

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on April 20, 2010, at 7 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Council, the following were present:

Mike Chmielewski	Brad Hanson
Kevin Brown	Kathrine Vanover
John Combs	Richard Best
Ken Erbey	

Also in attendance were the following:

Bill Allen, City Manager
Michael Gatti, City Attorney
Janette Bower, City Clerk
Shelly Acteson, Deputy City Clerk

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Best.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Action Memorandum 10-032: Confirm the Mayor's Appointment of John Riggs to the City of Palmer Board of Economic Development
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. April 6, 2010, Special Meeting

Council Member Best requested to move item D.1.a. to K. 5.

Mayor Combs requested to postpone item K. 1. per the City Attorney's request.

There were no objections to the requests.

E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Delena Johnson, Palmer Museum-Visitor Center Director:

- provided Council with an overview of the number of visitors to the Palmer Museum-Visitor Center last summer; and
- responded to Council questions.

F. REPORTS

Item 1 – City Manager’s Report

City Manager Bill Allen reported on the following items:

- City legislative request update;
- Upcoming trip to Juneau with the Mayor to meet with Governor Parnell;
- Regional Dispatch Center proposal;
- Land swap with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough relating to the former School District building;
- Forthcoming discussion regarding a possible remodel to City Hall, or an alternate site such as a City Hall-Borough building;
- Wastewater Heat Project from the power plant at the Fairgrounds;
- Possible relocation of the Avalanche Hockey Team to Palmer;
- Economic Development Strategy;
- Washington DC trip;
- Executive Session May 11;
- Northwest Regional Municipal Manager’s Meeting;
- Monthly sales tax comparison document; and
- New Parks and Recreation Manager Beth Skow.

Item 2 - City Clerk’s Report

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following items:

- Special and Regular Meetings on May 11;
- Joint Meeting with the Board of Economic Development on May 18;
- Regular Meeting May 25;
- Planning and Zoning Commission member resignation;
- Incident Command System (ICS) 400 class;
- Disaster Week in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough next week; and
- Advanced Public Information Officer training.

Item 3 - Mayor’s Report

Mayor Combs reported on the following items:

- General correspondence, phone calls, and email responses.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

John Alcantra, Government Relations Director for the National Education Association – Alaska:

- spoke in favor of Resolution 10-031; and
- encouraged the Council to take a stand against the “Initiative Creating an Alaska Anti-Corruption Act”.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 1 - Palmer Municipal Code 2.30 Board of Economic Development

City Manager Allen requested the item be deferred until after the May 18 Joint Meeting.

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To postpone action until the May 25 Regular Council Meeting
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous voice vote			
Yes:			No:
Chmielewski	Combs	Brown	
Vanover	Hanson	Erbey	
Best			

K. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 - Resolution No. 10-031: Opposing "An Initiative Creating an Alaska Anti-Corruption Act", Scheduled for the 2010 Alaska Primary Ballot (IM 10-044)

The item was postponed.

Item 2 - Mikunda, Cottrell & Co. Proposal Regarding Credit Card Transactions

City Clerk Janette Bower provided a staff report.

City Manager Allen:

- requested Council add \$1500 to the proposal cost for outsourcing document retrieval.

Council Member Best:

- questioned the number of credit cards issued by the City.

City Manager Allen:

- estimated there were no more than 20 City issued credit cards.

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To direct Staff to complete a contract with Mikunda, Cottrell & Co. utilizing the Option 2 Cost Estimate, and include the \$1500 to outsource document retrieval
SECONDED BY:	Best	

Council Member Vanover:

- spoke in favor of the amendment; and
- highlighted the overall process of an audit.

Council Member Brown:

- remarked favorably on Option 1, which would alleviate any doubt concerning proper credit card usage.

Mayor Combs:

- concurred with Council Member Vanover.

Council Member Hanson:

- recognized the value of a lower cost estimate in the future.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous voice vote			
Yes:			No:
Chmielewski	Combs	Brown	
Vanover	Hanson	Erbey	
Best			

City Clerk Janette Bower:

- reminded Council a resolution would be forthcoming to appropriate the funds.

Item 3 - Mat-Su Youth Court Program

Mayor Combs:

- explained the Mat-Su Youth Court Program;
- questioned the number of Program participants that were City residents; and
- spoke in favor of the Program methodology.

City Manager Allen:

- spoke in favor of the Program; and
- recommended an invitation be extended to a judge and the District Attorney to attend a future meeting to discuss the Program.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- requested additional information concerning the Program and participants.

Council Member Best:

- pointed out the need for more detailed information.

Council Member Hanson:

- questioned the value of the in-kind services purported by the City of Wasilla.

Council Member Vanover:

- recommended inviting a School District Representative to the meeting.

Item 4 - Mayor's Communication from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission

Mayor Combs explained the correspondence.

Community Services Director Sandra Garley:

- updated Council concerning selecting a consulting firm to conduct the charrette.

Item 5 - Action Memorandum 10-032: Confirm the Mayor's Appointment of John Riggs to the City of Palmer Board of Economic Development

MOVED BY:	Best	To postpone Action Memorandum 10-032 until after the May 25 Regular Council Meeting
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Council Member Best:

- spoke in favor of the motion.

Council Member Brown:

- recommended the Council take immediate action; and
- asked for recusal for personal and professional reasons.

There were no objections to the recusal request.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke in opposition to the motion.

City Manager Allen:

- spoke against the motion.

Mayor Combs:

- articulated the Board selection process.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Failed by a 1 to 5 voice vote				
Best	Yes:	Chmielewski	No:	Hanson
		Vanover	Combs Erbey	

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To approve Action Memorandum 10-032
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by 5 to 1 voice vote				
Chmielewski	Yes:	Erbey	No:	Best
Vanover	Combs Hanson			

Primary Amendment #1 to Main Motion		
Moved by:	Combs	To reconsider the previous motion
Seconded by:	Hanson	

Vote on primary amendment #1: Motion carried by 5 to 1 voice vote				
Erbey	Yes:	Vanover	No:	Chmielewski
Hanson	Best Combs			

Clerk's note: following the motion to reconsider, the main motion became a pending motion and the council entered into discussion regarding the main motion.

Mayor Combs:

- complimented Mr. Riggs on his career accomplishments;
- expressed concerns with perceived conflict of interest; and
- referenced an email sent by Mr. Riggs.

Council Member Erbey:

- disagreed with Mayor Combs' statements.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke in support of moving the application forward.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION (following reconsideration): Carried by 4 to 2 voice vote				
	Yes:			No:
Chmielewski	Hanson	Erbey	Best	Combs
Vanover				

L. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Email from Mr. Riggs to Mayor Combs

M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

N. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Vanover:

- announced her absence for the May 25 meeting.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- recognized the historical value of the parcel proposed for the new Carrs-Safeway store; and
- inquired of what would happen to the existing Carrs-Safeway complex.

Council Member Hanson:

- spoke in favor of maintaining the complex as a retail or commercial space.

Council Member Brown:

- commented on the advantage of page numbers next to line items on the agenda;
- expanded on Earth Week events;
- reminded council of the Matanuska Electric Association annual meeting May 27; and
- provided details of his Father's surgery.

Mayor Combs:

- reminded Council of Clean Up Day on May 8; and
- expounded on the Senior Center 30th Anniversary celebration May 8.

O. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Approved this eleventh day of May, 2010.

/s/

John C. Combs, Mayor

/s/

Janette M. Bower, MMC, City Clerk