

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on May 8, 2007, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Tony Pippel	Ken Erbey	Kathrine Vanover
Jim Wood	Richard Best	Brad Hanson
John Combs		

Also in attendance were the following:

Tom Healy, City Manager  
Michael Gatti, City Attorney  
Janette Bower, City Clerk

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by former Mayor Jim Cooper.

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Combs asked that action memorandum 07-042 be postponed and requested an additional executive session be scheduled regarding the City Manager's evaluation. Council Member Pippel objected to the action. A motion was made by Mayor Combs, seconded by Council Member Wood, to postpone action memorandum 07-042 to the next regular meeting (May 22) and to schedule an executive session at 5 p.m. on that day as well. Motion carried by 4-3 (Pippel, Erbey, Hanson) voice vote.

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
  - a. Introduction – Ordinance No. 07-012: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Section 2.58.170 of Chapter 2.58 (Personnel Regulations); To Establish a Travel Policy for Elected Officials and City Employees (IM 07-019)
  - b. Action Memorandum 07-040: Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Compensation Portion of the Golf Course Management Contract
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
  - a. April 24, 2007, Regular Meeting

## E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

1. Dan Contini – City of Palmer Fire Chief  
Chief Contini reported on the following items:

- Building Department report;
- Fire Department report;
- Burn permit system.

## F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Pete Praetorius, President of Valley Community for Recycling Services:

- referred to the donation request contained in the packet;
- asked that the request be moved to the next agenda for consideration;
- spoke of the money saving options concerning recycling; and
- stated that the City's support was integral to the Recycling Center.

Lee Hendrickson, Community Recycling Services:

- voiced her support of the Recycling Center donation request; and
- highlighted the financial support sought from several venues.

John Lee:

- clarified the type of financing sought in action memorandum 07-037.

## G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Item 1 – Public Hearing** – Ordinance No. 07-011: Enacting Palmer Municipal Code Section 18.15.023 and Amending Section 18.35.015; to Provide for Write-In Candidate Criteria, and Amending Section 18.30.020; to Further Define Building Entrances (IM 07-017)

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing for ordinance no. 07-011. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed and the matter was brought before the council.

MOVED BY:	Hanson	To adopt ordinance no. 07-011
SECONDED BY:	Wood	

Council Member Wood:

- requested clarification regarding the differences between a person who submits their nominating petition for candidacy during the filing period and one who submits outside of the filing period; and
- spoke of persons unaware that a write-in campaign had been launched in their name and the necessity of filing a nominating petition which would hamper their ability to be elected.

City Clerk Bower:

- highlighted the State of Alaska and Matanuska-Susitna Borough language;
- stated the language serves to ensure that write-in candidates are aware a campaign had been launched in their and that should they be elected are willing to serve;
- spoke of the campaign process for a write-in candidate; and
- expanded on her conversation with Carol Thompson, Division of Elections and other Valley clerks regarding the language.

Attorney Gatti:

- stated that the language ensures that all candidates are qualified to serve prior to winning an election;
- highlighted the appointment process;
- spoke of the importance of finality involving elections; and
- described the process which helps to ensure that the elections are conducted fairly.

Council Member Pippel:

- stated that generally most write-in campaigns are based on the assumption that the write-in candidate desires to run for office; and
- commented on the required timeframe in which a write-in candidate may file a nominating petition.

Council Member Hanson:

- inquired of the process should a non-declared candidate win an election.

Council Member Erbey:

- clarified the ineligibility of a person to serve should they be elected through the write-in process without first filing a nominating petition.

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

**Item 2 – Public Hearing – Resolution No. 07-006: Supporting Passage of the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act (AGIA) Providing a Means for the Timely Development of Natural Gas Resources for the State of Alaska (IM 07-020)**

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing for resolution no. 07-005. The following person testified:

Bruce Anders:

- thanked the drafter of the resolution for bringing it forward;
- highlighted the goals of AGIA;
- stressed that the Act proposes an open and transparent process;
- stated the Act ensures the North Slope Basin would be open long term;
- noted the Act creates long term jobs and gas resources for Alaskans;
- stated AGIA was about competition rather than negation;
- highlighted inducement by matching dollars;
- spoke of the critical nature of opening the North Slope basin; and
- stated that the bill provides for five off-tank points and distance rate setting which allows Alaskans to pay a reasonable price for gas.

There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed and the matter was brought back before the council.

MOVED BY:	Hanson	To adopt resolution no. 07-005
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Council Member Pippel:

- stated that due to the complexities of the issue he was incapable of making an informed decision on the matter;
- commented on the lack of consensus in the direction in which to proceed at the State level; and
- stated that his no vote did not imply lack of support.

Mayor Combs:

- stated there may be minor revisions to the AGIA bill;
- spoke of oil producer royalties;
- stated that Governor Palin has taken a firm stand regarding the results of the legislation; and
- urged the council to support the resolution.

Council Member Hanson:

- voiced his support and requested the Governor’s support for City of Palmer issues.

VOTE ON MOTION: Carried by 6-1 voice vote.

Yes:			No:	
Erbey	Vanover	Wood	Pippel	
Best	Hanson	Combs		

**H. BIDS**

**I. ACTION MEMORANDA**

**Item 1** – Action Memorandum 07-035: Approve an Increase in Rental Rates for the Palmer Ice Arena

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To approve action memorandum 07-035
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

City Manager Healy:

- commented favorably on the Ice Arena’s overall budget and activities; and
- stated the increase would bring the rates closer to those of other Valley arenas.

Council Member Hanson:

- stated the increase was a step in the right direction;
- commented on the first year of operations;
- stated that the Ice Arena Manager had done a good job of entering into the ice arena market;
- stressed the service and product provided at the Arena was above that of other area arenas; and
- commented on the rate for non-prime ice and staffing levels needed for high school games.

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

**Item 2** – Action Memorandum 07-036: Reduce the Over the Counter Palmer Municipal Airport Lease Rate for Airport Dependent Uses from \$0.10 to \$0.06

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To accept the action of action memorandum 07-036
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

Council Member Pippel:

- commented on the lack of market at \$.10 and the probable market at \$.06;
- asked if current lease rates would be reduced to reflect the lower rate; and
- commented on individual rate holders and initiation of a reduction in the lease rate.

City Manager Healy stated that there was one lease rate holder which had the \$.10 rate.

Council Member Best stated that if he bought his house and the market dropped out, his responsibility would continue of the higher value of his home.

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

**Item 3** – Action Memorandum 07-037: Approve an “Amendment, and Consent to Assignment, of Palmer Airport Leases 91-1 and 91-2 (New Horizons Telecom, Inc.) to Key Bank Commercial Banking as Collateral for a \$1 Million Loan for Equipment Purchases” and Authorize the City Manager to Execute the “Instrument Regarding Assignment and Consent”

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To approve action memorandum 07-037
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Attorney Gatti:

- explained the consent to assign for security purposes with the leases remaining as collateral; and
- described the terms of the assignment.

Primary Amendment #1 to Main Motion		
Moved by:	Pippel	To strike the language regarding collateral for equipment purposes and insert “corporate development”
Seconded by:	Vanover	

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.			
	Yes:		No:
Pippel	Erbey	Vanover	
Wood	Best	Hanson	
Combs			

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

**Item 4** – Action Memorandum 07-038: Authorize City Manager to Advertise for Bids to Purchase Snow Blower

MOVED BY:	Erbey	To approve action memorandum 07-038
SECONDED BY:	Best	

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

**Item 5** – Action Memorandum 07-039: Authorize the City Manager to Execute Change Order One to Pacific Asphalt, Inc. in the Amount of \$68,000 for Additional Asphalt Crack Sealing to the Palmer Municipal Airport Crack Sealing Project

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To approve action memorandum 07-039
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

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

**Item 6** – Action Memorandum 07-041: Authorize Advertisement for Bid to Construct the Public Safety Backup Generator

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To approve action memorandum 07-034
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

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

**Item 7** – Action Memorandum 07-042: Approve City Manager Job Description and Advertisement of City Manager Position – *Clerk’s note: Action Memorandum 07-042 was moved to the May 22 agenda and an Executive Session was scheduled for five p.m. on that day as well.*

**J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**K. NEW BUSINESS**

## **L. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Healy reported on the following item listed in his report on the table:

- Traffic Citations;
- Palmer Dispatch Center;
- France Road Property;
- Felton Street Project;
- Palmer Urban Revitalization;
- Palmer Police Department Lieutenant Position;
- 2006 Financial Audit;
- Testimony regarding reduction in Block Grant Funding;
- Refuse Collection.

## **M. CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

City Clerk Bower reported on the following items:

- Resolution No. 655;
- May 15, Special Meeting;
- May 22, Special Meetings; and
- May 29, Special Meeting.

## **N. MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Referred to the Mayor's Report contained within the packet;
- State Budget Allocations.

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

- May 15, Special Meeting Agenda;
- Fire Department Report;
- State Project Summary.

## **P. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

### **Q. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Best:

- spoke of the numerous cars parked on the streets in Brittany Estates; and
- described the ballfields as another service of the City used by citizens outside of the City.

Council Member Hanson:

- announced Saturday, May 12, as opening day of the baseball season;
- thanked Roth Construction for their reconstruction of the dug-outs which had blown away the previous winter; and
- thanked the public works department for their help on the ballfields.

Council Member Pippel:

- commented on and thanked Council Member Hanson for his numerous amounts of hours spent on the betterment of youth activities in the community;

- voiced disappointment in the proposed State capital budget;
- stated the City should introduce and pass a resolution in opposition to the sales tax proposed by the Borough
- described the sales tax as the worst thing for the citizens who live in the community;
- stated that the 50 largest landowners would receive a tax break;
- requested a resolution opposing the sales tax, Council Member Vanover concurred with the request; and
- commented on the private water wells across from Equestrian Acres which have gone dry.

Council Member Erbey announced that he would be out of state May 13 – 27.

Council Member Vanover:

- voiced concurrence with Council Member Pippel regarding the sales tax issue;
- spoke of the leash laws and stated that the animal owners are not picking up the dogs excrement; and
- requested a “poop scoop ordinance” to address the issue, Council Member Pippel concurred with the request.

## **R. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Approved this twenty-second day of May, 2007.**

*/s/*

---

John C. Combs, Mayor

*/s/*

---

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk