

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on June 24, 2008, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Tony Pippel	Ken Erbey
Kathrine Vanover	Richard Best
John Combs	Michael Chmielewski

The following member was absent and excused by the council:

Council Member Brad Hanson

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 Council Member Pippel.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Action Memorandum 08-051: Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement to Hattenburg Dilley & Linnell in the Amount of \$13,065 for the Design and Construction Phase Services to Replace the Segmented Circle at the Palmer Municipal Airport.
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. June 10, 2008, Special Meeting
 - b. June 10, 2008, Regular Meeting

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Mr. Joseph Hawkins reported on the following items:

- suggested the City capitalize on its greatest assets; the employees and citizens;
- recommended a blanket insurance policy for City volunteers;
- asked the Council to consider foreclosure assistance for its citizens; and
- encouraged positive incentives for residents.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Jeff Johnson, Friday Fling representative:

- provided an update of Friday Fling participation;
- encouraged Council attendance; and
- expressed gratitude to the Public Works Department.

G. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Accept the Financial Statements for Year Ending December 31, 2007, as Presented by Staff and Audited by Mikunda Cottrell and Co.

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To accept the Financial Statements For Year Ending December 31, 2007.
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous voice call vote			
Yes:			No:
Chmielewski	Combs	Pippel	
Vanover	Erbey	Best	

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1. Ordinance No. 08-010: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Section 18.35.085 Questioned Voter Notice (IM 08-018)

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing for ordinance no. 08-010. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed and the matter was brought before the council.

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To adopt ordinance no. 08-010
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous voice vote			
Yes:			No:
Chmielewski	Combs	Pippel	
Vanover	Erbey	Best	

Item 2. Ordinance No. 08-013: Enacting Palmer Municipal Code Section 15.04.045; Specifically to Provide for Public Hearings Associated with City Public Construction Projects (IM 08-020)

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing for ordinance no. 08-013. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed and the matter was brought before the council.

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To adopt ordinance no. 08-013
SECONDED BY:	Best	

Council Member Pippel:

- spoke in favor of providing an avenue for public input and staff review.

City Attorney Gatti:

- suggested “may versus “shall” language regarding holding a public hearing;
- reminded Council not to unduly burden the process; and
- suggested a monetary requisite.

Mayor Combs:

- voiced concern with the necessity of the legislation;
- verbalized the City’s commitment to solicit public input; and
- expressed regret concerning public hearings for the skateboard park.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke against the legislation as presented.

City Manager Allen:

- spoke in favor of holding public hearings for projects; and
- questioned the necessity of the legislation.

Council Member Best:

- expressed preference for “shall” versus “may”; and
- vehemently supported holding public hearings for all city construction projects.

Primary Amendment #1 to Main		
MOVED BY:.	Chmielewski	To amend by substituting the word “shall” with the word “may” in Section 15.04.050 B.
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Council Member Chmielewski:

- clarified the need for balance between the Administration and the Council.

Council Member Pippel:

- reiterated his request for staff review.

VOTE ON PRIMARY AMENDMENT #1 Carried by a unanimous voice vote					
Yes:			No:		
Chmielewski	Vanover	Best			
Combs	Erbey	Pippel			

Per City Manager Allen's request:

Primary Amendment #2 to Main		
Moved by:	Pippel	To amend Section 15.04.045 A. by deleting "with the assistance of the building official" and change "public" to "city" to read: A. The city manager shall provide the council with a monthly report setting forth descriptions of all city construction projects proposed to be located in the city.
Seconded by:	Erbey	

City Manager Allen:

- stated vertical projects were reviewed by a building inspector and horizontal reviewed by public works.

Secondary Amendment #1		
Moved by:	Pippel	To amend by removing "proposed to be located in the city" from Section 15.04.045 A. to read: A. The city manager shall provide the council with a monthly report setting forth descriptions of all city construction projects.
Seconded by:	Erbey	

VOTE: Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.		
Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Vanover	Best
Combs	Erbey	Pippel

Secondary Amendment #2		
Moved by:	Best	To amend amending Section 15.04.045 A by inserting "proposed city" to read: A. The city manager shall provide the council with a monthly report setting forth descriptions of all city proposed city construction projects.
Seconded by:	Pippel	

VOTE: Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.		
Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Vanover	Best
Combs	Erbey	Pippel

VOTE on Primary Amendment #2 Carried by a unanimous voice vote		
Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Vanover	Best
Combs	Erbey	Pippel

Per City Manager Allen's request:

Primary Amendment #3 to Main		
Moved by:	Pippel	To amend by substituting the word "city" with the word "public" in 15.04.045 B. line 1, and deleting subsections c. and d. to read: B. The council may hold a public hearing regarding a City construction project if: (a) the City has an ownership or financial interest in the project, or (b) the project, or use of the project, is secured by a lease and the city is a lessor or lease. The purpose of the public hearing is for the council to receive information and public testimony regarding the public construction projects.
Seconded by:	Erbey	

Council Member Best:

- asked for clarification regarding permits and leases.

City Attorney Gatti:

- clarified the requested changes.

VOTE: Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.		
Yes:		No:
Chmielewski Combs	Vanover Erbey	Best Pippel

Primary Amendment #4 to Main		
Moved by:	Pippel	To amend by substituting the word "city" with the word "public" in 15.04.045 B. line 2, delete the word "the", and change the word "project" to "projects" to read: B. The council may hold a public hearing regarding a City construction project if: (a) the City has an ownership or financial interest in the project, or (b) the project, or use of the project, is secured by a lease and the city is a lessor or lease. The purpose of the public hearing is for the council to receive information and public testimony regarding city construction projects.
Seconded by:	Chmielewski	

VOTE: Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.		
Yes:		No:
Chmielewski Combs	Vanover Erbey	Best Pippel

Primary Amendment #5 to Main		
Moved by:	Pippel	To amend by adding section: "C. The City Administration shall conduct a staff review of all proposed city construction projects."
Seconded by:	Best	

City Attorney Gatti:

- suggested closer scrutiny of the proposed amendment.

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To postpone action until the July 22, 2008 regular meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Best	

VOTE ON MOTION: Carried by 6 to 1 voice vote					
Yes:			No:		
Erbey	Combs	Pippel	Chmielewski		
Vanover		Best			

VOTE (on primary amendment #5): Postponed to the July 22, 2008 regular meeting.
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I. BIDS

Item 1. Action Memorandum 08-049: Authorize the City Manager to Award and Execute a Contract for the Palmer Soccer field Improvements Project to T & J Gravel Products, Inc. in the Amount of \$58,500

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To Authorize Action Memorandum 08-049
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

Council Member Best:

- asked if the cost includes any compaction or grading.

Public Works Superintendent Greg Wickham:

- stated the cost was only for delivery and dirt.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous voice vote					
Yes:			No:		
Chmielewski	Combs	Pippel			
Vanover	Erbey	Best			

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1- Action Memorandum 08-048: Authorize City Manager to Purchase Insurance Coverage for the Period, July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2009, per the Premium Quote Submitted by the City's Insurance Broker, Alaska USA Insurance

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To authorize Action Memorandum 08-048
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

Director of Administration Dean Baugh:

- introduced Jan Martinson, Account Executive, Alaska USA Insurance Brokers.

City Manager Allen:

- explained the money saving policy modifications;
- expanded on the penalties incurred by the City due to low property values; and
- spoke in favor hiring an appraiser to provide current replacement values for city buildings.

Council Member Best:

- voiced concern with the City's ability to provide insurance for volunteers.

Ms. Martinson:

- noted volunteers, other than Fire Fighters and Medical Personnel, were covered under the City's General Liability policy, but not under the Worker's Compensation policy; and
- explained insurance coverage based on payroll for worker's compensation.

Mayor Combs:

- stressed the importance of City Medical Premises coverage; and
- inquired if the skateboard park's covered under the City's general liability policy.

Ms. Martinson:

- suggested posting signs describing gear requirement for the skateboarders.

City Manager Bill Allen:

- commended Ms. Martinson on a job well done.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous voice vote			
Yes:			No:
Erbey	Combs	Pippel	
Vanover	Chmielewski	Best	

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 1. Resolution No. 07-020 (A): Amending the City of Palmer 2007 Fiscal Year Budget (IM 08-022)

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To Adopt Resolution No. 07-020 (A)
SECONDED BY:	Chmielewski	

Council Member Best:

- questioned the Auto Cad software line item; and
- reminded Council items on CIP list were approved as ideas only; and
- spoke in favor of discussing each proposed amendment.

Council Member Pippel:

- voiced concern with the Fire Station repair line item; and
- expressed apprehension with the proposed reserve funds.

City Manager Allen:

- reminded Council that items identified as a (CIP) were on the CIP list previously approved by the Council;

Director of Administration Baugh:

- Articulated the proposed amendments in the legislation.

Primary Amendment #1 to Main		
Moved by:	Pippel	To delete CIP projects and the reserve funds from Resolution No. 07-020 (A).
Seconded by:	Best	

City Manager Allen:

- justified their inclusion by stating the Council had already discussed most of the projects.

Secondary Amendment #1		
Moved by:	Pippel	To amend by eliminating only the fire station roof, and the two reserve funds.
Seconded by:	Best	

VOTE: Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Yes:			No:
Chmielewski	Vanover	Best	
Combs	Erbey	Pippel	

VOTE on Primary Amendment #1 Carried by a unanimous voice vote			
Yes:			No:
Chmielewski	Vanover	Best	
Combs	Erbey	Pippel	

The council discussed proposed CIP Projects in the legislation line by line.

Council Member Best:

- requested an explanation of the Police Department building inspection and cleaning project; and
- verbalized opposition to the motorcycle funding request; and
- questioned the benefits gained by the purchase.

Public Works Superintendent Wickham:

- provided more information concerning the roof project; and
- spoke in favor of hiring a roof inspector.

Council Member Pippel:

- questioned the cost of the roof project; and
- voiced concern with the cost effectiveness of using motorcycles.

Public Safety Director Owens:

- spoke favorably of the roof project; and
- Provided details of the proposed motorcycle purchase; and
- Expanded on motorcycle training requirements.

City Manager Allen:

- expounded on the neighborhood parks improvement funding request; and
- provided a signage power point display for Council viewing; and
- explained the police motorcycle purchase request.

Primary Amendment #2 to Main		
Moved by:	Best	To delete the CIP purchase of three police motorcycles (\$17,000) from Resolution No. 07-020 (A).
Seconded by:	Pippel	

Council Member Chmielewski:

- candidly suggested purchasing vespas.

Council Member Pippel:

- commented on fuel consumption in relation to "take home cars" for the Palmer Police Department.

City Manager Allen:

- spoke in favor of retaining the funding for the motorcycles.

Mayor Combs:

- concurred with City Manager Allen;
- expressed the importance of the "presence" of a police car in a neighborhood; and
- explained an officer could be dispatched from their home if they drove a police car home.

Public Safety Director Owens:

- advocated "take home car" retention.

Council Member Erbey:

- defended the importance of a police car presence.

Council Member Best:

- reiterated his apprehension with purchasing the motorcycles; and
- described the purchase as a bad investment.

VOTE on Primary Amendment #2 Carried by a 4 to 2 roll call vote			
	Yes:		No:
Pippel	Best	Chmielewski	Vanover
		Combs	Erbey

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous voice vote			
	Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Combs	Pippel	
Vanover	Erbey	Best	

K. NEW BUSINESS

K. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Bill Allen reported on the following:

- Dogwood Extension Project;
- Economic Development Corridor meetings;
- Landscaping ordinance progress;
- Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant concept;
- State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation Safewater Standards Program;
- Felton Street project ground breaking June 30;
- Lucas Street project ground breaking August 1;
- Skateboard park equipment arrival and master plan for the site;
- Colony Days Parade appreciation; and
- Urban Revitalization Project.

L. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following:

- Elections;
- City-wide records management training;
- Rewrite of Title 9.

M. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Combs reported on the following items:

- Skateboard Park; and
- Groundwork for next legislative session.

N. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

O. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

P. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Best:

- expressed disheartenment concerning the purchase of police motorcycles.

Council Member Vanover:

- requested a dedication ceremony for the park signs in memory of Carl Meiers; and
- recommended attending the Friday Fling giant vegetable unveiling.

Mayor Combs:

- thanked the parade volunteers.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Approved this eighth of July, 2008.

/s/

John C. Combs, Mayor

/s/

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk