of benefits and activity with students from Yukon and Kuskokwim communities. The availability of higher education being available in the region is at the core of our sustainability, population growth and economic development.



National Flood Insurance Development Permit Applications available

Since 2002, McGrath has had an Ordinance requiring a **Development Permit** when constructing or making substantial improvements on property as well as a number of other activities 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 and the required elevation for new construction is 340'**.

There is no fee associated with obtaining the Development Permit Applications are available and appointments with the Public Works Foreman or his designee can be made at the city office.

You can also purchase flood insurance through your insurance agent or lending institution.

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.

Please review two pages from the NFIP "Alaska Quick Guide" included with your water bill this month.