

A. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on September 20, 2005, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

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

B. ROLL CALL

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

Tony Pippel	Ken Erbey
Jim Wood	Brad Hanson
John Combs	Kathrine Vanover – attended via teleconference
Steve Carrington	

Also in attendance were the following:

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

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Hanson.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

E. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Action Memorandum 05-104: Vote Regarding Exception from the City of Palmer Charter Section 2.3, Concerning Employment of Mayor

Clerk's note: Mayor Pro-Tempore Pippel presided item 1.

Attorney Snodgrass explained Charter Section 2.3 and spoke of the application of a vote regarding the Charter section. He stated that the section applies to a person on the council at this time.

MOVED BY:	Carrington	To approve an exception for Mr. Combs for the position of Mayor to the provisions in Charter Section 2.3
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

Council Member Hanson voiced his opposition to the vote being only applicable for the current mayor and spoke of the applicability of the exception to future mayors.

Council Member Wood spoke of the lack of identification of council members as being in a salaried position. Attorney Snodgrass stated that he spoke with Lila Hardage and was informed that the council, from a payroll standpoint, are treated as any other City employee.

Attorney Snodgrass spoke of the need for a case by case analysis because of the language which speaks of an exception and explained the discretionary power of the council.

Council Member Erbey spoke in agreement with Council Member Hanson. He stated that the spirit of the original law was to prevent council members from creating jobs that they would then fill.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Pippel spoke of the exception language and the steps to solidify the decision of the council. He stated that he anticipates that the mayoral duties and compensation will be tailored to each particular mayor. He stated that none of the issues are carved in stone and changeable if necessary and spoke of the rules as a tool. Mayor Pro-Tempore Pippel spoke of the established need for a full-time mayor.

Council Member Wood spoke in opposition to the statement regarding the established need for a full-time mayor.

Council Member Hanson spoke of the charter provision and the ability of the council to make exceptions regarding employment. He asked that identification be made of the ability of the council to make exceptions for each individual mayor without the necessity for a super majority vote. He spoke of the need for a clearly identified path to lessen future conflict.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Pippel stated that he expects that each mayor will bring their own tools to the table.

Council Member Carrington voiced his desire for the clerk and attorney to work together to identify the need for any code and charter changes regarding the issue.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:	Motion passed by 5-1 (Wood) voice vote.
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Clerk's note: Mayor Combs rejoined the council and presided over the remainder of the meeting. Due to illness, Council Member Vanover left the meeting.

Item 2 – Historic District Zoning Designation

MOVED BY:		To enter into the Committee of the Whole
SECONDED BY:		

Clerk's note: The council entered into the Committee of the Whole at 7:26 p.m. and exited at 8:30.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:	Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
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MOVED BY:	Pippel	To direct administration to do the research necessary for preparation of an historic district ordinance and to report back to council on same
SECONDED BY:	Wood	

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:	Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
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Item 2 – Action Memorandum 05-054: Directing Administration to Develop and Implement a Community Design Manual

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To enter into a committee of the whole regarding action memorandum 05-054
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

Clerk's note: The council entered into the Committee of the Whole at 8:41 p.m. and exited at 9 p.m..

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:	Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
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MOVED BY:	Pippel	To direct administration to develop a community design manual based on current ordinances with suggestions of adding to or improving on what is in code
SECONDED BY:	Wood	

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:	Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
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F. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Carrington will be on vacation from September 22 to October 4, 2005.

Council Member Pippel stated that it was unfortunate that the State Fair received such bad press regarding the Arcala funeral and thanked the Mayor for his actions. Council Member Pippel spoke of the waterline being placed within the vicinity of developed subdivisions. He spoke of the completion of the Colony film and announced that Rasmussen Foundation would provide \$100,000 for the project and USDA has provided a \$75,000 grant for the project as well.

Mayor Combs announced that Wednesday will be Arcala Day at the funeral will be held at 4 p.m. at Raven Hall. He will read the proclamation on behalf of the City at the funeral.

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 27th day of September, 2005.

/s/
John C. Combs, Mayor

/s/
Janette M. Bower, City Clerk