

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on December 8, 2009 at 7 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor John Combs called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

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

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

The following member was absent and excused by the Council:

Brad Hanson

Also in attendance were the following:

Sara Jansen, Acting City Manager
Janette Bower, City Clerk
Shelly Acteson, Deputy City Clerk

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boy Scout Troop #325.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Resolution No. 09-060: Accepting and Appropriating a Supplemental Appropriation in the Amount of \$7,800 from Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. to Line Item 01-19-40-6045 Ice Arena Maintenance & Repair (IM 09-093)
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. November 24, 2009, Regular Meeting

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To amend the agenda by removing Item K. 2. until an update and recommendation is provided by the charrette
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Council Member Chmielewski:

- explained the amendment.

Mayor Combs:

- stated City Manager Allen requested postponement of Item K. 2.

Acting City Manager Sara Jansen:

- explained the charrette process, encompassing the upcoming planning meeting.

Council Member Brown:

- confirmed the public openness of the charrette process.

Community Development Director Sandra Garley:

- commented on the civic engagement quality of a charrette.

Council Member Best:

- requested clarification of the charrette process.

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

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Carter Cole, Director - Public Works Director Carter Cole

- provided an overview of the Public Works Department Fourth Quarter Report; and
- responded to Council inquiries.

Council Member Brown:

- questioned the use of LED lights;
- expressed concern with snow accumulation; and
- pointed out several sidewalks and roadways are impassable and not wheelchair accessible.

Acting City Manager Sara Jansen:

- commented on the Department of Transportation (DOT) change order process.

Council Member Best:

- expressed concern with snow removal on the sidewalks;
- questioned the Urban Revitalization Project process; and
- voiced concern with track removal authorization.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- commented on the lack of continuity concerning plowing in downtown.

Council Member Erbey:

- expressed concern with the garbage removal schedule during holidays.

Jon Owen, Director – Department of Public Safety Concerning OSHA Issues

- explained the OSHA report; and
- expressed concern with the report findings.

Council Member Best:

- questioned how often welding occurs in the Public Works shop.

Public Works Director Carter Cole:

- explained the OSHA issues in greater detail.

Acting City Manager Sara Jansen:

- reminded Council the project was number one on the City's Capital Project List.

F. REPORTS

Item 1 - City Manager's Report

Acting City Manager Sara Jansen reported on the following items:

- City Manager Allen in Washington DC;
- Colony Christmas Day newspaper insert; and
- Accolades for Teresa Roy and Council Member Brown.

Council Member Brown:

- highlighted the article on the last page of the Colony Christmas newspaper insert.

Item 2 - City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following items:

- Request for Proposal (RFP) for codification and advertising services;
- Roberts Rules of Order Book on the table; and
- Out of the office December 21-28.

Item 3 - Mayor's Report

Mayor Combs reported on the following items:

- Colony Christmas events.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Teresa Roy:

- commented on limited business access due to snow berms;
- expressed thanks to Council Members Best and Brown; and
- expressed accolades to Public Works for their prompt berm removal.

Delena Johnson:

- expressed concern with the perceived lack of respect from the Council; and
- commented on lack of thoughtfulness exuding from the City.

Carla Williams, Palmer-Saroma Sister City Committee Representative;

- explained the importance of the 30th anniversary of the Sister City Program;
- expressed shock with the zero budget line item for the program;
- reminded Council of the commitment agreed upon by Council and Saroma; and
- request minimum funding to continue the City's relationship with Saroma, Japan.

Wayne Bouwens, Matanuska Valley Colonists Incorporated Representative:

- extended an invitation for City participation in the 75th anniversary celebration; and
- encouraged City participation.

Denise Stotz, business owner and Downtown Merchants Association Representative:

- commented of retaining train access to Palmer;
- stated the rail was an efficient and viable method of transportation;
- commented on track removal;
- conveyed the efficiency of steel wheel on a steel rail; and
- compared Palmer to nirvana.

Gerry Keeling:

- recommended snow berm removal before Colony Christmas days;
- requested a definition of charrette; and
- spoke in favor of retaining rail access to Palmer.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1 - Resolution No. 10-001: Adopting a Budget for the City of Palmer, Alaska for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2010 and Ending December 31, 2010 and Appropriating Monies (Public Hearing 2 of 2)

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing for Resolution No. 10-001. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed and the matter was brought before the council

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To adopt Resolution No. 10-001
SECONDED BY:	Chmielewski	

Primary Amendment #1 to Main Motion		
Moved by:	Chmielewski	To amend the 2010 budget by adding \$8000 to the Palmer-Saroma Sister City line item to facilitate travel funds for the Mayor and the First Lady to travel to Saroma, Japan
Seconded by:	Vanover	

Mayor Combs:

- stressed the historical importance of the Sister City Program; and
- spoke in favor of the amendment.

Council Member Erbey:

- spoke in favor of the amendment.

Director of Administration Kelli Veech:

- explained the fiscal ramification of the amendment.

Council Member Vanover:

- recommended changing the amount to \$3,600.

Secondary Amendment #1		
Moved by:	Chmielewski	To amend the amount from \$8,000 to \$3,600
Seconded by:	Brown	

Council Member Best:

- stressed the importance of the City's commitment to the Sister City Program.

Council Member Brown:

- spoke in favor of the amendment; and
- expressed concern with the zero line item for the Sister City Program.

VOTE: Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.		
Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Vanover	Best
Combs	Erbey	Brown

Vote on Primary Amendment #1: Motion carried by voice vote.		
Yes:		No:
Brown	Chmielewski	Best
Erbey	Combs	Vanover

Primary Amendment #2 to Main Motion		
Moved by:	Chmielewski	To amend the fee schedule by accepting the proposed changes to page 2
Seconded by:	Combs	

Vote on Primary Amendment #2: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.		
Yes:		No:
Brown	Chmielewski	Best
Erbey	Combs	Vanover

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

Item 2 - Resolution No. 10-002: Approving the City of Palmer Employee Plan

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing for Resolution No. 10-002. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed and the matter was brought before the council

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To adopt Resolution 10-002
SECONDED BY:	Brown	

Council Member Best:

- requested clarification.

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

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1 - Action Memorandum 09-052: Authorize the City Manager to Award and Execute a Contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Lagoon Cover to Lemna Technologies, Inc. in the Amount of \$662,000

MOVED BY:	Erbey	To authorize Action Memoranda 09-052
SECONDED BY:	Best	

Public Works Director Cole:

- explained the legislation; and
- stated the City Attorney was working on the Davis-Bacon wage issue.

Council Member Brown:

- requested clarification concerning the bid documents;
- questioned the possibility of the perception of self-selection in relation to the Request for Proposals (RFP); and
- inquired of the useable life of the lagoon cover.

Council Member Best:

- inquired if City employees would be paid Davis-Bacon wages for the duration of the project.

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

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 - Resolution No. 09-056: Re-appropriating Capital Project Funds to the Supplemental Legal Services Capital Project (IM 09-068)

MOVED BY:	Erbey	To adopt Resolution No. 09-056
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

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

Item 2 - Resolution No. 09-061: Requesting the Alaska Railroad Corporation to Construct Improvements to the Alaska Railroad Tracks in Palmer (IM 09-086)

The item was postponed.

L. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Public Works Report
OSHA documents from Director Owen
Roberts Rules of Order pamphlet
Letter from Carla Williams regarding the Saroma Sister City Program
Chamber of Commerce Colony Christmas newspaper insert

M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

N. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Brown:

- explained the Christmas party invitation.

Council Member Best:

- questioned the status of the Regional Plant Plan;
- commented on the glaciations near the Palmer Depot;
- requested a work order to fix council chamber drawers and flags in front of the building; and
- expressed concern with an event held on Sunday at the Palmer Depot.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- remarked favorably on simultaneous music performances held on Sunday; and
- requested Council contemplate the global issues such as health care affecting the residents of Palmer.

Council Member Erbey:

- expressed appreciation for the smooth and efficient budget process.

Council Member Vanover:

- stated Merry Christmas;
- commented on the beautiful sunrises during the week; and
- encouraged council to review the senior citizen tax exemption.

Mayor Combs:

- expressed gratitude to the City's professional and dedicated staff;
- recognized the value of compassionate and citizen-oriented Council Members; and
- wished everyone Merry Christmas.

O. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm.

Approved this twelfth day of January, 2010.

/s/

Kevin W. Brown II, Mayor Pro-Tempore

/s/

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk