

**City Council Minutes  
City of Palmer, Alaska**

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**Special Meeting  
March 11, 2008**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on March 11, 2008, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Ken Erbey	Michael Chmielewski	Richard Best
Brad Hanson	John Combs	Tony Pippel
Kathrine Vanover – via teleconference		

Also in attendance were the following:

Bill Allen, City Manager  
Michael Gatti, City Attorney  
Janette Bower, City Clerk

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Best.

**D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

John Leiner:

- commented on the executive session held by the Borough and the lack of noticed subject matter;
- spoke of the Anchorage Daily News article regarding the State Crime Lab;
- expanded on the Special Counsel’s investigation of City Manager Allen; and
- stated he was in the process of finishing chapter three of his book.

**E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Item 1** – Pending Motion from the February 12, 2008, Special Meeting Regarding the Palmer Wastewater Treatment Plant Preliminary Engineering Report

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To move forward with alternative two as listed in the City Manager’s letter to the council and to direct the Manager to enter into discussions with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and City of Wasilla concerning a regional wastewater treatment center
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

City Manager Allen:

- requested the council accept the preliminary engineering report as written;
- stated it would be ill advised to rush into the issue of alternative selection;
- announced he had retained the services of a chemical engineering firm who would advise him of the manner in which to proceed;
- expanded on the peer review completed on the HDL report and the adequate finding;
- commented on the EPA's suspect data;
- stressed the need to determine the accuracy of the data;
- stated the report needed no further attention by the council;
- stressed as the City moves forward with a regional plan that the required data was already in the preliminary report;
- explained the capital request for a study of a regional plan contained within an appropriations request made by Senator Lyda Green;
- stated during the March 25 joint meeting a presentation would be made explaining the total concept of a regional wastewater treatment plant; and
- designated the City's plant as a capital contribution to an overall plan.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke of the previous council motion; and
- stated that accepting the report was a much better way to go.

Council Member Pippel:

- questioned the necessity of accepting HDL's report;
- inquired of the term "equivalent annualized cost";
- questioned the cost effective nature a regional plan;
- suggested another examination of the lagoon system be conducted;
- stated the first thing that should have occurred was a conversation with EPA regarding the new law; and
- commented on the capital investment made by Palmer citizens and a regional concept which would require an additional capital contribution from Palmer residents.

David Lundin, Hattenburg, Dilley and Linnell:

- explained the equivalent annualized cost term; and
- expanded on the title of "Preliminary" and requested the title remain.

Council Member Hanson:

- inquired of the name of the independent consultant;
- questioned the use of the term " preliminary" engineering report;
- asked of the sequence of events which indicated that a regional plan was the City's only alternative;
- stated that a regional plan may not be cost effective;
- explained his responsibility to Palmer constituents to acquire the lowest cost for services; and
- described ownership of a facility as a number one priority.

Mayor Combs:

- commented on the previous consensus regarding a regional plan; and
- spoke of the favor given for regional projects by Senator Stevens.

VOTE ON MOTION: Failed by unanimous roll vote.			
Yes:	No:		
	Pippel	Erbey	Vanover
	Chmielewski	Best	Hanson
	Combs		

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To accept the report presented to the council as a Preliminary report and eliminating the word draft
SECONDED BY:	Pippel	

David Lundin:

- described the revised scoring matrix completed by the Public Works Department staff;
- expanded on the investigation conducted on the type of system represented in the report; and
- stated the decision regarding the best alternative belonged to the city

Council Member Pippel:

- questioned whether HDL could make a recommendation regarding the best alternative.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke of the scoring matrix.

VOTE ON MOTION: Carried by unanimous roll vote.		
Yes:		No:
Pippel	Erbey	Vanover
Chmielewski	Best	Hanson
Combs		

## F. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

**Approved this twenty-fifth day of March, 2008.**

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John C. Combs, Mayor

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Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk