

## City Council

### July Meeting Highlights

#### REGULAR MEETING – July 25, 2006

- **Curfew Ordinance** – request to increase fine

Motion: That all City of McGrath Public Safety Ordinance fees be brought up to not more than \$300.00.

Vote: Unanimous. 6 of 6 present. Motion carried

- **The Water Committee will be reestablished with the Mayor making appointments.**

Vote: Unanimous, 6 of 6 present. Motion carried

- **Breathalyzer** - The council wants the Mayor to write a letter to Mrs. Schwartz and Joe Slusser, DA, in Bethel, to request that McGrath receive a Datamaster and that cases be handled and not dropped.

Vote: Consensus

- **Cemetery Committee Appointments**  
To appoint Ray Collins and Nick Snow to the Cemetery Committee.

Vote: Consensus

**Fire department** – Received a letter announcing \$5,000 for training. Will also be getting \$3,600.00 for Equipment and wild land fires – we have been offered a chance at a surplus automobile that will be available from fish and game. We have surplus bags and other equipment that needs to be transported to the fire sites. What ever needs to be done – it will go through the city asking for this vehicle. It will be free and be covered under the city's insurance policy.

Vote: Consensus

## Progress Reports



- **NRCS Erosion project; repair of levee.** We are waiting for paperwork to be completed by the Dept. of Justice before the next steps can be taken. In the meantime, the remaining Easements need to be signed by the landowners. This is in progress. Once those two processes are complete, the City Council will consider the next step, authorizing approximately \$11,000 in legal fees to file the Eminent Domain and Declaration of Taking documents for the construction and maintenance Easements in court.
- **NRCS US Dept. of Agriculture, NRCS Voluntary Acquisition of Floodplain property.** A list of interested property owners is being submitted to the Dept. of Agriculture for their approval. Once this list is approved, the services of a surveyor and appraiser will be acquired. Upon completion of their work, the property owners will be notified of the offer being made to them which is intended to alleviate the risk to structures from bank erosion, while restoring floodplain functions and values while avoiding future damages. Completed projects will result in the city acquiring the property, with the provision that no permanent structure be constructed on the property and promotes the maintenance of natural vegetative conditions on the property.
- **FEMA Flood and All Hazards Mitigation Plan grant.** The final paperwork providing for the go-ahead on having this plan developed and written has just been received. FEMA pays for 75% and the city pays 25% through in-kind services, mostly administrative. A RFP will go out shortly, to acquire the contracted services of a consultant with experience in writing these plans, which meet the specific criteria, required. Completion of this plan will qualify McGrath for federal funding in case of emergencies resulting from flood, forest fire, earthquake, etc. McGrath stands to benefit greatly, should there be such a disaster.



Assembly Room carpet & paint





## City of McGrath

PO Box 30  
McGrath, AK 99627  
Phone:  
(907) 524-3825  
Fax:  
(907) 524-3536  
E-Mail:  
[mcgrathcityadmin@gmail.com](mailto:mcgrathcityadmin@gmail.com)



**Public Works Comm.**  
**Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00pm**

**Planning Commission**  
**Wed. August 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

**Public Safety Comm.**  
**Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00pm**

**Volunteer Fire Dept. and  
KVRS Joint meeting**  
**Wed. August 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

**Administration & Finance  
Comm.**  
**Monday August 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**7:00pm**

**City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday August 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**7:00pm**



Todd Gage applying epoxy paint to resurfaced water plant floor.

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- **Boat Launch:** HDR has nearly completed the concept design for the city's review. They will have that to us by the end of this week. They are waiting to receive some environmental information that is required prior to presenting it to the city.
- **Village Safe Water Design and Engineering:** George Wilson, VSW Engineer has reported that the design money will be released by the state, likely during September. At that time, they will get an SOQ on the street to solicit interest from companies who can provide the design and engineering of our grant. Further information will be available to the City Council prior to that time. The order of the 3 construction phases will depend upon what other construction projects are occurring in McGrath during FY08-FY10. With expenses needing to be kept as low as possible, it is very beneficial to leverage the cost of mobilized equipment by spreading the cost between two or more projects. The required Rural Utilities Business Advisor (RUBA) assessment will be completed during a visit from Tammy Helms, the State's DCCED RUBA for McGrath, during her visit to McGrath the middle of August.
- **Cap'n Snow Renovation:** Tremendous progress has been made; carpet is installed on floors and stairs, walls & ceiling painted and trim installed. The new energy efficient light fixtures & fans are installed in the Assembly Room. The kitchenette area will be nearly complete, with the arrival of a couple of cabinets and a countertop. Progress on the Water Treatment Plant floor resurfacing is in the initial stages and the two lab areas are being assembled. The skylight in the clerk's office will be replaced and a new window at the bottom of the stairs will be installed during August. Then, we can begin working the decorative and functional touches as funding and time allow.

- **Public Safety Building:** The "new" VPSO office is nearly complete, with new plumbing, insulation and floors and some walls being replaced due to long-standing moisture damage. New paint, trim, carpet and vinyl, doors, etc. have made a very functional and attractive office and meeting space for the VPSO. This office is now on city property across from the Post Office parking lot. VPSO Ken Parker can be reached there for vehicle inspections, DMV tests and other matters.
- **Fuel Order:** Fuel was ordered and delivered by Crowley. Our order ended up being \$4,776.71 less than the Seattle OPIS rack price at the time of the original quote/order. City fuel was loaded in Seattle when the price was lower than when the first barge was loaded. We will pay for the \$81,260.89 order with funds from the State's FY07 Municipal Energy Assistance Program and a State Bulk Fuel Loan with payments spread over 9 months from the city's General Fund.



*Note from the  
City Administrator –*

Over the past three years, critical state & federal funding has been completely eliminated for rural municipalities. This includes Revenue Sharing, Safe Communities funds and other grants. During this same time period, the expenses for rural municipalities have increased by leaps and bounds. The price of fuel has skyrocketed, insurance, including health, liability, facilities and Workers Comp. The cost of all goods, air freight, and airfares has also increased, as we strive to provide maintenance and replacement of essential city infrastructure. Numerous large grants have been awarded, but require a larger percent of local match from the city's general fund. To attract and retain a qualified and stable staff (currently, (only 4 regular employees), wages and fringe have been reviewed and set at 2005 levels for Anchorage, where the cost of living is significantly less than rural AK. The city's administrative staff is compiling a list of money saving and revenue generating strategies. Some are currently in place and others will be presented for consideration to the city council during their August meeting. It is my hope that the council and residents will make choices that reflect a commitment to not only maintain essential services, but to provide for the sustainability of McGrath, including forward thinking growth and development for not only this generation, but generations to come.