

City Council

July Meeting Highlights

REGULAR MEETING – July 24, 2007

- **Ord 08-01 MMC Amendment – Civil Fines Table, Curfew Introduction and First Reading:**

Action: Public Hearing and consideration for adoption at the August 28th meeting

- **Ord 08-02 MMC Amendment – Dogs, Introduction and First Reading**

Action: Public Hearing and consideration for adoption at the August 28th meeting.

- **Resolution 08-01 Adoption of Flood and All-Hazard Mitigation Plan**

MOTION: to approve the Plan.

VOTE: Yes: Dusty, Karen, Richard, Verdene. Nay: Doug Lyman and Ben Magnuson. **Motion passed.**

- **Fuel Purchase**

MOTION: to purchase fuel from Crowley at rate quoted and in amounts recommended by Natalie. (15,000 gallons HF#1 and 1,500 gallons Unleaded gas)

VOTE: Unanimous Yes. Motion passed



Biomass Energy? What's that all about?

Two Biomass Energy grants are focused on McGrath.

The City of McGrath submitted a *Statement of Interest* to the Denali Commission for consideration to have a feasibility analysis completed for “Wood-Fired Heating of Public Buildings”. These projects would displace fossil fuels through direct combustion of wood for heating. Included in that SOI was the required data for the IASD Building, the McGrath School and Warehouse as well as the Cap’n Snow Center and the City Garage/Shop. A grant was awarded to complete the analysis through the efforts of Ron Brown of the Alaska Energy Authority and Dan Parrent of the Juneau Development Council – and The Alaska Wood Energy Task Group. They visited the buildings and have gathered further data and information for their analysis.

This Denali Commission-funded analysis is an initial step of an overarching process being carried out by a coalition of federal and state agencies called **The Alaska Wood Energy Development Task Group (TAWEDTG)**, all working toward the same goal; to increase the utilization of wood for energy and biofuels production in Alaska.

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McGrath Volunteer Fire Dept. receives Project Code Red units in a grant from Alaska Village Initiatives



Two of these mobile units have been received and are housed in a bright red, insulated and heated micro-firehouse. This equipment will be located downtown near the power plant and tank farm.

The Micro-Rural Fire Department - Project Code Red

- Delivers 600 gallons of eco-safe fire fighting foam
- Recharges in 5 minutes for less than \$100
- Safely fights fire from a range of 75 feet
- Needs no engines or electric motors
- Equips 5 fire fighters with fully outfitted trailers
- Transports by ATV, snow machine, pickup or hand
- Easily accesses boardwalks and trails
- UL tested to 40 degrees below zero (Fahrenheit)
- Provides state certified training for 10 firefighters
- Ships in container that doubles as insulated/heated firehouse



Landfill Use



Please stop and read the newly posted signs at the landfill. **No unauthorized burning.** Hazardous materials and items to be recycled do not belong at this drive-up “garbage” drop-off wall. Animal carcasses can be left, with prior notification to the Public Works Dept.



City of McGrath

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Planning Commission
Wednesday, August 8th
7:00pm

Public Safety Comm.
Thursday August 9th
5:00pm

Public Works Comm.
Tuesday August 14th
5:00pm

Mara Bacsujlaky UAF-CES
Sustainable Garden Project
Visit: August 13th and 14th

Volunteer Fire Dept. and
KVRS Joint meeting
Wed. August 15th
7:00p

Administration & Finance
Tuesday August 20th
7:00pm

OPEN HOUSE @ the Cap'n
Snow Center with Taunnie
Boothby. National Flood
Insurance Program and
FEMA Mitigation Plan

City Council Work Session
NFIP and FEMA Mitigation
Tuesday August 28th
1:00 – 3:00 pm

City Council Meeting
Tuesday August 28th
7:00pm

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One of the TAWEDTG partners, Alaska Village Initiatives, has been working to develop a Biomass Utilization program under the expert direction of

- Peter J. Olsen, Executive Field Director Village Wildlife Conservation Systems, A Division of Alaska Village Initiatives. Peter, an Native Afognak forester, established and ran the ANC's forestry program for over 20 years and served as a Board Member of Koniag Inc.
- Bill Wall, PhD, Executive Director, Village Wildlife Conservation Systems has experience in development of community based natural resource management programs and is both a Wildlife Biologist and forester. He has 17 years experience in working with large forest product firms and working with small communities around the world.

AVI has been on the lookout for a second community to join Ft. Yukon in a USDA Rural Enterprise Business Grant – (RBEG) - Pilot Demonstration Project. McGrath's Statement of Interest to the Alaska Wood Energy Development Task Group and submitted studies and documentation followed by being selected to have a feasibility analysis completed, caught their eye. There have been several woody biomass studies completed in the past that showed that the McGrath region has the timber and land available to sustain a Biomass production cycle for wood-fired heating. Their goal is to assist a community showing capacity to simultaneously develop the supply and demand for wood through a business model that would provide a new local industry, keep the fuel purchasing dollars "local" and provide excellent forestry practices and appropriate land stewardship.

They submitted a grant application to USDA, which was recently awarded, to begin a pilot project in McGrath that uses Ft. Yukon's experience as a model that can be adapted to McGrath's needs and resources.

A Breakfast Club meeting was held on July 24th and attended by 15 community leaders. Bill Wall and Peter Olsen answered many questions and explained much more about the potential of the integrated project. They met with MTNT and MNVC staff the day before, to talk about land stewardship and timber/land resources.

The full PowerPoint presentation shown at the Breakfast Club meeting, featuring Ft. Yukon as a model, is available online with the August *City News* published on the www.mcgrathalaska.net website.



Donlin Creek Mine Development

Over the course of several meetings along with other of their employees, Bill Bieber, Operations Manager and James Fueg, Technical and Permitting Manager of Barrick Gold Corp.- Donlin Creek Joint Venture and Tom Bundtzen, President of Pacific Rim Geological Consulting met with city administration and the City Council. Their presentations were very informative, giving us a good idea of the Donlin Creek development process and the current exploration for a peat resource of the quality and quantity needed to fuel an electric power plant that would operate the Donlin Creek Mine.

Crews flying in and out of McGrath on a daily basis are carrying out this peat biomass exploration and drilling in the Nixon Fork area. You may have noticed the sight and sound of their red helicopter.

By November, they will have acquired enough information for Barrick to make some crucial decisions regarding their next steps.

"NO PARKING" ZONES

Please keep the AC Slip and Log Haul-out (Rock Dock) Boat Launch areas clear of tied boats and parked vehicles. Thanks!

The McGrath *City News* is 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.