

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on March 10, 2009, at 7:22 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

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

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

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 Best.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Ordinance No. 09-006-Z-1: Ratifying the Recommendation of the City of Palmer Planning and Zoning Commission Concerning a Requested Amendment to the Zoning Map Instituted by the Commission to Rezone Lot 1 of Lot 1A, Deneke Park, Section 33, Township 18 North, Range 2 East, S.M., Alaska, From C-L, Limited Commercial District to P, Public Use District (IM 09-012)
 - b. Ordinance No. 09-007-Z-2: Ratifying the Recommendation of the City of Palmer Planning and Zoning Commission Concerning a Requested Amendment to the Zoning Map Instituted by the Commission to Rezone Lots 1 and 2 of Raven's Ridge Subdivision, Section 5, Township 17 North, Range 2 East, S.M., Alaska, From R-1, Single Family Residential District to R-1E, Single Family Residential Estate District (IM 09-013)
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. February 24, 2009, Special Meeting
 - b. February 24, 2009, Regular Meeting

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Director of Public Safety, Jonathan Owen:

- provided Council with a quarterly update.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tony Pippel:

- reminded Council to exercise fairness and equality for all property owners; and
- recommended reducing the overall assessment.

Alison Wright:

- raised safety concerns with the Arboretum.

Ann Dollard:

- questioned the cost of road paving; and
- concurred with Mr. Pippel.

Chris Curtis

- requested Mayor Combs and Council Member Hanson recuse themselves from the vote;
- expressed concern with the cost to property owners on fixed incomes; and
- requested Council lower the interest rate.

Carol Horner:

- expressed disheartenment with the interest rate; and
- requested Council lower the assessment.

Chuck Felzien:

- questioned the economic necessity of the project; and
- spoke against the paving portion of the project.

Donald Jeas:

- spoke against paving.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1 – Resolution No. 09-006: Establishing a Special Assessment District for the Blueberry Area and Determining the Need and Necessity for Construction of Same (IM 09-009)

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing for resolution no. 09-006.

Mayor Combs requested recusal. There were no objections.

Council Member Hanson also requested recusal. There were no objections

Council Member Erbey as Mayor Pro-Tem:

City Clerk Janette Bower:

- announced the petition did not meet the protest requirements.

City Attorney Gatti:

- provided clarification.

Dale Fosselman:

- remarked favorably on the improvements;
- spoke in favor of reducing the interest rate; and
- expressed kudos to Dave Lundin and Carter Cole.

John Combs:

- spoke in favor of the project; and
- questioned how the assessment amount was reached.

Chuck Felzine:

- stressed the financial hardship of the assessment; and
- reminded Council of the importance of public hearing.

Chris Curtis:

- thanked Council Member Hanson and Mayor Combs for recusing; and
- noted the City of Palmer owns property in the assessment area.

Carol Horner:

- reminded Council of the city benefits of the project; and
- requested the city ingest more of the cost of the project.

Tony Paden:

- questioned the need for paving;
- spoke favorably of the project; and
- reminded Council to review fairly review all the concerns presented.

Brad Hanson:

- questioned the methodology;
- requested more details;
- verbalized displeasure with the amount of the assessment; and
- recommended another public hearing.

Natalie Wagner:

- spoke in favor maintaining off-street parking.

Jo Weller:

- spoke in favor of the project;
- expressed willingness to pay her share; and
- commented on the high interest rate.

Ted Buzby:

- stated financial concerns with the amount of the assessment.

Joseph Hawkins:

- questioned the timeliness of the project;
- suggested reassessment of the Palmer Development Standards; and

- conveyed concern with the high interest rate.

Dennis Daniel:

- expressed financial unease with the assessment; and
- spoke in favor of the gravel road.

Sam Strowd:

- commented on longevity; and
- discussed destitution repercussions.

Richard Lenaghan:

- spoke against paving and adding sidewalks; and
- expressed financial concerns.

The public hearing was closed and the matter was brought before the council.

MOVED BY:	Erbey	To adopt ordinance no. 009-001
SECONDED BY:	Best	

City Manager Bill Allen

- reminded Council of the six different computation methods;
- remarked on dust control funds;
- expressed concern with the timeline for the project; and
- spoke in favor of Council postponing the issue.

Public Works Director Carter Cole:

- explained the project;
- discussed dividing the project;
- expounded on a calculation error during the Lucas Street project;
- commented on the Stimulus Package; and
- provided council with a timeline.

Council Member Best:

- requested clarification concerning a calculation error during the Lucas project; and
- questioned the protest petition process.

City Clerk Janette Bower:

- responded to petition process inquiries.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- encouraged Council to postpone the legislation.

Primary Amendment #1 to Main		
Moved by:	Chmielewski	To postpone any action until the next meeting.
Seconded by:	Vanover	

Vote on Primary Amendment #1: Unanimous vote with 5 in favor and 2 recused.			
Yes:			No:
Chmielewski	Vanover	Best	
Brown	Erbey		

H. BIDS

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1 – Action Memorandum 09-020: Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Professional Services Agreement for Insurance Brokerage Services with Alaska USA Insurance Brokers

MOVED BY:	Best	To approve Action Memorandum no. 09-020
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

City Manager Bill Allen:

- explained the legislation.

Mayor Combs requested recusal. There were no objections.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hanson manned the gavel.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hanson:

- questioned the methodology.

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

Item 2 – Action Memorandum 09-021: Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Contract with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for Animal Control Services

MOVED BY:	Erbey	To approve Action Memorandum 09-021
SECONDED BY:	Hanson	

Public Safety Director Jon Owen:

- provided Council with a staff report.

City Manager Bill Allen:

- spoke in favor of the contract.

Council Member Hanson:

- questioned the role of the Police Department and Animal Control.

Mayor Combs:

- spoke in favor of the contract.

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

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 - Resolution No. 09-007: Nominating Projects for the 2010-2013 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) (IM 09-010)

MOVED BY:	Hanson	To adopt Resolution No. 09-007
SECONDED BY:	Best	

Community Development Director Sandra Garley:

- provided Council with a staff report.

Council Member Hanson:

- spoke in favor of Blueberry Avenue as a collector.

Council Member Brown:

- requested clarification.

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

Item 2 - Resolution No. 09-008: Designating City Representatives Who Are Authorized and Empowered to Execute and Deliver All Documentation and Instructions on City Investment Accounts (IM 09-014)

MOVED BY:	Erbey	To adopt Resolution No. 09-008
SECONDED BY:	Hanson	

City Manager Bill Allen:

- explained the legislation.

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

L. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

City Manager reported on the following items:

- Department of Justice investigation;
- Juneau trip;
- Stimulus package; and
- STIP program;

City Attorney Michael Gatti:

- provided Council with a brief overview of the investigation.

M. CITY CLERK’S REPORT

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following items:

- Blueberry SAD (Special Assessment District) petition insufficiency;
- Special meeting March 17.

N. MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Combs reported on the following items:

- Lack of response from the Department of Administration;
- Retirement party for Dan Contini;
- Chamber meeting;
- New restroom facility; and
- Skateboard Park Spirit of Youth Award.

O. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Document from Director Owen
 Document from Director Cole

P. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mike Madar:

- expressed disappointment that Council did not remind the public of the beneficial side of the Blueberry SAD.

Q. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Erbey:

- noted he would be unable to attend the April 14 meeting.

Council Member Best:

- stated he would attend the next meeting via teleconference.

Council Member Brown:

- spoke favorably of the increase in public attendance;
- commented on obtaining a better cost analysis of the Blueberry SAD by next meeting;
and
- inquired of the Palmer Poetry Month proclamation.

Council Member Vanover:

- thanked the audience for attending; and
- thanked Mike Madar for his comments.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- thanked everyone for their participation.

R. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 pm.

Approved this twenty-fourth day of March, 2009.

/s/

John C. Combs, Mayor

/s/

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk