

City Council Meeting Highlights

Special MEETING – October 20th (rescheduled)

- **MOTION:** to certify the October 7, 2008 election results.
VOTE: 4 of 4 present - Yes. Motion carried.
Newly elected council members are: Joe Banghart, Dustin Parker, and Howard Correll. Two seats with write-in only options did not tally 40% or greater of the votes cast for each respective seat. Seats B and C, each being 3-year term seats remain vacant until appointed. If you are interested in serving your community as a city council member, please submit a brief Letter of Interest to the city clerk for the council's consideration.

October 28 Regular MEETING –

(Rescheduled for Monday, November 3)

- **Newly elected City Council members:** Dustin Parker and Howard Correll were sworn in. Joe Banghart was out of town and will be sworn in upon his return.
Election of Officers
- **MOTION:** To retain the current officers; Dustin Parker, Mayor and Karen Ladegard, Vice-Mayor.
VOTE: 4 of 4 present - Yes. Motion carried.
- **MOTION: Resolution 09-02 Amendment to Resolution 06-14** to include a paragraph stating that the City of McGrath provides liability insurance for the Carlson Crossing cabin.
VOTE: 4 of 4 present - Yes. Motion carried.
- **MOTION: Resolution 09-03** Bank authorization for check signers
VOTE: 4 of 4 present - Yes. Motion carried.
- **MOTION: Resolution 09-04** Support for Weatherization Program for McGrath
VOTE: 4 of 4 present - Yes. Motion carried.
- **MOTION:** To send Mayor Parker, Clerk-Treasurer Crystal Colley and Council Member Howard Correll as representatives from McGrath to attend the Municipality of Anchorage's –*Light of the North celebrating Alaska's 50th anniversary*. In-kind contributions result in greatly reduced expenses for this trip.
- **MOTION:** To authorize Larsen Consulting to complete the Dishna Rd. construction fill-material calculations at a cost of \$2,500.
- **VOTE:** 4 of 4 present - Yes. Motion carried.

NRCS Erosion – Bank Stabilization Project

Recent activity including rock busting and hauling, heavy equipment mobilization and maintenance, clearing & grubbing along affected property owners' easements, and earth moving are taking place.



Low river levels created exceptional disruption in D&L Construction Co. Inc.'s mobilization efforts, as the heavy equipment mobilized by barge had to return to Bethel, necessitating a change in methods of accomplishing their work this winter. They had to bring some of the equipment in by Herc, to get started drilling & blasting. Hauling rock from the Noir Hill Quarry began this past week. Other rock was "busted up" and hauled to the staging area from a site in town.

Watch for the increased truck traffic on Cranberry Ridge Road from Noir Hill to the corner of Chinana and Joaquin. Please avoid traveling on that section of road until they are done with the rock hauling going on between 8am to 7pm seven days a week.

Grubbing and brushing within easements along property lines of affected property owners has been completed. See picture above.





As our population decreases, school enrollment drops, and energy prices are at an all-time high, transportation & freight costs have increased, the focus shifts to developing a strategy to retain residents, develop locally renewable energy, encourage diverse economic development and attracting new residents and businesses to McGrath.

In addition to the colorful brochure “*Experiencing McGrath*” that was developed last winter and is now ready for professional printing and distribution at key locations, the online version is getting a huge boost of interest from around the world. (Click on icon at www.mcgrathalaska.net to view). Apparently there is quite an increase in curiosity about Alaska and as people start searching for info, the Borealis Anchorage and McGrath webcam site, as well as McGrathAlaska.net, place very well in search engines.

Borealis Broadband, our local Internet Service Provider (ISP) has donated \$750/month worth of free advertising on their various website pages. Each of the popular webcam pages now has a link to the brochure, as do the main pages. Downloads of the brochure for the month of October tallied a whopping 1,684! That is worldwide interest and exposure for McGrath! THANK YOU HORST!

Now, what are we preparing to do, to capitalize on this interest in McGrath & the region? Lots of good ideas have been shared and will be discussed at the next Collaboration meeting. Watch for date & time.

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

Holiday Closure

Veteran's Day
Tuesday Nov 11th

Planning Commission

Wednesday Nov. 12th
7:00pm

Public Safety Comm.

Thursday Nov. 13th
5:00pm

Administration & Finance

Monday Nov. 17th
7:00pm

Public Works Comm.

Tuesday Nov. 18th
5:00pm

Volunteer Fire Dept. and

KVRS Joint meeting
Wed. Nov. 19th
7:00pm

City Council Meeting

Tuesday Nov. 25th
7:00pm

Thanksgiving – Holidays

Thurs. & Fri. Nov 27th & 28th

City office will be closed



Integrated Wood Heat Biomass Project grant application:

This was prepared and submitted to the Denali Commission/Alaska Energy Authority as a joint effort by AVI personnel Bill Wall, PhD, Forester Peter Olsen and ML&P GM Ernie Baumgartner and others providing various resources. It is a collaborative project of MTNT Ltd, ML&P, the City of McGrath and Alaska Village Initiatives. Features include a sustainable forest/harvesting plan & equipment, wood-fired boiler system, woodlot for firewood distribution and sale and the installation of a “district heat” system throughout the downtown area of town, out to the Cap'n Snow Center. Being at a very advanced stage of development, it is felt that the project’s engineering and construction phase will place well in the competition of grants to be awarded about November 20th.



When wood is combusted, CO2 is also released, but there is no net increase in atmospheric concentrations of carbon because when a new tree grows in the place of the one that was cut down for its wood, carbon is sequestered.

DNR Dishna Subdivision: The surveyor hired by DNR was here and completed surveying the lots & road easements for the subdivision survey and the DNR appraiser has completed gathering his data and will have some lot valuation information available sometime in February.

Two Council Seats remain vacant:

The two council seats not filled during the October election are open for appointment. If you’d like to be part of the decision-making processes during these challenging & exciting months that are brimming with opportunity, consider submitting a brief letter of interest for the council to consider during their November meeting.

Information gathering for the new SCF McGrath Health Center was the purpose of a site visit by representatives from the Denali Commission, ANTHC, SCF with local SCF, ML&P and city staff. Swift progress is being made with design, logistics and engineering tasks. Exciting to see this recent level of activity!