

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on September 18, 2007, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Pippel called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Ken Erbey	Kathrine Vanover
Tony Pippel	Richard Best

The following members were excused by the council:

John Combs	Brad Hanson	Jim Wood
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Also in attendance were the following:

Tom Healy, City Manager  
Janette Bower, City Clerk

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bruce Carr, Alaska Railroad.

**D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

John Douglas, Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce:

- spoke on behalf of Chamber members;
- voiced the Chamber's desire to cooperatively participate in the resolution of the issue for the greater good of the community;
- described the opportunity to improve Railroad usage;
- voiced pleasure with the Colony Christmas train;
- commented on financial feasibility; and
- offered Chamber support.

Jamie Nichols:

- highlighted her work with the elderly; and
- asked that something be done to accommodate the elderly in their quest to get to the downtown area safely.

Cliff Salisbury:

- encouraged the council to not forget their history;
- expanded on his military service in the Palmer area;

- asked the council to retain the tracks because of the Palmer historical value;
- stated once historical objects are gone, they do not come back;
- spoke of the previous wooden bridge which assisted citizen access; and
- stated the Railroad engineering department could accommodate once a year train traffic.

Dan Pollock:

- commented on the history of the railroad tracks and their recognition of home;
- said when something was taken away, it was difficult to get back;
- stated rebuilding now would be less expensive than at a future date;
- commented on the events held by the Palmer Chamber of Commerce and enhancement of events made by the train;
- spoke of the need to rework the rail bed;
- stated crossings could be installed to accommodate pedestrians;
- spoke of school bus crossings and stated exempt tracks could accommodate school buses; and
- encouraged the railroad to travel to Palmer more often.

Margaret Heaven:

- described the railroad as the essence of Palmer;
- encouraged the train to travel to the Friday Fling events;
- suggested that a car travel from downtown Palmer to the Fair to accommodate Fair traffic;
- described the excitement created by the train's arrival for the Colony Christmas event;
- encouraged track experience by kids; and
- stated Palmer history included the railroad.

Devon Lee:

- commented on the lack of wheelchair access to the downtown area;
- stated the lack of access takes away the elderly community's livelihood;
- commented on a citizen who had been stuck in the track; and
- spoke of the newspaper article which indicated a four inch gap in the track.

Evelyn Mattie:

- commented on the hazard for seniors;
- asked why the train couldn't be stopped prior to the Pioneer Home;
- spoke of the petition regarding the tracks; and
- provided photos of the issue.

Stu Graham:

- stated the Railroad encompassed the root of Palmer;
- commented on the supplies brought to Palmer by the railroad;
- stated the access issues could be solved; and
- spoke of the railroad bed and encouraged the City to work with the Railroad to ensure its upgrade.

Debra Pollard:

- spoke of Minnesota communities who removed the tracks to provide for bike paths; and
- suggested an agreement be made to pay for the upgrades.

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1 – Alaska Railroad Tracks in Downtown Palmer**

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To enter into a committee of the whole to discuss Alaska Railroad tracks in downtown Palmer
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

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

The council entered into a committee of the whole at 6:37 p.m. and exited at 7:23 p.m.

The council and Mr. Bruce Carr, Alaska Railroad, discussed the railroad tracks in the Palmer area

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

**Approved this twenty-fifth day of September, 2007.**

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Tony Pippel, Mayor Pro-Tempore

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Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk