

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on February 24, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:05 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	Brad Hanson
John Combs	Kathrine Vanover
Jim Cooper	

Also in attendance were the following:

Tom Healy, City Manager
Jack Snodgrass, City Attorney
Janette Persinger, City Clerk

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the following amendments:

- Item J.1. – Resolution No. 1326 (B) was moved to item M.6.

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Erbey.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Unanimous consent – to approve the amended minutes of the 2-24-04 regular meeting and 2-27-04 special meeting.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Introduction – Ordinance No. 614: Adding Section 17.08.421 (Definition of Special Limitation) and Amending Chapter 17.80 (Amendments), of Title 17 (Zoning), of the Palmer Municipal Code
2. Authorize Advertisement for Bids for the 2004 Palmer Municipal Airport Improvements
3. Liquor License Renewal – VFW #2509 – Palmer Post License #4193

G. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

1. Paul Mitchell – Sternberg Lighting
Mr. Mitchell reported on the following items:
 - Thanked the Mayor and Ms. Jansen for their invitation to attend the council meeting;
 - Explained the proposed lighting for the downtown streets and the lighting assembly;
and

- Explained the company’s history and voiced the company’s commitment to quality.
2. Tuckerman Babcock – Matanuska Electric Association (MEA)
Mr. Babcock spoke on the following items:
 - MEA and Chugach Electric have recently completed a rate setting process with the Regulatory Commission;
 - Stated that during the RCA process, Chugach was granted a rate increase which was later reversed, the end result is an 8% rate decrease for wholesale power costs;
 - Explained that because of the decrease, MEA has chosen to refund the increased costs to it’s customers;
 - Mr. Babcock presented the City of Palmer with a check for \$14,248 for its portion of the refund.
 3. Russ Boatright, Chief of Police – Palmer Police Department
Chief Boatright reported on the following items:
 - Stated that the Wasilla Dispatch Center is in operation and Palmer’s involvement continues to be the transfer of 9-1-1 calls to the Wasilla Dispatch Center;
 - Discussion ensued regarding log sheets to record the amount of time involved in the transfer of calls to the Wasilla center;
 - Explained the staffing and training status of the Department;
 - Stated that the overall moral of the department is good;
 - Explained citation surcharges, fines collected by the court and dollars captured by the City;
 - Stated that the department is in the process of examining the City ordinances and further stated that some Class B Misdemeanors are not processed by the courts; and
 - Explained that through ordinance revisions it is possible that these offenses be deemed as violations and the offender fined accordingly.

H. BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

J. HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

K. BIDS

L. OLD BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Authorize City Manager to Enter Into a Joint Purchase Agreement for the Purchase of a Centrifugal Compressor Truck

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To authorize the City Manager to enter into a joint purchase agreement for the purchase of a centrifugal compressor truck in an amount not to exceed \$201,900
SECONDED BY:	Combs	

City Manager Healy explained the status of the current vehicle and the importance of purchasing the new vehicle. The City intends to auction the current vehicle. Discussion ensued regarding the retention of the current vehicle as a backup vehicle.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item 2 – Authorize City Manager to Enter Into a Transfer of Responsibilities Agreement with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for the West Dogwood Avenue and Glenn Highway Intersection Project

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To authorize the City Manager to enter into a Transfer of Responsibilities Agreement with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities of the West Dogwood Avenue and Glenn Highway Intersection Project
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Discussion ensued regarding the time frame of the agreement and the overall project.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item 3 – Authorize City Manager to Enter Into a Professional Services Agreement with Hattenburg, Dilley and Linnell Engineers for Design Services for the West Dogwood Avenue and Glenn Highway Intersection Program

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To authorize the City Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with Hattenburg, Dilley and Linnell Engineers for design services for the West Dogwood Avenue and Glenn Highway intersection program in an amount not to exceed \$196,914
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

City Manager Healy explained the project. Discussion ensued regarding the current property owner and right-of-ways. Discussion regarding design money and the City’s required match ensued. Discussion regarding construction management costs and the responsibility of those costs followed. City Manager Healy stated that the goal is to have bid ready documents by the end of August. Discussion ensued regarding historical preservation requirements.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item 4 – Authorize City Manager to approve an agreement with the Alaska State Fair and the Alaska Railroad regarding acquisition of property for the State Fair Commuter Center project

MOVED BY:	Combs	To authorize the City Manager to approve an agreement with the Alaska State Fair and the Alaska Railroad regarding acquisition of property for the State Fair Commuter Center project
SECONDED BY:	Hanson	

Mayor Cooper explained the property affected by the State Fair Commuter Center project. City Manager Healy voiced his concerns over future alignments of the road. Discussion ensued regarding the costs and ownership, and liability to the City.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item 5 – Authorize Donation to The America Red Cross

MOVED BY:	Hanson	To contribute \$1,500 to the America Red Cross in their efforts to raise \$11,000 for carbon monoxide detectors in our community
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Mayor Cooper explained the request. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of purchasing carbon monoxide detectors and the number of Palmer residents who are in need of the detectors.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item 6 – Resolution No. 1326 (B): Amending the City of Palmer Fiscal Year 2004 Budget

MOVED BY:	Hanson	To adopt resolution no. 1326 (B) as amended
SECONDED BY:	Carrington	

M/M by Hanson to amend by the addition of the following:

Seconded by Combs. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

General Fund (01) – Expenditures			
Contribution Administration			
0101706078 Transfers Out	\$1,088,900	\$ 200,000	\$1,288,900
Capital Projects (08) – Income			
0800003673 Transfers From Other Funds	\$ 615,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 815,000
Capital Projects (08) – Expenditures			
0801107069 Dogwood/Glenn Hwy	\$ 0	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000

M/M by Carrington to amend the General Fund (01) – Income to reflect the account line item account number.

Seconded by Combs. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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

City Manager Healy reported on the following items:

- Stated that an Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) order acknowledging the receipt of the agreed upon utility service area was received today, a hearing has been scheduled for March 30, 2004 for the purpose of receiving public testimony on the project. The deadline for RCA to render its determination has been extended to May 3, 2004;
- The Visitor Center RFP is out before the public and proposals are due by March 18, 2004;
- Stated that he is meeting with the Urban Revitalization project consultant on March 10, 2004 and will discuss the historical preservation committee;
- Stated that he is in the process of submitting the application to the municipal bond bank for Ice Arena bond funding. Announced that the Mat-Su Borough approved a \$500,000 grant for the project;
- Attended the opening of the Wasilla Sports Complex; and
- Stated that the parties involved in the Baptist Church utilities issue have reached a tentative resolution and are working on the last of the language in the agreement. When completed, the document will be distributed to the involved parties.

O. CITY CLERK’S REPORT

P. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

1. Will Blaylock – Fairground Railroad

Mr. Blaylock asked about the railroad to the Fairground. Mr. Blaylock inquired as to where the railroad will come from and where it will go to.

Q. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Vanover asked that a work session be scheduled for the purposes of discussing the transitional zoning ordinance. The work session was scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. Due to family travel; Council Member Vanover asked that she be excused from the

April 13, 2004 meeting. She stated that a co-worker commented on the beauty of Palmer and the co-worker's lack of regret over moving to Palmer.

Council Member Erbey stated that employees at the high school and residents of the area have voiced their concerns over the inadequate lighting and the dangerous conditions resulting from the lighting. Council Member Erbey requested that the City further investigate the matter.

Council Member Hanson expressed his pride over Palmer's efforts on the Mat-Su Borough Ice Arena grant and further stated his desire that the city administration and attorney assist in the Police Departments efforts of code revision.

Council Member Pippel also expressed his pleasure over the Mat-Su Borough Ice Arena grant. Council Member Pippel stated that as the City's representative on the Resource Conservation & Development Council (RCD) he attended a recent meeting and provided information to the council on the current City projects. Council Member Pippel stated that Valley Residential Services has purchased property in the area of the Carney gravel pit and is sponsoring a charet at the Good Shepard Lutheran Church throughout the week. He further stated that Valley Residential Services is investigating property in the Palmer area for similar development. Council Member Pippel explained the vacancies on the Mat-Valley Federal Credit Union.

Council Member Combs stated that the previous ten days has been eventful for the City and stated that he is grateful to be a part of a dynamic group, who are willing toward project completion. Council Member Combs stated that due to the Mayor's vision and leadership, projects are being brought to fruition.

Mayor Cooper stated that the City of Palmer has a lot to be proud of. Mayor Cooper highlighted his trip to Washington D.C. and his attendance at the National League of Cities Conference. He stated that there were 3,000 representatives from all over the United States in attendance at the conference. The key issues discussed were T21, education funding and the No Child Left Behind Act. Of greater discussion were Homeland Security and the request that funds be appropriated directly to local municipal governments rather than state governments. Mayor Cooper reported that he met with Congressmen Young regarding a \$950,000 provision in the T21 bill.

S. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 23rd day of March, 2004.

Please contact the City Clerk for a signed copy.