

McGrath City News

City Council

Meeting Highlights

REGULAR MEETING – July 22, 2008

- **Special Guest: Cynthia Zuelow-Osborne, former McGrath resident** – DNR paid a site visit during the process of the city obtaining a Land/Water Easement Permit for NRCS Project who also updated the council on the old (1980's) log haul-out applications and easements between that location downriver to the AC Company. Cynthia also answered questions from council members regarding the permitting process for the NRCS erosion control project and took information and questions to convey to the other DNR staff working on the Dishna Subdivision re-platting.
- **Welcome! To Public Works Foreman Tom Parker.**

Motion: To approve the UAF request to accept lease payments for June and July 2008 and waive the August (last 30-day payment) specified the 90-day notice requirement to terminate the UAF Center lease.

VOTE: Yes, 4 of 4 present. **Motion passed.**

By Consensus: Future use of the former UAF building - No action taken at this time

Motion: Mayor Dustin Parker will declare a Proclamation for Aug. 10-16, 2008 as **Health Center Week.**

VOTE: Yes, 4 of 4 present. **Motion passed.**

Motion: To accept the resignation of City Attorney Gordon Tans.

VOTE: Yes, 4 of 4 present. **Motion passed**

Motion: To authorize the purchase of EK-35 road dust control material. Timing of purchase will be at the City Administrator's discretion.

VOTE: Yes, 4 of 4 present. **Motion passed**

NOTE: August 26 meeting rescheduled for 9/3/08

Current and past issues of McGrath City News are published online at www.mcgrathalaska.net Click on the *City Newsletter* tab in left column.

The full-color photo-rich *Experience McGrath* brochure is also available online. Click the icon in the right column as seen below.



McGrath! How's your Gardening, Berry Picking, Fishing & Harvesting? Look'n pretty good!



Bright, sunny (flower) faces greet those who pass Richard and Sharon Strick's driveway.



New rock border for future flower garden in front of Cap'n Snow Center.



Marie Dementoff and her sister Annie Lou Williams next to Annie's smokehouse in Kalskag after a day of cutting fish.



Ephrem Andrews' family makes good use of drift logs for their own and others use.



Blueberries and cranberries in Marie Graham's bucket promise renewed memories of summer well into the winter months!



Crystal Colley's blueberries and cranberries will be the focus of new recipes this fall & winter..





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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 Sept 9th
5:00pm

Planning Commission
Wednesday Sept 10th
7:00pm

Public Safety Comm.
Thursday Sept 11th
5:00pm

Administration & Finance
Monday Sept 15th
7:00pm

**Volunteer Fire Dept. and
KVRS Joint meeting**
Wed. Sept 17th
7:00pm

City Council Meeting
Tuesday Sept 23rd
7:00pm

Vacancies on City Council

There is a current vacancy and several more seats will be up for election during the October election. PLEASE consider serving you community! Contact the city office for paperwork.

NRCS Erosion Project: The project is underway! M and L Construction company has equipment on the way upriver by barge, have begun making local arrangements for fall and winter work. They will be drilling, blasting and hauling rock from the quarry for staging on the upriver end (log haulout) of the project this winter.

Public Works Dept. Projects:

- **City Sewer System maintenance:** The Public Works Dept. completed the pumping and maintenance of the “Step Tank Systems” undertaken every two years.
- **Landfill maintenance:** Further work will commence during the next few weeks.
- **National Weather Service Housing:** Water and Sewer installations for the new houses being built are also underway and nearing completion.

Floodplain Management Training

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP-FEMA) will be providing training in Anchorage on Sept. 15th through the 19th for communities participating in the program. Natalie Baumgartner will be attending the training that has been provided through a grant from the state. Those communities participating in this program are situated within floodplains. The NFIP provides the information and ability to protect our residents and property from flood events and the ability to buy flood insurance for property. In addition to McGrath, Nome, Delta Junction, Valdez, Skagway, Homer and Fairbanks will participate this year.

Village Safe Water Project – Phase I

The projects is well underway, with McGrath’s VSW engineer, KAE engineer, Golder and Associates (Geologists) and MW Drilling having been or are continue to work this fall. Drilling the first test well in the DNR Dishna Subdivision was successful and the samples taken have been sent for analysis. Currently, drilling is underway and a well is being put down just upriver from the Cap’n Snow Center with pumping to be completed and samples sent to the lab for analysis during this week. Developing a new water source will greatly increase the city’s ability to provide good tasting and safe water with the least amount of labor and expense. Within these parameters, keeping the cost of producing water as low as possible is the goal.

VSW Project: The drillers will also be moving throughout the community putting down about 20 bore holes. You may have seen the flagging, surveyor’s markers and stakes. They are making the best use of resources and keeping project costs down. The drill rig is being utilized while in town, as this drilling activity is necessary for Phase II of the project that includes replacing the water mains.



Drill Rig putting down a test well near the Cap’n Snow Center & Water Treatment Plant.

Integrated Biomass Project: Bill Wall, project engineer brought an experienced biomass engineer to McGrath a couple of weeks ago, to gain first-hand knowledge of our resources as they work to prepare a detailed proposal for the Denali Commission that is at an advanced level of development at the time of submission.



Year of the bear... Sightings, several reports of charging, smelling them in the woods, and ripping up and destroying camps. More than usual this year?