

City Council

February Meeting Highlights

REGULAR MEETING – February 27, 2007

- **Guest – Jerry Sam – TCC Office of Environmental Health** – Jerry is a resource person to help communities with solid waste, hazardous waste issues. He came to town to make initial contact with city and MNVC environmental office. A resource person for communities to call with problems or for information. Mr. Sam was pleased to see that McGrath has a solid waste management plan.
- **DCCED – McGrath FY08 Population Determination is 321** – Their number is based on people who are going to be in the community for a minimum of 6 months and one day, and tabulated through permanent fund applications. If the city decides to challenge this determination, it would take volunteers to go house to house to do an accurate count. The data has to be submitted in a very organized manner (map, sequential number, count per house...). There is the possibility of talking to the school to see if HS students could do the count as a social studies project. Accurate population counts determine funding for communities from state and federal sources and grants.
- **Resolution 07-13: Support efforts to extend electric service to KSKO Transmitter Site. VOTE: Yes 7 of 7 votes. Resolution Adopted.**
- **Motion: 25% of Bed Fee collected into a fund to promote McGrath**
Moved to apply 25% of the bed fee income to a McGrath promotional account for one year beginning in March 2007 and ending with February 2008.
Vote: Yes, 7 of 7 votes. Motion carried.
- **Motion: Water Bill for Caroline's Kitchen**
Moved to bill the estate of Valkyrie Magnuson the full payment of the water bill for Caroline's Kitchen and Rooms.
Vote: Yes 6, No 1 of 7 votes. Motion carried.

Are you ready for Iditarod ?

Checkpoint preparations are in full swing by Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race volunteers, as they get the communications systems up and running, the checkpoint facilities ready and the dog food/gear pickup point organized.

The Iditarod Air Force has been busy for several weeks working out of Susie's Iditarod Trail Café downtown, as they shuttle bags of dog food and gear to outlying checkpoints along the trail.



McGrath Iditarod Sled Dog Race Checkpoint
City's Cap'n Snow Center



The gathering area in the Cap'n Snow Center – McGrath Checkpoint features a new kitchen, carpet and raised ceiling with energy efficient lights. Race drivers and volunteers will be fed excellent meals and provided a comfortable place to relax and visit, especially appreciated during 24-hour layovers and by race spectators and followers.



City of McGrath

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Public Works Comm.
Tuesday March 13th
5:00pm

Planning Commission
Wednesday, March 14th
7:00pm

Public Safety Comm.
Thursday March 15th
5:00pm

District Court – Assembly
Room March 19th – 23rd

Administration & Finance
Tuesday March 19th
7:00pm

Volunteer Fire Dept. and
KVRS Joint meeting
Wed. March 21st
7:00p

CLOSURE – Seward’s Day
Monday, March 26th

City Council Meeting
Tuesday March 27th
7:00pm

City News now online!

Past copies of McGrath City News are available online at www.mcgrathalaska.net Click on the tab at the top left side of the home page for this and archived back issues.

Army Corps of Engineers visit McGrath and begin Erosion Control Feasibility Study

Congressional Appropriation for full Erosion Control – Army Corps of Engineers George Kalli and Neil Rodriguez assigned to complete McGrath’s *Feasibility Study* visited McGrath to begin gathering existing data, documents, maps and to see the affected riverbanks for themselves. This first phase of the nearly \$10 million appropriation request was authorized based on the positive “cost to benefit ratio” conclusion of the earlier *Reconnaissance Study*. Shortly after breakup, they will return for a meeting with MNVC, MTNT, the city and others, followed by a public input meeting for the community.



Grants Closed out

The Denali Commission **Multi-Use Facility Renovation** grant (Cap’n Snow Center renovation) has been completed and the final reimbursement check has been received. The DNR **Snowmachine Safety Grant** has been completed and the final reimbursement check has been received. The **FY03 Capital Matching Grant for Facilities and Equipment repair** grant that had approximately \$10K remaining available in 2003 has now been closed out. Additional work completed included repairs and replacement of the window and door, new Toyo stove and “on demand” hot water heater for the **UAF Building**. The renovation of the former Elder’s House for Public Safety (**VPSO office**) had considerable purchases of building materials provided through this grant. The Denali Commission **Clinic Renovation** grant had not been closed out prior to 2003 and staff was able to utilize the additional funds available for the flooring on the stairs, some alteration to a room and air conditioning and filtering for rooms and offices.



City & MNVC collaborate on Landfill and Environmental resources for McGrath

Potential grant opportunities are being researched by MNVC and the city -- that if sought and awarded, would greatly improve the operation of the Landfill and associated activities. New DEC regulations regarding open burning and the need to handle hazardous materials and items that can be recycled are being reviewed and solutions identified that will mesh with McGrath’s Solid Waste Management Plan and that document’s anticipated updates.



Safety Issues & Mitigation of Risk

Safety issues and Equipment – The impending Fire Marshall’s visit kick-started the identification of issues needing attention in the Cap’n Snow Center, Garage, Teen Center and UAF Building. Considerable work has been performed and more is to be completed to mitigate risk. Installation of fire extinguishers in each building has been completed. Several MVFD members are certified to perform Level 1 Fire Extinguisher inspections, and will keep the tag records on the new extinguishers up to date for yearly inspections and Public Works employees will perform the monthly checks.



Daylight Saving Time Changes for 2007

Daylight Saving Time extended by 3-weeks in the spring and 1-week in the fall beginning in 2007.

Every spring we move our clocks one hour ahead and "lose" an hour during the night and each fall we move our clocks back one hour and "gain" an extra hour.

The phrase "Spring forward, fall back" helps people remember how Daylight Saving Time affects their clocks. At 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March (this year 11th), we set our clocks forward one hour ahead of standard time ("spring forward"). We "fall back" at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in November (this yr. 4th) by setting our clock back one hour and thus returning to standard time.