

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on September 14, 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:

Brad Hanson	Kathrine Vanover	John Combs
Kevin Brown	Mike Chmielewski	Richard Best – departed at 8:42

The following council member was absent and excused by the council:

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. Introduction – Ordinance No. 10-019: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 3.16 Sales Tax, By Specifically Enacting Sections 3.16.035 Transaction in the City, to Clarify When a Transaction is Taxable; Section 3.16.065 Application of Sales Tax Payment, to Specify How Tax Payments are to be Applied; Enacting Subsection 3.16.080 G. Tax Returns – Contents – Administration Cost and Interest, to Allow for a Waiver of Penalty and Interest Within a Twenty-Four Month Period; Enacting 3.16.087 Tax Records – Inspection and Audit, to Meet Records Retention Requirements; Amending Section 3.16.040 Examples of Taxed Transactions, By Adding Games of Chance and Computer Programmers, to Clarify Applicable Requirements; and Amending Various Sections to Replace Finance Director with Director of Administration to Accurately Reflect the Title of the Position, and Repealing Sections 3.16.130 and 3.16.140 in the Entirety to Reflect the Relocation of

- the Language to the Business License Section, Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 5.04 (IM 10-082)
- b. Resolution No. 10-058: Confirming the Appointment of Election Officials for the City of Palmer Regular Election on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 (IM 10-080)
 - c. Resolution No. 10-059: Accepting and Appropriating the Mat-Su Health Foundation Grant Award in the Amount of \$10,000 and Approving the Scope of Work and Budget for the Kerry Weiland Hockey Camps and Speaking Events (IM 10-081)
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
- a. August 12, 2010, Special Meeting
 - b. August 24, 2010, Regular Meeting
 - c. August 31, 2010, Special Meeting

City Clerk Janette Bower noted Public Safety Director Jon Owen would not be in attendance this evening.

Mayor Combs read a proclamation declaring September 9, 2010 as International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Awareness Day.

E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

F. REPORTS

Item 1 – City Manager’s Report

City Manager Bill Allen:

- verbalized goals realized during his employment;
- remarked favorably concerning serving the citizens of Palmer; and
- wished the future administration good luck.

Item 2 – City Clerk’s Report

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following items:

- September 20, Special Meeting 5:30 pm; September 21, Special Joint Meeting with Planning and Zoning Commission 6:00 pm; and September 29 Regular Meeting 7:00 pm; and
- Election October 5; and
- Early Voting dates.

Item 3 – Mayor’s Report

Mayor Combs reported on the following items:

- City Manager Meet and Greet;
- Highest Civilian Award presented to the Mrs. Combs;
- Mr. Soulak’s funeral;
- Palmer Lions Club Meeting;
- Governor’s debate;
- Alaska State Fair events;
- Beef cooking contest judgeship; and
- Sister City gathering.

Mayor Combs:

- provided details of a potential Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) violation; and
- requested the City Clerk and City Attorney research the alleged violation with the appropriate agency. There were no objections.

City Attorney Michael Gatti:

- responded to council questions; and
- recommended presenting the issue to APOC for review.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- emitted astonishment concerning an alleged violation; and
- requested additional details regarding the alleged violation.

Council Member Brown:

- spoke in favor of forwarding the alleged violation to APOC.

Council Member Vanover:

- explained the issue in layman's terms.

Council Member Best:

- questioned the inaccuracies in the document.

City Manager Allen:

- expounded on the document in question;
- explained the document was simply a communication of information to the public; and
- spoke in favor of an APOC review of the document.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

John Nolan:

- commented on incomplete construction on Ellen Street; and
- spoke in favor of enforcing the City's standard specification regulations.

City Manager Allen:

- informed Council of an upcoming meeting with the Ellen Street Project Manager.

Gerry Keeling:

- commented on Resolution No. 09-061; and
- reminded Council to cherish and treasure the attributes of Palmer.

Charles Logsdon, Palmer Historical Society Representative:

- remarked favorably on Walla Walla Washington's downtown center; and
- presented pictures of Walla Walla's downtown center with railroad tracks through the center of town.

Denise Stotz:

- spoke in favor of returning the train tracks to fully-functioning status;
- stated trains are a "draw" worldwide;

- shared train memories;
- requested Council be responsible for retaining City infrastructure; and
- reminded Council to remain positive and forward-thinking.

Violet Norbo:

- stated her father helped build the railroad in Palmer; and
- recognized the historical value of retaining the tracks.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 1 - Mat-Su Youth Court

Mayor Combs:

- provided a historical time line of the Mat Su Youth Court (MSYC); and
- spoke in favor of City funding the program at \$4,000.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke in support of the MSYC program; and
- suggested Mayor Combs include MSYC funding request in the next budget review process.

Council Member Vanover:

- questioned if the City's contribution was mandatory or voluntary;
- requested MSYC provide an income and expense report; and
- recommended obtaining comments from the Mat-Su School District.

Council Member Hanson:

- provided a historical perspective of the MSYC program.

Council Member Brown:

- questioned the amount suggested by Mayor Combs.

Item 2 - Resolution No. 09-061: Requesting the Alaska Railroad Corporation to Construct Improvements to the Alaska Railroad Tracks in Palmer (IM 09-086)(Note: Resolution No. 09-061 was postponed to the completion of the Charrette, the council defeated the proposal to complete the Charrette)

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To adopt Ordinance No. 10-006
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke in support of the charrette process

City Manager Allen:

- discussed the meeting with the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) and Usibelli Coal Mine (UCM); and

- recommended Council delay any decisions regarding the tracks until the capital and recovery cost feasibility study, performed by UCM, was completed.

Council Member Vanover:

- inquired concerning consequences of adopting the legislation.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- commented on the non-frivolous nature of a resolution;
- expounded on transportation issues relating to UCM's latest project near Palmer; and
- expressed opposition to the legislation.

Council Member Best:

- verbalized concern with the lack of continuity regarding retention of the tracks;
- commented favorably on renovating an economic transportation corridor; spoke against relating the renovation to UCM's need of a transportation corridor to transport their coal; and
- spoke in favor of pedestrian path paralleling the tracks.

Council Member Brown:

- spoke in favor of sponsoring a series of public hearings concerning the downtown rail corridor before submitting another resolution to the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC).

Council Member Hanson:

- concurred with Council Member Brown's comments relating to the tracks; and
- spoke against the resolution.

Mayor Combs:

- provided a historical perspective of the tracks;
- stated some residents are in favor of removing the tracks; and
- stated the tracks were a barrier not a carrier.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Failed by a 2 to 4 vote				
Best	Yes: Vanover		Chmielewski Hanson	No: Combs Brown

Council Member Best departed at 8:42 pm

K. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 - Resolution No. 10-055: Authorizing the Transfer of Real Property Located at the Palmer Airport (IM 10-077)

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To adopt Resolution No. 10-055 and Action Memorandum 10-066
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous roll call vote			
	Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Combs	Brown	
Vanover	Hanson		

Item 2 - Action Memorandum 10-066: Renew BJ Custom Aircraft Engines, Inc. Real Property Lease at the Palmer Municipal Airport

Please see above for the official vote.

Item 3 - Resolution No. 10-056: Accepting and Appropriating \$47,795 from the Palmer Hockey Association (PHA) to the Capital Project Fund (08) for American's With Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements to the Palmer Arena (IM 10-078)

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To adopt Resolution 10-056 and Action Memorandum 10-064
SECONDED BY:	Brown	

Council Member Hanson:

- thanked the Mat-Su Health Foundation for their financial support.

Mayor Combs

- expressed kudos to hard-working and selfless Palmer resident Mike Madar.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous roll call vote			
	Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Combs	Brown	
Vanover	Hanson		

Item 4 - Action Memorandum 10-064: Authorize the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the Palmer Hockey Association (PHA) for \$47,795 to provide American's With Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements to the Palmer Arena

Please see above for the official vote.

Item 5 - Resolution No. 10-060: Amending the Budget for the Palmer Arena Expansion (IM 10-083)

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To adopt Ordinance No. 10-060
SECONDED BY:	Brown	

Council Member Hanson:

- spoke in support of the legislation and the project.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke in favor of the legislation.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous roll call vote			
	Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Combs	Brown	
Vanover	Hanson		

L. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Excerpt from December 8, 2009 regular meeting minutes
 Photos from Mr. Logsdon

M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

N. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Vanover:

- thanked the audience members for their participatory nature;
- wished Council Member Best luck with his upcoming surgery; and
- requested support to add a discussion of a city proposed process concerning the railroad to the October 26 regular meeting agenda. Council Member Chmielewski offered support.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- commented on the extraordinary gathering to review the recent trip to Saroma pioneered by the Palmer delegation; and
- expressed intent to insure the City's relationship with Sister City Saroma Japan remains strong.

Council Member Hanson:

- sincerely thanked City Manager Bill Allen for his years of service to the City of Palmer;
- noted Mr. Allen had changed the City for the better; and
- thanked his colleagues for all their hard work to make Palmer a great place to live.

Council Member Brown:

- commented on safekeeping of gifts and documents generated by the Sister City Program;
- reiterated his comments voiced earlier concerning public forums to discuss the railroad corridor through Palmer; and
- wished Council Member Best well concerning his forthcoming surgery.

Mayor Combs:

- requested the original Sister City documents be exhumed from the basement, framed and placed on display; and
- commented on Saroma placing tremendous importance on the term "honor".

O. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm

Approved this twenty-eighth day of September, 2010.

/s/

John C. Combs, Mayor

/s/

Janette M. Bower, MMC, City Clerk