

# City Council Minutes City of Palmer, Alaska

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Regular Meeting  
January 13, 2004

## A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on January 13, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## B. ROLL CALL, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

Ken Erbey	Steve Carrington
Tony Pippel	Jim Cooper
John Combs	
Brad Hanson	

Also in attendance were the following:

Dan Contini, Acting City Manager  
Jack Snodgrass, City Attorney  
Janette Persinger, City Clerk

## C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to include the following:

- Addition of Item E – Special Order of Business: Mayor’s Proclamation
- Addition of Item 3 under New Business: Authorize the City Manager to Enter Into a Joint Purchase Agreement with the State of Alaska to Procure Two Police Vehicles and Associated Equipment as Authorized by the City of Palmer 2004 Budget
- *During New Business the order was rearranged as follows: Item 1 – Authorize the City Manager to Enter Into a Joint Purchase Agreement with the State of Alaska to Procure Two Police Vehicles and Associated Equipment as Authorized by the City of Palmer 2004 Budget. Item 2 – Set Work Session with Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for 6:30 p.m. January 20, 2004. Item 3 – Discussion of Additional Ice Arena Funding*

## D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Pippel.

## E. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

**Item 1** – Mayor’s Proclamation – Alaska Local Government Week

Mayor Cooper read the proclamation and proclaimed January 11-17, 2004 as Alaska Local Government Week.

**Item 2** – Mayor’s Proclamation – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mat-Su Community Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mayor Cooper read the proclamation and proclaimed January 19, 2004 as the ‘2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mat-Su Community Observe of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day’

**F. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Unanimous consent – to approve the minutes of the 12-23-03 regular meeting.

**G. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Liquor License Review – Inn Café

**H. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS**

**I. BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**

**J. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

- 1. Larry Hill – Snow Removal  
Mr. Hill expressed his frustration with the lack of snow removal and the public works department. Mr. Hill expanded on snow removal timeframes within the City.

**K. HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Item 1 – Public Hearing on Alaska State Fair Request to Consider a Zoning Map Amendment for Tax Parcel D-8**

Mayor opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of the request of the Alaska State Fair to rezone tax parcel D-8 from R-1, to I, Industrial:

- Joe Lawton – General Manager, Alaska State Fair
- Mike Combs – Palmer Resident
- Pete Christopher – General Manager, Mat-Su Miners
- Ron Tharaldson – General Manager, Alaska Demolition
- Steve Agni – Alaska Developers, Inc.
- George Carte – Former Mayor, City of Palmer
- Bill Tull – Attorney for Hamilton Farm
- Jill Reece – Realtor for Hamilton Farm
- Bill Aube – Crawther Road Resident
- Bonnie Quill – MSVB, Alaska State Fair Board
- Bruce Bush – Borough Assembly Member, State Fair Board
- George Lochner – President of Alaska State Fair Board, Marketing Manager Credit Union
- Richard Stryken – Native Alaska Equity Corp.

Mayor Cooper closed the public hearing.

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To consider Alaska State Fair’s request for rezone action
SECONDED BY:	Combs	

Discussion ensued regarding the need to continue the public process to allow for additional public input and the desire of the council to examine the issue more closely.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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MOVED BY:	Combs	To direct administration to prepare an ordinance to be introduced at the next meeting rezoning the property from R-1 to I, Industrial
SECONDED BY:	Pippel	

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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A break was taken at 7:55 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:06 p.m.

**Item 2 – Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 609:** Repealing PMC 17.08.315 (Definition of Nonconforming Buildings), Adopting PMC 17.08.316 (Definition of Nonconforming Uses and Structures), and Amending PMC Chapter 17.68 (Nonconforming Uses and Structures), of PMC Title 17 (Zoning)

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To adopt ordinance no. 609
SECONDED BY:	Combs	

Sara Jansen, Community Development Coordinator explained the ordinance and the discussion held by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Ms. Jansen stated that the ordinance is necessary to correct existing problems with the code and urged its passage.

Discussion regarding illegal and legal non-conforming uses, transitional zoning, set back requirements, right-of-way and footprints ensued.

**M/M** by Pippel to adopt the following three amendments:  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** by Hanson.

- Section 3 – remove strike out line.
- Section 4 – add the language “cessation, discontinuation or” inserted between the existing language legal and abandonment.
- Section 5 – 17.68.090 Curative application (A) replace February \_\_\_\_\_, 2004 with January 13, 2004.

Motion on the amendment carried by unanimous voice vote.

**M/M** by Pippel to postpone to a time definite of the January 27, 2004 meeting.  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** by Hanson. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:	Postponed.
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**L. BIDS**

Item 1 – Authorize the City Manager to Enter Into a Joint Purchasing Agreement to Purchase a New Street Sweeper

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To authorize the city manager to enter into a joint purchasing agreement to purchase a new street sweeper
SECONDED BY:		

Rich Koch, Public Works Director explained the need for the street sweeper.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the vehicle, lease rates and the purchase cost.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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**M. OLD BUSINESS**

**N. NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1 –** Authorize the City Manager to Enter Into a Joint Purchase Agreement with the State of Alaska to Procure Two Police Vehicles and Associated Equipment as Authorized by the City of Palmer 2004 Budget

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To authorize the city manager to enter into a joint purchase agreement with the State of Alaska to procure two police vehicles and associated equipment as authorized by the City of Palmer 2004 budget
SECONDED BY:	Combs	

Sgt. Remaley stated that the department intends to purchase two new police vehicles and 5 mobile and 5 portable radios. He further stated that the department is applying for a grant from Homeland Security to purchase remaining needed radios. Sgt. Remaley explained the use of the radios and the current state of the vehicles.

Discussion ensued regarding the type of radios and the frequencies needed to operate the radios.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Mayor Cooper thanked Sgt. Remaley for his diligence in working with the City of Wasilla to resolve the immediate need to have the Wasilla dispatchers return to the Palmer center to dispatch Wasilla calls.

**Item 2 – Set Work Session with Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for 6:30 p.m., January 20, 2004**

Council consensus was to set the work session with the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for 6:30 p.m., January 20, 2004.

**Item 3 – Discussion of Additional Ice Arena Project Funding**

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To direct administration to prepare a budget modification resolution to direct \$200,000 to the ice arena project
SECONDED BY:	Combs	

Mayor Cooper explained that he approached the Matanuska-Susitna Borough with a request of additional funding for the project. In addition, Mayor Cooper stated that he spoke with the Borough representative and reported that the Borough representative will meet with City Manager Healy and Mayor Cooper. The Borough representative is in the process of preparing a proposal to place before the Borough assembly a request for \$1 million.

Mayor Cooper reported that he, Sara Jansen and Rich Koch met with the Rasmussen Foundation regarding project funding. Mayor Cooper stated that the meeting was positive in nature and the Foundation President has requested additional information on the project. Mayor Cooper explained that he informed the Rasmussen Foundation that the council is requesting an additional \$200,000 as the City’s contribution to the ice arena enterprise fund.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeframe of the Rasmussen Foundation, promotion of the project with local organizations, information distribution and Palmer Hockey Association.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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**O. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

Acting City Manager Contini reported on the following items:

- Stated that the Public Works Department is facing several obstacles with snow removal service this year. Those obstacles include vehicles in the path of the snow plows, basketball hoops in the roadway, the windstorm and the fact that the department is running out of snow dump areas.
- The Fire Department has responded to several fires. The fires were started due to human error.

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

Ms. Persinger reported on the following items:

- Continues to work on ordinance revisions and will be placing before the Planning & Zoning Commission an ordinance amending chapter 17.80 of Title 17.
- The website is undergoing design changes and she expects the changes to be finalized within the week.

## **Q. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

1. Steve Cagle – Frontiersman

Mr. Cagle introduced himself to the council and stated that he intends to attend the council meetings and will be reporting on City related news.

## **R. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Council Member Combs** stated that the Neighborhood Watch recently held a meeting and requested that Council Member Combs forward a message to the Public Works Department thanking them for the excellent snow removal and sidewalk cleaning service this season.

**Council Member Hanson** stated that this has been a complicated season for snow removal and that in previous winters, sidewalks were not cleared and this season that has been accomplished. Council Member Hanson voiced his satisfaction with the public process and the openness of the council and city business.

**Council Member Carrington** stated that he concurred with Council Member Hanson. Council Members congratulated Council Member Carrington on his recent marriage.

**Council Member Pippel** recommended the institute of marriage. Council Member Pippel commented on the building department report and the growth of the City.

**Council Member Erbey** stated that he also concurred with Council Member Hanson.

**Council Member Vanover** was not in attendance.

**Mayor Cooper** stated that snow drifts have been a major obstacle in snow removal this year and explained that he observed a snow grader attempt to go through a snow drift. The snow drift was so dense that it spun the equipment around. Mayor Cooper reported that at the conclusion of the meeting, he will be flying to Seattle and will return on Friday, January 23, 2004. On Sunday, January 25, 2004, he will fly to Juneau to attend the Conference of Mayors.

## **S. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.

**APPROVED THIS 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2004.**

*For a signed copy – contact the City Clerk*