

April 2009

Volume 7, Issue 10

*City Council Meeting Highlights
March 24, 2009*

MOTION: To approve the city administrator's recommended increase in wages for employees.

VOTE: Yes, 7 of 7 votes – Adopted

Updates

--**Iditarod Checkpoint-** A busy year with many volunteers made for a successful experience for all.

--**NRCS Erosion project-** D&L Construction is done blasting and hauling rock. They now wait for breakup and snowmelt to continue with their project.

--**Sand Island Permit-** The renewal of the city's Sand Island Permit has been completed and gives the city 50,000 cy of material per year for five years. Signage explaining the conditions of the permit will be ordered for posting at the permitted area.

--**Recycling Efforts-** McGrath Native Village Council and the City of McGrath collaborate to provide McGrath residents a recycling program. Vehicle batteries can be dropped off in the tote at Tanana Air, located along the fence and just past the office. Please, do not leave other household batteries in this tote. Soon, tube and compact fluorescent bulbs will be able to be recycled locally, so hang onto them and don't take them to the landfill, until this service is offered. E-Waste will be collected June 19th.

--**Comprehensive Community Plan-** A wonderful opportunity has come through the State of Alaska, to get assistance as we develop and update an old, outdated comprehensive plan, strategic plan, long-range development plans for the benefit of the future and sustainability of McGrath. The city, McGrath Native Village Council and numerous agencies will be able to work together and facilitate grassroots outreach as each element of community planning is developed. The **Collaboration/Breakfast Club participants** meeting is scheduled for 10:30am May 13th at the Cap'n Snow Center followed by Planning Commission training for Comprehensive Community Planning..

McGrath City News

McGrath City Council



Following two recent appointments, the City Council is now complete and includes council members L to R: Doug Lyman, Richard Strick, Jim Poelman, Dustin Parker-Mayor, Karen Ladegard-Vice-Mayor, Howard Correll and Joe Banghart.

**PUBLIC HEARING
And Special City Council Meeting
5:00pm Thursday April 9, 2009**

There will be a Public Hearing where information will be shared with residents and input will be taken regarding the water source for the new city water system.

Choices are wells or river water. There are pros and cons to each.

Please plan to stop by the Assembly Room at the Cap'n Snow Center at 5pm and be part of this very important decision. Village Safe Water has approved the findings of the analysis completed and providing the information used for comparing the two water sources. Jim Kaercher the engineer on this first phase of the Village Safe Water project and our TCC engineer Trevor White will be present to answer any questions regarding the information shared by project engineer Jim Kaercher.



Heads Up! **Parking on McGuire's Drive** gets very congested, especially during lunch time near the café and at other times around AC Co and PenAir. Please park as well off the road as possible so that there is clear passage for normal traffic and emergency vehicles. More info to come soon.



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

Planning Commission
Wednesday APR 8th
7:00pm

Special Council Meeting and PUBLIC HEARING
New water source
Thursday APR 9th
5:00pm

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

Volunteer Fire Dept. and KVRS Joint meeting
Wed. APR 15th
7:00pm

Rescheduled Public Safety Comm.
Thursday APR 16th
5:00pm

Administration & Finance
Monday APR 20th
7:00pm

City Council Meeting
Tuesday APR 28th
7:00pm

Orchids



- **To Dawn Magnuson** for delivering lunch to the elders and baking for the kid's fundraisers during Iditarod Tent snack sales.
- **To Nick Snow** for doing volunteer work for the church and helping elders who live in Nikolai, Takotna and Telida receive care packages. Also, for helping with funerals. McGrath was well represented and the community is VERY proud of each of you!
- **To Ray and Sally Collins** for recording the history of the Upper Kuskokwim people.
- **To Nikolai residents** for completing a successful City Council election process.
- **To all who are recycling** clothes, batteries, building materials, etc. Get your E-Waste (electronics) ready for the next event on June 19th!



Onions

- **To such difficult conditions for moose this winter** resulting in many moose being in distress.



Willows within easy reach keep this calf close to this vacant lot and away from traffic and other dangers.

The **City News** can be viewed in full color and downloaded online at:

<http://www.mcgrathalaska.net/mcgrathnews.htm>

Parks & Recreation Department

Iditarod National Historic Trail
Iditarod **Trail Blazers** McGrath Chapter

Seven years ago Mark Cox, as a board member of the Iditarod Historical Trail Alliance, suggested that a shelter cabin be built on the trail between McGrath and Ruby. Funding was available and the idea became a reality. Much had to be accomplished from that beginning to the present. To obtain funds for the project, an organization had to be created. Hence, the Iditarod Trailblazers-McGrath Chapter was formed. To obtain tax exemption, under auspices of the Mayor, Dusty Parker, and the City Council, the Blazers were incorporated into the City of McGrath Parks and Recreation Department. A 25,000 dollar in-kind grant was obtained to purchase the cabin materials and the equipment necessarily to build the 16' x 24' cabin.

Most of the building materials are now on site at Carlson Crossing. The hope is that the building can begin this Spring. This is an all volunteer project so availability of people and the cooperation of the weather will determine the completion of this relief cabin. There are currently 13 members. Join in on this exciting work! Annual family memberships are \$30 and \$20 for an individual.



Chris McKee and Steffen Strick Jr. secure a load as they prepare to haul building materials to Carlson Crossing.

