

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on November 18, 2008, at 7:04 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Erbey called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Kathrine Vanover	Kevin Brown
Ken Erbey	Richard Best
Michael Chmielewski	

The following members were absent and excused by the council:

John Combs
Brad Hanson

Also in attendance were the following:

Bill Allen, City Manager
Cindy Cartledge, City Attorney – via teleconference
Janette Bower, City Clerk
Shelly Acteson, Deputy City Clerk

Department of Administration Director Dean Baugh introduced Boy Scout Troop #325 and Boy Scout Troop #292.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Star Scout Frazier Grandel.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Introduction – Ordinance No. 08-021: Amending Palmer Municipal Code 2.05.050 Compensation to Establish the Amount of Mayoral Compensation (IM 08-044)
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. October 21, 2008, Special Meeting
 - b. October 28, 2008, Special Meeting
 - c. October 28, 2008, Regular Meeting
 - d. November 4, 2008, Special Meeting

Council Member Erbey requested to move Item 1. a, to Item K 4. There were no objections to accepting the agenda as amended.

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Pat Kilmain, Director – Department of Community Services:

- provided council with an update of the ice arena and the library.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

John Leiner:

- spoke against annexation; and
- voiced concern with council’s attempt to erase the community’s memory.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

H. BIDS

Item 1 – Action Memorandum 08-069: Authorize City Manager to Award and Execute a Contract for Snow Removal for City Facilities On An As Needed Basis for the 2008-2009 Season to Prosser-Dagg Construction in the Amount of \$850 per Call Out

MOVED BY:	Best	To authorize Action Memorandum 08-069
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Public Works Superintendent Greg Wickham:

- delineated the snow removal process.

Council Member Brown:

- commented on the South Colony Way road gutters.

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

Item 2 – Action Memorandum 08-071: Authorize City Manager to Award and Execute a Contract for Furnish and Install a Segmented Circle at the Palmer Municipal Airport to Shaman, LLC in the Amount of \$36,780

MOVED BY:	Best	To authorize Action Memorandum 08-071
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Public Works Superintendent Greg Wickham:

- explained the deterioration of the navigational aid.

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

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1 – Action Memorandum 08-070: Authorize the Destruction of Election Ballots Pursuant to Palmer Municipal Code 18.35.060

MOVED BY:	Best	To authorize Action Memorandum 08-070
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

City Clerk Janette Bower:

- explained the legislation.

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

Item 2 – Action Memorandum 08-072: Authorize City Manager to Execute Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Hattenburg, Dilley and Linnell in the Amount of \$20,545 for Additional Geotechnical and Surveying Costs for the Blueberry Area Water and Street Improvements Project

MOVED BY:	Best	To authorize Action Memorandum 08-072
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Public Works Superintendent Greg Wickham:

- spoke to the amendment.

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

Item 3 – Action Memorandum 08-073: Authorize the City Manager to Award and Execute a Contract in an amount not to exceed \$73,960 with Agnew:Beck Consulting LLC for Preparation of Annexation Strategy

MOVED BY:	Best	To authorize Action Memorandum 08-073
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Community Development Director Sandra Garley:

- explained the request.

Council Member Best:

- expressed concern with the local farmers' concerns with the city taking their land.

City Manager Allen:

- spoke in favor of the process outlined in the RFP (Request for Proposal).

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke in favor of formulating annexation strategies.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous roll call vote			
	Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Erbey	Vanover	
Best	Brown		

Item 4 – Action Memorandum 08-075: Award a Bid for Professional Services to Prepare a Highway Corridor Landscape Ordinance, Authorize the City Manager to Enter a Contract not to exceed \$39,500 with URS Alaska LLC and Direct the City Manager to Prepare an Amendment to the 2008 Fiscal Year Budget to Appropriate the Funds

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To authorize Action Memorandum 08-075
SECONDED BY:	Best	

Community Development Director Garley:

- explained the bid and selection process.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- commented positively on the proposed visuals.

Council Member Best:

- questioned the cost of the endeavor.

Council member Erbey:

- spoke in favor of the project.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by unanimous roll call vote			
	Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Erbey	Vanover	
Best	Brown		

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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)

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

This motion was brought forth from the October 28, 2008 Regular Meeting

Director of Administration Dean Baugh:

- explained the cost analysis.

Council Member Vanover:

- spoke in favor of minimal cost with great return.

Council Member Brown:

- questioned City Manager Allen's request to remove the day after Thanksgiving as a holiday.

City Manager Bill Allen:

- voiced concern with the cost of the additional holiday;
- commented on the upcoming salary survey adjustments;
- reminded Council of the recently approved COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) increase;
- advocated for a defined salary structure; and
- recommended reviewing the salary survey before approving an additional holiday.

Council Member Best:

- reminded Council of the two floating holidays already in existence; and
- questioned the verbiage in Section 11.10 A. 1.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- recommended a comprehensive review of the salary study before approving an additional holiday.

MOVED BY:	Best	To amend the Personnel Regulations, Section 11.10 A. 1. To read "An employee convicted of sexual assault..."
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

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

MOVED BY:	Best	To amend the Personnel Regulations, Section 4.05 by deleting #7, Fourth Friday in November
SECONDED BY:		

The motion failed for lack of a second.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION TO ADOPT: Carried by unanimous voice vote			
Yes:			No:
Chmielewski	Erbey	Vanover	
Best	Brown		

K. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Resolution No. 08-023: Accepting and Appropriating a Grant No. 67114 in the Amount of \$201,250 from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Design (IM 08-045)

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To adopt resolution no. 08-023
SECONDED BY:	Chmielewski	

Public Works Director Carter Cole:

- expounded on the legislation.

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

Item 2 – Resolution No. 08-024: Accepting and Appropriating a Grant No. 67116 in the Amount of \$2,401,210 from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for the Southwest Utility Extension, Phase II (IM 08-046)

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To adopt resolution no. 08-024
SECONDED BY:	Best	

Public Works Director Carter Cole:

- explained the legislation.

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

Item 3 – Resolution No. 08-026: Establishing the City of Palmer’s Five-Year Programs for Progress Capital Improvement Project Priorities (IM 08-048)

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To authorize resolution no. 08-026
SECONDED BY:	Chmielewski	

City Manager Bill Allen:

- explained the resolution.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by voice vote			
	Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Erbey	Vanover	
Best	Brown		

Item 4 - Introduction – Ordinance No. 08-021: Amending Palmer Municipal Code 2.05.050 Compensation to Establish the Amount of Mayoral Compensation (IM 08-044)

MOVED BY:	Best	To introduce Ordinance No. 08-021
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke against the legislation; and
- voiced concern with increasing the mayor’s salary and benefits.

Council Member Best:

- advocated for a full-time mayor position;
- recognized the value of utilizing the mayor as a full-time year round lobbyist; and
- spoke favorably of the legislation.

Council Member Brown:

- spoke in opposition to changing the mayor’s salary partway through his term;
- stated the City of Palmer does not need a full-time mayor;
- suggested a ballot issue to address any changes to the mayor position; and
- reminded Council to be mindful of what was best for the city.

Council Member Erbey:

- expressed concern with the lack of clarity concerning a strong mayor versus a full-time mayor form of government;
- reminded Council the City Manager manages the City; and
- spoke against the proposed ordinance.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Failed by a roll call vote			
Yes:		No:	
Best Vanover		Brown Chmielewski	Erbey

L. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

City Manager Bill Allen reported on the following items:

- Hydrant failure;
- Mat-Su Legislative Delegation meeting;
- Letter of resignation from Fire Chief;
- AML Conference;
- Mat Maid property; and
- Board of Economic Development Board.

M. CITY CLERK’S REPORT

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following items:

- AML summer meeting;
- AAMC Conference;
- December 9 meeting;
- Committee and commission training in January; and
- November 25 regular meeting.

City Manager Bill Allen:

- praised City Clerk Bower for achieving President of the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks.

N. MAYOR’S REPORT

O. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Economic Impact statement from Director Baugh.

P. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Q. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Vanover:

- commented on the Boy Scouts meeting attendance; and
- remarked favorably concerning Colony Christmas.

Council Member Brown:

- highlighted AML conference attendance;
- offered his office as a break out room during the AML summer meetings; and
- noted the usefulness of the role of the mayor discussions.

Council Member Best:

- requested Council support for city sponsored email addresses and business cards for Council members.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- commented on the AML conference in Ketchikan; and
- sequestered help with the music portion of Colony Days.

Council Member Erbey:

- wished everyone happy holidays; and
- reminded Council the funeral for Mayor Combs' mother would be held at St. Michael's church.

R. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Approved this twenty-fifth day of November, 2008.

/s/

John C. Combs, Mayor

/s/

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk