

## City Council

### January Meeting Highlights

REGULAR MEETING – January 23, 2007

- **National Weather Service Meteorologist Bob Hopkins** made a *Storm Ready* Presentation – McGrath is the first interior city to be certified by the Weather Service as *Storm Ready*. Mr. Hopkins made a presentation of the Storm Ready signs to Mayor Parker and the City Council.
- The **McGrath Volunteer Fire Department** re-elected current officers: Chief – Mike Bye, Asst. Chief – Steffen Strick, Secretary/Treasurer – Richard Strick, Sr.
- **Denali Commission grant award** – A “**Waterfront Development**” **Barge Landing Facility** design grant has been awarded to the city, with further details of the award to be communicated to the City Council within the next few months.
- **Motion: Resolution 07-10 AML/JIA payment plan** to cover last 4 payments of FY07 due to changes in policy.  
**Vote: Yes** Unanimous, 4 of 4 votes. Motion carried.
- **Motion: Resolution 07-11 RurAL CAP Energy Program**, to recruit applicants for the volunteer position focused on community energy needs.  
**Vote: Yes** Unanimous, 4 of 4 votes. Motion carried.
- **Motion: Resolution 07-12 2005 Certified Financial Statement** to accept by Resolution, as it had been accepted only by Motion originally. **Vote: Yes** Unanimous, 4 of 4 votes. Motion carried.
- **Motion: Statement of Interest for Denali Commission Wood-Fired Heating Project** approval to submit, support and encourage the pursuit of high efficiency, locally provided, wood fired heat for the city buildings.  
**Vote: Yes** Unanimous, 4 of 4 votes. Motion carried.

*Continued on page 2*



NWS Anchorage Forecast Center Meteorologist Bob Hopkins presents council members Doug Lyman, Verdene Anselment, Mayor Dustin Parker and Ben Magnuson the National Weather Service *StormReady* signs for placement in McGrath.

There will be a special presentation at the Musher’s Banquet prior to the start of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race, as part of a notable effort for several Iditarod checkpoints to become StormReady. McGrath is one of four StormReady communities in AK, joining Juneau, Anchorage and Wasilla.

StormReady, a program started in 1999 in Tulsa, OK, helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property– before and during the event. StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs.

StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education, and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives.





## 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 Safety Comm.*  
*Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup>*  
*5:00pm*

*Public Works Comm.*  
*Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup>*  
*5:00pm*

*Planning Commission*  
*Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>*  
*7:00pm*

*Army Corps of Engineers to*  
*visit McGrath*  
*February 15<sup>th</sup>*

**HOLIDAY CLOSURE**  
*The city offices will be closed*  
*on February 19<sup>th</sup> in*  
*observance of President's*  
*Day.*

*Administration & Finance*  
*(Rescheduled)*  
*Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>*  
*7:00pm*

*Volunteer Fire Dept. and*  
*KVRS Joint meeting*  
*Wed. February 21<sup>st</sup>*  
*7:00p*

*City Council Meeting*  
*Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup>*  
*7:00pm*



*Continued from page 1*

### ▪ **Motion: Yard Setbacks**

Moved to send this issue back to the Planning Commission to be worded to only affect the future sales of non-surveyed / non-titled land in McGrath with a 10 ft. setback not a 20 ft. setback.

**Vote: Yes Unanimous, 4 of 4 votes.** Motion carried

### ▪ **Transportation**

Moved that the City Administration office write a letter to Frontier Flying Service asking them to add a section to McGrath.

**Vote: Yes Unanimous, 4 of 4 votes.** Motion carried

### ▪ **Promoting McGrath through advertising**

Refer to Admin & Finance committee the idea of putting 2.5% of the Hotel/Motel bed fee into a fund for advertising/tourism for McGrath. **Agreed by Consensus.**



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

Mr. George Kalli and another ACOE member will travel to McGrath on February 15<sup>th</sup> in order to meet with city staff, Mayor Parker and others to take a look at the threatened structures and facilities, assess the latest progress of the actual erosion, see the proposed area of the NRCS protection, view the quarry, etc.

The Feasibility Study is the next step in getting McGrath's severe erosion addressed and comes as a result from a direct Congressional Appropriations request made by the city through Senator Steven's office. The request included the specification of 100% full federal funding. It took an additional year to see that part of the request accepted, and is well worth the wait, as there is no possible way that any small rural community can come up with hundreds of thousands to millions of "local match" dollars required for these types of studies, engineering and construction projects.

The city staff looks forward to meeting Mr. Kalli and beginning the Feasibility Study process.

## *VISTA Energy Program* *Recruiting to fill a position* *in McGrath*



McGrath has been hard hit by rising energy costs. Are you interested in doing something about it while gaining administrative, planning and grant writing experience?

A position with the new RurAL CAP VISTA Energy Program may be for you!

If McGrath is selected as a site, McGrath's VISTA member will be working full-time in the Energy Program at the city office doing things like

- energy needs assessments,
- share information about energy saving and conservation measures,
- assist the city in implementing their energy related plans through researching and grant writing,
- research new alternative energies for use in the community and
- collaborate with other state agencies on energy conservation and planning work.

Individual qualifications include the following:

1. Reliable work ethic, self-motivation and an ability to work independently
2. Willingness to make a 1-year, full-time commitment (with some flexibility for subsistence activities)
3. At least 18 years old
4. Ability to attend multi-day trainings in Anchorage during the year of service.

VISTA Energy Members Receive:

- Living allowance of \$1,056 per month, paid every two weeks
- Health insurance/child care based on eligibility
- Education award of \$4,725 or \$1,200 cash stipend following successful completion of one full year of service.
- Technical training in community energy planning, energy conservation and grant writing.

**Contact the McGrath City Office to apply. The city administrator must receive applications no later than February 15th, 2007 to be included in McGrath's site and volunteer application package.**