

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on February 12, 2008, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Ken Erbey	Mike Chmielewski	Richard Best
Brad Hanson	John Combs	

The following member was absent and excused by the council:

Tony Pippel	Kathrine Vanover
-------------	------------------

Also in attendance were the following:

Bill Allen, City Manager  
Michael Gatti, City Attorney  
Janette Bower, 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
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
  - a. January 22, 2008, Regular Meeting

**E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS**

**F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

John Leiner:

- commented on Council Member Pippel's behavior at a previous meeting;
- spoke of his letter to Governor Palin;
- stated Mayor Combs continued to avoid responding to his letter;
- questioned the reason why the City hired City Manager Allen; and
- described Mrs. Nancy Hayes as his hero.

**G. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Item 1** – Ordinance No. 08-002: Enacting Palmer Municipal Code Section 2.11.030, Deputy City Clerk (IM 08-004)

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing for ordinance no. 08-002. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed and the matter was brought before the council.

MOVED BY:	Best	To adopt ordinance no. 08-002
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

City Clerk Bower:

- explained the Deputy Clerk’s authority to act on behalf of the Clerk in the Clerk’s absence;
- stated the ordinance provided for the Clerk’s supervision of the Deputy Clerk;
- explained that an interview panel would be used to interview the applicants; and
- stated she was comfortable with the Deputy Clerk retention of the Clerk’s authority to act her behalf.

Council Member Hanson:

- inquired of the language regarding the Clerk’s authority over the Deputy Clerk;
- asked of the hiring process; and
- inquired of the comfort level of a part-time employee retaining the same authority as the Clerk.

Council Member Erbey:

- asked if a process for determining a temporary absence had been established.

Attorney Gatti:

- stated the Deputy Clerk would stand in place of the Clerk when the Clerk was absent from the building; and
- explained that it was not necessary to institute a formal process.

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

**H. BIDS**

**I. ACTION MEMORANDA**

**Item 1** – Action Memorandum 08-008: Award the Bid for the Purchase of Two Honda 4x4 ATV’s to Hartley Motors in the Amount of \$13,675; Authorize the City Manager to Enter an Agreement with Hartley Motors to Purchase the ATV’s; and Direct the City Manager to Prepare an Amendment to the 2008 Fiscal Budget to Appropriate Funds for the Purchase

MOVED BY:	Erbey	To authorize action memorandum 08-008
SECONDED BY:	Combs	

City Manager Allen:

- commented on the council directive regarding the City's sidewalks;
- expanded on research to complete the directive;
- stated two pieces of equipment were needed to complete the task; and
- expanded on the manner in which the equipment was to be used.

Council Member Hanson:

- inquired of the color of the ATV's;
- asked of the total cost of the units;
- asked if the units would be on loan to other departments; and
- inquired of the response time for sidewalks.

Public Works Director Barrett:

- stated the camouflage color was what was available;
- explained the amber lights to be placed on the units;
- described the multiple uses of the vehicles;
- commented on the inadequacies of other researched vehicles;
- explained the City's responsibility regarding snow removal; and
- expanded on the hiring of temporary employees to remove snow from the sidewalks.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- inquired of the varying standards for the vehicles; and
- questioned whether code language pertaining to property owner snow removal was reasonable.

Council Member Best:

- inquired of business owner responsibilities regarding snow removal;
- spoke of property owner responsibility to maintain their sidewalks; and
- questioned the City's responsibility to enforce the code to ensure property owner maintenance of their sidewalks.

Council Member Erbey:

- questioned who would be liable for an accident should a property owner failed to maintain their sidewalks;
- stressed that because the City would ultimately be named in a lawsuit, it would be of benefit to the City for the City to maintain sidewalks;
- spoke of the identification of Palmer as a walk around City by the University of Washington study; and
- commented on the gained accessibility by handicapped persons because of the snow removal.

Attorney Gatti:

- stated the property owner as well as the City would be named as being liable should the property owner fail to maintain their sidewalks;
- described a risk allocation assessment method; and
- expanded on Palmer Municipal Code section 8.36.030.

**VOTE ON MOTION: Carried by unanimous voice vote.**

Yes:	No:
Erbey Hanson	Chmielewski Combs
Best	

**J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**K. NEW BUSINESS**

**L. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

City Manager Allen reported on the following:

- Meeting held with Palmer Municipal Airport Master Plan engineers;
- Juneau lobbying trip;
- Lunch with Don Carling,
- City of Palmer Beautification Grant;
- Museum and Chamber of Commerce issues;
- Meetings with Borough regarding the State’s Transportation Plan;
- Luncheon meeting with Council Member Best;
- Felton Street project;
- Meeting with Karina Weller from Senator Stevens office;
- City Bond issues;
- Palmer Municipal Airport Marketing plan; and
- Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce meeting.

**M. CITY CLERK’S REPORT**

City Clerk Bower reported on the following:

- February 19 special meeting;
- Out of office on February 15 and February 18.

**N. MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Combs reported on the following:

- Juneau travel efforts.

**O. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE**

**P. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

John Leiner:

- commented on the code language which prohibits riding four wheelers in the City limits;
- spoke of the Sister City program and spoke of the implementation of a Brother City program;
- nominated Kirkwood, Missouri as a Brother City; and
- expanded on his upcoming book.

## Q. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Chmielewski:

- commented on participation in an AML subcommittee conference and the movement of PERS/TRS, revenue sharing and education funding;
- spoke of the modifications of population figures tied to revenue sharing; and
- stated the issues before the Legislator were statewide issues.

Council Member Best:

- encouraged the Manager to link arms with other communities to address the issues of modifications of population figures;
- requested the support of another member to direct the manager to review Palmer Municipal Code 12.12.016 to be certain the language is not conflict with the skateboard park and to clarify that half pipes, whether they are made of snow or are wood built must be contained within a property owner's property and have safety barriers (Mayor Combs supported the request);
- requested the support of another member to direct the manager to review Palmer Municipal Code 12.12.030 to remove reference to the Comprehensive Plan (Mayor Combs supported the request); and
- stated he would be out of state on March 18.

Council Member Erbey:

- stated he would absent during the February 26 meeting.

Council Member Hanson:

- commented on the Museum and Visitor Center user groups and their relationship with one another;
- spoke of the previous Request for Proposal (RFP) for Visitor Information services;
- voiced his desire to view council related information a more timely manner; and
- requested that information be given to the council sooner than it had been.

Discussion ensued regarding the location of the Chamber of Commerce and Museum staff. The council directed that the subject be placed on the next agenda.

## R. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

**Approved this twelfth day of February, 2008.**

*/s/*

---

John C. Combs, Mayor

*/s/*

---

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk