

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on January 13, 2009, at 7 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

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

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| Kathrine Vanover | Kevin Brown |
| Richard Best | Mike Chmielewski |
| John Combs | Brad Hanson |
| Ken Erbey | |

Also in attendance were the following:

Bill Allen, City Manager
Michael Gatti, City Attorney – via teleconference
Janette Bower, City Clerk

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Hanson.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Action Memorandum 09-007: Authorize the Renewal of the Advertising Services Contract with Anchorage Daily News for One Additional Year as Provided for in the Original Contract Dated January 1, 2008
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. December 2, 2008, Special Meeting
 - b. December 9, 2008, Regular Meeting

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Sandra Garley; Community Development Director:

- provided Council with an update of 2008 Department activities.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

H. BIDS

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1 - Action Memorandum 09-001: Authorize City Manager to Execute Change Order No. 1 for the South Felton Street Improvements Project to Prosser-Dagg Construction in the Amount of \$ 67,875.65

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| MOVED BY: | Vanover | To Authorize Action Memorandum 09-001 |
| SECONDED BY: | Erbey | |

Public Works Director Cole:

- highlighted the scope of the change order.

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

Item 2 - Action Memorandum 09-002: Authorize City Manager to “Execute a Limited Right of Entry for the Purpose of Soil Testing with an Option Agreement for Purchase of Real Property”

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| MOVED BY: | Best | To Authorize Action Memorandum 09-002 |
| SECONDED BY: | Vanover | |

Public Works Director Cole:

- described the property as the Kenneth Loyer property;
- expanded on the researched solutions regarding the wastewater treatment plant; and
- explained the term subsurface drainage.

City Manager Allen:

- spoke of Director Cole’s background in the subject;
- commented on the necessity to address the needs for the community for the next 15-25 years; and
- stated the cost of the treatment plant solution could be as little as \$2 million.

Attorney Gatti:

- expanded on the option agreement and the future comprehensive information package.

Mayor Combs:

- highlighted a joint meeting held with Tri-Cities and Borough regarding a regional wastewater treatment plant.

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

Item 3 - Action Memorandum 09-003: Accept a Grant from the Alaska Department of Public Safety via the JAG Grant Program in the Amount of \$75,000 to Support the Palmer Police Position at the Mat-Su Narcotics Unit for FY09 and Direct the City Manager to Prepare an Amendment to the 2008/2009 Fiscal Year Budget to Appropriate Funds for the Period July 08 – June 09

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| MOVED BY: | Best | To Authorize Action Memorandum 09-003 |
| SECONDED BY: | Erbey | |

Public Safety Director Owen:

- commented on the participation by the Department and grant funding.

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

Item 4 - Action Memorandum 09-004: Authorize the Purchase of a New Vehicle Using Asset Forfeiture Funds in an Amount not to Exceed \$25,000, for Use by the Palmer Police Investigator Assigned to the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE) Unit

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| MOVED BY: | Best | To Authorize Action Memorandum 09-004 |
| SECONDED BY: | Vanover | |

Public Safety Director Owen:

- expanded on the multi-jurisdictional team efforts;
- highlighted the asset forfeiture process and the restrictions regarding how the funds are spent; and
- stated the current vehicle would be used by the City.

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

Item 5 - Action Memorandum 09-005: Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Letter of Agreement Between the Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers – Bureau of Highway Patrol (BHP) and City of Palmer, Accept and Appropriate a State of Alaska, BHP Grant in the Amount of \$102,665.80, and Authorize the City Manager to Hire a Police Officer to Back-fill the Vacancy Created by the Grant Program

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| MOVED BY: | Best | To Authorize Action Memorandum 09-005 |
| SECONDED BY: | Erbey | |

Public Safety Director Owen:

- expanded on the creation of the Bureau of Highway Patrol and funding for the unit; and
- spoke of hiring process and associated payroll costs.

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

Item 6 - Action Memorandum 09-006: Approve and Accept Supplement No. 1 to Alaska Railroad Special Land Use Permit No. 9071 Expanding the Area for the Palmer Skateboard Facility within the ARRC right-of-way from 39,805 Square Feet to 52,500 Square Feet in the Vicinity of Arctic Avenue at Approximately ARRC Milepost A-6.5 of the Palmer Branch

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| MOVED BY: | Erbey | To Authorize Action Memoranda 09-006 |
| SECONDED BY: | Vanover | |

Community Development Director Garley:

- expanded on the 12,695 square foot portion of the Alaska Railroad right-of-way.

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

Item 7 - Action Memorandum 09-008: Extend the Contract for Legal Services with Wohlforth, Johnson, Brecht, Cartledge and Brooking for One Additional Year as Provided for in the Original Contract Approved by the Palmer City Council on December 18, 2006, and Approve the Hourly Fee Increase

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| MOVED BY: | Vanover | To Authorize Action Memoranda 09-008 |
| SECONDED BY: | Best | |

Council Member Vanover:

- requested the overall cost of the contract for 2008.

Administration Director Baugh:

- stated it was \$7-800 per month.

Attorney Gatti:

- estimated the \$5 per hour additional cost as \$3-5,000.

City Manager Allen:

- reported on the excellent nature of the legal work provided by the firm; and
- expanded on the measures put in place to reduce legal fees.

Discussion ensued regarding attorney attendance at meetings and use of teleconferencing. Council Members Vanover, Erbey, and Chmielewski described attendance by teleconference as acceptable.

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| VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by 6-1 voice vote | | | | | |
| | Yes: | | | No: | |
| Chmielewski | Erbey | Brown | Combs | | |
| Vanover | Best | Hanson | | | |

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 - Resolution No. 07-020 (B): Amending the City of Palmer 2008 Fiscal Year Budget (IM 09-002)

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| MOVED BY: | Best | To adopt resolution no. 07-020 B |
| SECONDED BY: | Vanover | |

Administration Director Baugh:

- described the budget amendment.

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

Item 2 - Resolution No. 09-003: Honoring the Life of Palmer Resident and Army Specialist Shane Woods by Naming the Palmer Urban Revitalization Trail, The Shane Woods Memorial Trail (IM 09-001)

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| MOVED BY: | Vanover | To adopt resolution no. 09-003 |
| SECONDED BY: | Best | |

Mayor Combs:

- described the trail area;
- commented on the Wall of Honor located at the Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau; and
- remarked favorably on a soldier making the ultimate sacrifice by laying their life on the line.

Council Member Hanson:

- recognized the loss and contributions to the community;
- commented on the need for a policy regarding the criteria of naming of public facilities; and
- suggested a veteran's wall within the trail of names of individuals who had served our country.

Council Member Best:

- concurred with Council Member Hanson concerns with the lack of a policy in relation to naming City facilities.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke in support of utilizing criteria chosen by a group of people to determine facility name; and
- concurred with Council Member Hanson's policy concerns.

Council Member Erbey:

- verbalized support for Council Member Hanson's criteria suggestion; and
- suggested dividing up the trail to name different sections after different individuals.

Council Member Vanover:

- spoke in favor of the City addressing the issue of naming memorials; and
- remarked favorably on the legislation.

Council Member Brown:

- voiced concern with dividing up the trail; and
- spoke in favor of rendering the honor of naming the trail to fallen soldier Shane Woods.

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

L. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

M. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following items:

- City businesses on the City's website;
- Lights on the projector;
- Planning and Zoning Commission vacancy; and
- Cancellation of the January 20, 2009, special meeting.

N. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Combs reported on the following items:

- Meeting with Mayor Menard, Mayor Purcell, Mayor Rupright, City Manager Allen and Mayor Combs;
- Juneau trip – January 19-21, 2009; and
- Attendance at the AML Winter Conference – January 28-30, 2009.

O. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

- City Attorney contract; and
- Information from Community Development Director Garley.

P. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

John Glasser:

- thanked the City for its completion of the Felton Street project;
- thanked City Manager Allen for his support of the Colony High School Band;
- stated he was lobbying for streetlights on Helen Drive;
- spoke of the slippery path of accepting federal grants; and
- commented on the harassment of City residents by the "Click it and Ticket" program.

Q. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Brown:

- spoke of the substance on the American Flag and the need to clean the flag;
- requested a large copy of the map placed on the table; and
- spoke of a family member who had lost his life while serving in the Armed Forces.

Council Member Best:

- requested a blue ribbon panel regarding the naming of public facilities; and
- spoke of representation on the Borough Platting Board and lack of communication with the City.

Council Member Hanson:

- wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- commented on the Borough process for appointment of boards and commissions;
- spoke of the upcoming legislative session; and
- announced he would attend the Presidential inauguration.

Council Member Erbey:

- spoke of the need to bury overhead wires and establishing a policy for doing so.

Council Member Vanover:

- wished everyone a Happy New Year; and
- stated she was happy to see Council Member Hanson.

R. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 1 - Subjects That Tend to Prejudice the Reputation and Character of Any Person – City Clerk Evaluation (Note: Personnel action regarding the City Clerk may taken following the executive session)

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| MOVED BY: | Hanson | To enter into executive session to discuss items that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person – City Clerk Evaluation. |
| SECONDED BY: | Chmielewski | |

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

The council entered into Executive Session at 9:30 and adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

S. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 10:09 pm.

Approved this twenty seventh day of January, 2009.

/s/

John C. Combs, Mayor

/s/

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk