

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on October 28, 2008, at 7:04 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 7: 04 pm.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

|             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Brad Hanson | Kathrine Vanover arrived at 7:08 pm |
| Kevin Brown | Richard Best - via teleconference   |
| John Combs  | Michael Chmielewski                 |

The following members were absent and excused by the council:

Ken Erbey and Kevin Brown

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 former Mayor George Carte.

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
  - a. Introduction – Ordinance No. 08-020: Enacting Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 2.90, Providing for the Establishment of Special Committees (IM 08-042)
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
  - a. September 30, 2008, Special Meeting
  - b. October 13, 2008, Special Meeting
  - c. October 14, 2008, Regular Meeting

Council Member Chmielewski requested to move item J.1. to K. 2. There were no objections.

Council Member Hanson requested moving item D 1.b. to Item K. 3. There were no objections.

**E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS**

Former Mayor George Carte:

- introduced host families and students from the Sister City Program; and
- introduced a Saroma Senior High School English Teacher and Saroma City Staff member Mr. Yamohara.

**F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

**G. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Item 1** – Ordinance No. 08-016: Amending Palmer Municipal Code, Title 4, Personnel, by Repealing Existing Language and Enacting Language Regarding Adoption of Personnel Regulations (IM 08-039)

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing for ordinance no. 08-016. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed and the matter was brought before the council.

|              |             |                               |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| MOVED BY:    | Vanover     | To adopt ordinance no. 08-016 |
| SECONDED BY: | Chmielewski |                               |

Council Member Hanson:

- inquired of the cost of additional paid holidays;
- questioned leave accrual for permanent part-time employees; and
- requested clarification of the definition of a part-time employee

Director of Administration Dean Baugh:

- explained the proposed amendments.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- questioned the lack of a fiscal note.

|                              |             |   |
|------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Primary Amendment #1 to Main |             |   |
| Moved by:                    | Chmielewski | To postpone any action until the next regular meeting |
| Seconded by:                 | Vanover     |   |

|  |                  |     |
|--|------------------|-----|
| Vote on Motion to Postpone carried by a unanimous roll call vote |                  |     |
|  | Yes:             | No: |
| Best   | Combs    Vanover |     |
| Chmielewski  | Hanson           |     |

**Item 2** – Ordinance No. 08-019: Amending Palmer Municipal Code, Section 2.30.120, Agenda and Agenda Packets, to Allow for City Manager Comments During a Board Of Economic Development Meeting (IM 08-040)

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing for ordinance no. 08-014. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed and the matter was brought before the council.

|              |             |                               |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| MOVED BY:    | Vanover     | To adopt ordinance no. 08-019 |
| SECONDED BY: | Chmielewski |                               |

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

**H. BIDS**

**I. ACTION MEMORANDA**

**Item 1** – Action Memorandum 08-066: Accept and Appropriate a Grant from the State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Amount of \$22,000 for Re-writing the City of Palmer Emergency Operations Plan

|              |             |                                       |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| MOVED BY:    | Hanson      | To authorize Action Memorandum 08-066 |
| SECONDED BY: | Chmielewski |                                       |

City Manager Allen:

- spoke favorably of the request.

Jon Owen:

- explained the grant process.

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

**Item 2** – Action Memorandum 08-068: Approve the Placement of Three Temporary Buildings on Lot 1 Block 8 of the Lucas Replat Subdivision for a Period of up to Eleven Months

|              |         |                                       |
|--------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| MOVED BY:    | Hanson  | To authorize Action Memorandum 08-068 |
| SECONDED BY: | Vanover |                                       |

Public Works Superintendent Greg Wickham:

- explained the extension request.

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

**J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Item 1** - Resolution No. 08-021: Establishing a Special Committee to Focus On and to Determine the Feasibility of a Community Center in the City of Palmer and Appointing

Committee Members (IM 08-041)

|              |        |                                |
|--------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| MOVED BY:    | Erbey  | To adopt Resolution No. 08-021 |
| SECONDED BY: | Hanson |                                |

*This motion was brought forth from the October 14, 2008 Regular Meeting*

|                              |        |  |
|------------------------------|--------|--|
| Primary Amendment #1 to Main |        |  |
| Moved by:                    | Hanson | To change member 1. i. to Rick Mystrom |
| Seconded by:                 | Brown  |  |

|  |               |     |
|--|---------------|-----|
| Vote on Motion to Postpone carried by a unanimous roll call vote |               |     |
| Yes:   |               | No: |
| Best   | Combs Vanover |     |
| Chmielewski  | Hanson        |     |

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

## K. NEW BUSINESS

**Item 1** – Resolution No. 08-022: Adopting the 2008 Utility Rate Study (IM 08-043)

|              |       |                            |
|--------------|-------|----------------------------|
| MOVED BY:    | Combs | To adopt Resolution 08-022 |
| SECONDED BY: | Best  |                            |

Mr. Uhlenkott, Honchen & Uhlenkott:

- summarized the study.

Council Member Hanson:

- voiced concern with the methodology.

City Manager Allen:

- questioned the cost of additional consumers on the Southwest Extension.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- inquired of the fiscal impact of additional consumers.

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

**Item 2** - Resolution No. 08-019: Repealing the November 1, 2008, Utility Rate Increase Previously Authorized by Resolution No. 06-022 (IM 08-038)

|              |         |                            |
|--------------|---------|----------------------------|
| MOVED BY:    | Pippel  | To adopt Resolution 08-019 |
| SECONDED BY: | Vanover |                            |

*This motion was brought forth from the September 23, 2008 Regular Meeting*

Council Member Chmielewski:

- Inquired of the average utility cost; and
- questioned the comparison of our reserve fund to other similar municipalities.

Council Member Hanson:

- indicated preference for the legislation.

City Manager Allen:

- discussed the cost of future replacement; and
- stressed the importance of fiscal planning.

Mr. Uke:

- stated grant funds are dwindling; and
- spoke in favor of a large reserve for future line replacement.

|  |              |             |                |       |
|--|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------|
| VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Failed by 2 to 3 roll call vote |              |             |                |       |
| Hanson   | Yes:<br>Best | Chmielewski | No:<br>Vanover | Combs |

**Item 3 - Action Memorandum 08-067: Authorize Donation to the Palmer High School Hockey Program in the Amount of \$500**

|              |         |                                       |
|--------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| MOVED BY:    | Vanover | To authorize Action Memorandum 08-067 |
| SECONDED BY: | Best    |                                       |

City Clerk Janette Bower:

- explained the donation request process.

|  |               |         |     |  |
|--|---------------|---------|-----|--|
| VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous roll call vote |               |         |     |  |
| Chmielewski  | Yes:<br>Combs | Vanover | No: |  |
| Hanson   | Best          |         |     |  |

## L. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Bill Allen reported on the following items:

- United Way Campaign;
- Land Entitlement for Mat Maid property;
- Urban Revitalization;
- Dust Control funds; and
- Representative Gatto.

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

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following items:

- Written report included in the packet; and
- Upcoming meetings.

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

Mayor Combs reported on the following items:

- Written report in the packet;
- Red Route Bogard Extension meeting; and
- Blueberry Improvement map.

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

Thank you letter Boy Scouts  
Urban Revitalization Project document.  
Memo from Mr. Allen.

## **P. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Public Works Superintendent Greg Wickham:

- commented on the budget project
- thanked the Council for the opportunity to fill in as Director.

## **Q. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Council Member Hanson:

- commented on his inability to attend meetings next month.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- expressed gratitude to the expedient street maintenance fellows.

Katherine Vanover:

- verbalized pleasure concerning her trip to Maine; and
- requested concurrence from a council member to sponsor an ordinance amending PMC 2.05.050 Mayor compensation. Council Member Best assented.
- verbalized her fondness of Alaska.

## **R. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Approved this eighteenth day of November, 2008.

*/s/*

---

John C. Combs, Mayor

*/s/*

---

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk