

March 2009

Volume 7, Issue 9

McGrath City News



*City Council Meeting Highlights
February meeting rescheduled
March 3, 2009*

MOTION: To approve the appointments of Richard Strick and Joe Banghart to vacant seats on the city council.

VOTE: Yes, 4 of 4 votes – Adopted

RESOLUTION 09-09 Community Planning Grant

MOTION: to request the State of Alaska to provide the city staff, Planning Commission and community leadership on-site training and guidance for community planning activities.

VOTE: Yes, 6 of 6 votes – Adopted

MOTION: To increase the Operator rate on the Heavy Equipment rental schedule to \$50/hour to reflect the full cost of the Operator's wage to the city.

VOTE: Yes, 6 of 6 votes – Adopted

MOTION: To confirm the following committee appointments:

Joe Banghart – Public Safety

Howard Correll – Public Works

VOTE: Yes, 6 of 6 votes – Adopted

CONSENSUS: To add replacement value insurance to the AML/JIA policy to cover the VPSO Building.

MOTION: To confirm continuing terms as Planning Commissioners for Richard Strick and Mike Tierney.

VOTE: Yes, 6 of 6 votes – Adopted

CONSENSUS: To refer the subject of written protocol regarding equipment use and rental back to the Public Works Committee and the Administration and Finance Committee.

DISHNA ROAD CONSTRUCTION:

Further steps are underway to get this work accomplished this summer.

Duane Norback

TCC's Water Treatment Plant Operator of the Year



Duane Norback has been named TCC's Water Treatment Plant Operator of the Year and has been nominated by TCC for the Statewide Operator of the Year Award. Congratulations Duane!



*The gardening season is around the corner ~
It's time to start thinking about starting seeds!*

The city received a nice assortment of garden seeds for those who would like to have a plot in the community garden. There is still a good deal of garden space available. Many vegetables and flowers can get a head-start indoors if given enough light and warmth.

Contact Kellie Peirce @524-3959 if you would like to reserve garden space or get some seeds and Crystal Colley @the city 524-3825 or 524-3203 if you are interested in volunteering to serve on the McGrath Fair Committee.

APPRECIATION FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

The City Council discussed their desire to recognize those in the community who have contributed so much to making McGrath a wonderful place to live, raise our families and retire. They would like to ask you, the residents of McGrath, to nominate people whom you know are providing these acts of service so that they can be formally recognized. Please feel free to call or email the city office and tell us who you feel deserves this recognition and why. Stay tuned -- more to come.

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race www.iditarod.com

The McGrath checkpoint volunteers are gearing up this weekend. The driver's sleeping area will be set up, the kitchen organized and tables and chairs will fill the assembly room of the Cap'n Snow Center. The live webcam has arrived and will be installed once the wind dies down. The checkpoint will be in full swing by Tuesday evening. Come on down! Watch the adventure in person and volunteer to help! You'll have a wonderful experience.



City of McGrath

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All meetings are open to the public and are held at the Cap'n Snow Center unless otherwise noted

Public Works Comm.

Tuesday MAR 10th

5:00pm

Heads

Planning Commission

Wednesday MAR 11th

7:00pm

Public Safety Comm.

Thursday MAR 12th

5:00pm

Administration & Finance

Monday MAR 16th

7:00pm

Volunteer Fire Dept. and

KVRS Joint meeting

Wed. MAR 18th

7:00pm

City Council Meeting

Tuesday MAR 24th

7:00pm

Holiday Closure

Seward's Day

Monday MAR 30th

Orchids



- **To those who have continued to clear around the fire hydrants** when there is new snowfall. If you have a hydrant near your house, you are always welcome to do the hand shoveling close to the hydrant once the equipment has gotten the area generally cleared. This community effort is greatly appreciated by the McGrath Volunteer Fire Dept.
- **To JNYO and Spelling Bee representation**
McGrath was well represented and the community is VERY proud of each of you!
- **To Tom and Duane – Public Works Dept.**



For your efforts to keep the roads plowed. Having the **berms at driveways cleared is greatly appreciated by everyone!** Good use of road maintenance funds.



Onions

- **To weather patterns and fuel prices** that are no longer predictable.



When space allows, **Orchids and Onions** will be shared. For years, this was a well-loved regular feature of McGrath's former weekly newspaper the **Kusko Courier**. McGrath residents enjoyed reading the "kudos" and acknowledged the "gripes". Do you have some to share? Call the city office and let us know. You may see yours in the next issue.

Excerpts from the February City Administrator's Report

- **Development Opportunity:** The recent purchase of the Nixon Fork Mine by Pacific North West Capital Corp. opens the door for McGrath to revisit encouraging families of Nixon Fork Mine employees to move to McGrath, put their children in school, and become a welcomed part of our community. Anticipated employment of residents from McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna and the surrounding region will also invigorate the local economy.
- **Sand Island – Fill material extraction Permit renewal** - The Permit process is near completion. Signage will be placed at the Permit area to notify residents and businesses of the city's reserved & Permitted area.
- **Dishna Subdivision Outcry Auction - has now been postponed** until sometime later in the summer when the road construction details are known. The Plat has been completed and signed. Some of the other lots that already have access via the existing (ballpark end) Goog's Haul Road and possibly the boardwalk trail will likely be offered by DNR through the Spring 2009 Land Disposal brochure that comes out in April. All Alaskan adults will have an opportunity to bid on lots in that publication comes out.
 - **The Spring 2009 Auction Brochure** release date is tentatively planned for March 25, 2009.
 - **Bidding period** is tentatively planned from 3/25/09 to 5/8/09.

Heads Up!

- **Postage increases on May 11, 2009.** A one-ounce letter stamp that costs \$.42 now will be \$.44. You can save by buying *Forever Stamps in any quantity before May 11th*. Customers can use their *Forever Stamps* — regardless of when purchased — to mail 1-ounce letters after the price change, without the need for additional postage.
- **Daylight Savings Time** begins on Sunday morning March 8 at 2:00AM when you "SPRING" your clock ahead one hour. Daylight Savings time ends on November 1.
- **Rock hauling on Cranberry Ridge Road** continues to take place, likely for another couple of weeks. Please use caution if you must travel their route and if it isn't a necessity, please stay off the road until they are done hauling. Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe.

The **City News** can be viewed in full color and downloaded online at:
<http://www.mcgrathalaska.net/mcgrathnews.htm>