

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on November 10, 2009 at 7 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor John Combs called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

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

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

Also in attendance were the following:

Bill Allen, City Manager
Michael Gatti, City Attorney
Janette Bower, City Clerk
Shelly Acteson, Deputy 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. Introduction – Ordinance No. 09-025: Enacting Palmer Municipal Code 8.42, Fireworks, Amending Section 9.36.010 Personal Conduct in Public, Section 12.24.025, General Rules, Section 12.24.030 Use Permits, as Related to Use the Use of Fireworks Within the City of Palmer (IM 09-090)
 - b. Introduction – Ordinance No. 09-026: Repealing Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 9.73 Weapons (IM 09-091)
 - c. Action Memorandum 09-053: Confirm the Mayor’s Appointment of David Bower to the City of Palmer Planning and Zoning Commission
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. October 20, 2009, Special Meeting
 - b. October 27, 2009, Special Meeting
 - c. October 27, 2009, Regular Meeting
 - d. November 3, 2009, Special Meeting

City Clerk Bower:

- informed Council of Director Owens's request to postpone Item E. 2. to the November 24 Council Meeting. There were no objections.

Mayor Combs presented a Proclamation supporting November as Adoption Awareness Month.

Council Member Vanover:

- shared a delightful adoption story.

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Pat Kilmain, Director – Department of Community Services:

- provided Council with a quarterly overview.

Jon Owen, Director – Department of Public Safety Concerning OSHA Issues
(Postponed to the November 24, 2009 meeting)

F. REPORTS

Item 1 - City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Allen reported on the following items:

- December 8 Council Meeting non-attendance;
- November 24 Special Meeting;
- Alaska Energy Report;
- Sales tax decrease in October;
- 300 State Fair vendors;
- Quarterly all-employees meeting;
- Council Members participation in a planning charrette;
- Wastewater Treatment Plant;
- Chamber of Commerce meeting;
- Detective Kelly Turney's recent academic accomplishments; and
- Happy Thanksgiving.

Item 2 - City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following items:

- Council Meeting next week;
- Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC) Conference; and
- Alaska Municipal League (AML) Conference.

Item 3 - Mayor's Report

Mayor John Combs reported on the following items:

- October 28 Borough Zoning Meeting;
- October 29 Rotary Meeting;
- Meeting with Gerry Keeling; and
- Upcoming legislation regarding the railroad tracks.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Annexation Strategy Update from Agnew:Beck;

Kevin Waring, Agnew:Beck Representative:

- provided Council with an overview of the draft summary;
- offered to meet with Council in a work session to review the final report;
- discussed land assessments in relation to annexation;
- reminded Council the document was not a policy document; and
- responded to Council inquiries.

Council Member Brown:

- questioned the quantity of public meetings and the notification process;
- requested a list of invitees for the smaller meetings;
- requested a definition for “underdeveloped”;
- questioned the timing of the upcoming open house;
- remarked unfavorably on providing the public with a plan before Council reviews the plan in its entirety; and
- expressed apprehension with the nearness of the open house.

Council Member Best:

- commented on agriculture property tax assessment values;
- requested a property inclusion and exclusion cost comparison;
- concurred with the need for a work session; and
- questioned the Borough assessment methods.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke in favor of Council possessing have more detailed information;
- commented on the agenda for the upcoming open house;
- stressed the importance of insuring the agenda and open house are productive; and
- recommended utilizing the open house as a public input opportunity.

Council Member Hanson:

- remarked favorably on reviewing the final report during a work session;
- spoke in favor amending the agenda for the open house;
- recognized the value of obtaining suggested remedies via public input; and
- stressed the importance of insuring public awareness.

City Manager Bill Allen:

- suggested rescheduling the open house.

Mayor Combs:

- commented on previous annexation attempts; and

- questioned the necessity of a map so early in the process.

Council Member Vanover

- requested clarification regarding the annexation Open House at the AT and T Sports Center; and
- vehemently requested removal of the map.

Special Assistant Sara Jansen:

- stated 935 postcards were mailed out to residents informing them of the open house; and
- informed Council of the numerous press releases sent to the newspapers.

Item 2 - Resolution No. 09-058: Accepting and Appropriating the 2009 State Homeland Security Grant Program 2009-SS-T9-0007 in the Amount of \$141,200 and Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Fuel and Gasoline Storage Tanks and Portable and Mobile Radios for Fire Responders (IM 09-089)

MOVED BY:	Best	To adopt Resolution No. 09-058
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Public Safety Director Jon Owen:

- provide a staff report; and
- explained the necessity of the legislation.

Council Member Hanson:

- questioned the levity of the legislation;
- spoke in favor of purchasing the radios; and
- expressed skepticism regarding the fuel storage.

Public Works Director Carter Cole:

- responded to Council's inquiries.

Council Member Best:

- questioned the ability of a fuel source to price gouge during a crisis;
- inquired of the City's ability to pour the cement pad and wire the tank area.

City Attorney Michael Gatti:

- responded to Council Member inquiries regarding the legislation.

Council Member Brown:

- requested a quiet gate at the site; and
- spoke in favor of the legislation.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by a 6 to 1 voice vote			
Yes:		No:	
Chmielewski	Combs	Hanson	

Brown
Vanover

Best
Erbey

L. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Report from Community Services Director Kilmain
Annexation Strategy Update from Agnew:Beck

M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

N. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Chmielewski:

- provided a WebEx update; and
- stated he would teleconference via WebEx on November 24.

Council Member Erbey:

- conveyed Happy Veterans' Day; and
- expressed concern and prayers concerning the Fort Hood tragedy.

Council Member Brown:

- requested reports be given to the Council well in advance of the meeting;
- commented on President Obama's upcoming visit to Alaska; and
- updated Council concerning the miraculous health improvements of his father.

Council Member Vanover:

- wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving; and
- thanked Council Member Erbey for his candid comments concerning the tragedy at Fort Hood.

O. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Approved this twenty fourth day of November, 2009.

/s/

John C. Combs, Mayor

/s/

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk