

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on April 14, 2009, at 7 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Brad Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:02.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Brad Hanson	Kevin Brown
Richard Best- via teleconference	Mike Chmielewski

The following members were absent and excused by the council:

Ken Erbey, John Combs, and Kathrine Vanover

Also in attendance were the following:

Bill Allen, City Manager
Michael Gatti, City Attorney
Shelly Acteson, Deputy City Clerk

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Chmielewski.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Action Memorandum 09-027: Confirm the Mayor's Appointment of David Bower to the City of Palmer Planning and Zoning Commission
 - b. Introduction – Ordinance No. 09-008: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Section 3.16.130, Business License – Required; to Mandate the Posting of Business Licenses in all Locations Where Business is Conducted (IM 09-016)
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. March 17, 2009, Special Meeting
 - b. March 24, 2009, Regular Meeting

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

City Manager Bill Allen:

- provided an update of the couplet project;
- encouraged public participation; and
- reminded Council of their ability to direct the project.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- expressed concern with public hearing delays; and
- questioned the couplet exit road.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Hanson:

- discussed the conceptual options; and
- stressed the importance of public input.

Community Development Director Sandra Garley:

- described the Department of Transportation (DOT) project structure.

Council Member Brown:

- questioned Council's ability to change aspects of the project.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sally Koppenberg:

- recounted the letter submitted by the Palmer Downtown Merchant Association.

Delena Johnson:

- voiced concern with the couplet project;
- encouraged Council to revisit the original three options;
- questioned the placement of the new restrooms; and
- encouraged thoughtful planning.

Brad Sworts:

- spoke in favor of Resolution 09-009.

Pete Houston:

- remarked favorably on Resolution 09-009; and
- discussed new Borough legislation.

Janet Kincaid:

- spoke in opposition to the couplet project; and
- expressed concern with Palmer's lack of parking.

Helen Munoz:

- remarked unfavorably on the couplet project; and
- indicated preference for a walkable greenbelt.

Sharon Walker:

- spoke in opposition to the couplet.

Daryl Davis:

- requested Council review the project options again.

William Tull:

- encouraged Council to take time to investigate all the options;
- thanked council for their foresight; and

- questioned the effectiveness of public notices.

Ron Bailey:

- said he is vehemently opposed to one-way streets.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1 – Resolution No. 09-010: Approving a Supplemental Appropriation Of \$168,000 from the Unrestricted Fund Balance of the Water and Sewer Fund (Fund 02) to General Projects Fund (Fund 08) to Construct a Year-Round Public Restroom on City Property Adjacent to the Visitors Center (Mat-Su Borough Tax Id Number 17N02E04B032) and Holding a Public Hearing for the Project Per Palmer Municipal Code 15.04.045 Public Construction Projects and Palmer Municipal Code 3.28.060 Capital Fund Projects Eligibility (IM 09-017)

Mayor Pro-Tem Hanson opened the public hearing for Resolution 09-010. ordinance no. 09-001.

Delena Johnson:

- voiced concern with the aesthetics of the restroom; and
- stressed the importance of a to-scale site plan.

Helen Munoz:

- suggested an adjoining bathroom.

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To adopt resolution 09-010
SECONDED BY:	Brown	

City Manager Bill Allen:

- explained the project process;
- and discussed the exterior of the restroom building;
- stated the general fund should be the appropriator; and
- discussed funding sources.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- questioned the placement of the new restroom; and
- inquired of the time frame for the project.

Public Works Director Carter Cole:

- explained the restroom placement;
- reminded Council of maintenance costs;
- outlined the RFP process; and
- stated the placement drawing is not-to-scale.

Council Member Brown:

- noted a typo in the title of the ordinance;
- indicated preference for a more aesthetically aligned building;
- requested other options with cost analysis included; and
- questioned the viability of the funding source.

Mayor Tempore Hanson:

- reminded Council of new legislation regarding public construction projects;
- questioned the accuracy of the site plan;
- voiced concern the fund utilized in the legislation; and
- commented on building maintenance.

Primary Amendment #1 to Main		
MOVED BY::	Chmielewski	To amend by substituting the verbiage "from the unrestricted fund balance of the water and sewer fund" to "from the general fund"
SECONDED BY:	Brown	

Council Member Best:

- concurred with Council Member Hanson's comments regarding public hearings.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- clarified the Council's actions.

VOTE ON PRIMARY AMENDMENT #1 Carried by a unanimous roll call vote			
Yes:			No:
Chmielewski	Brown	Hanson	
Best	Erbey		

Mayor Tempore Hanson:

- reiterated his comments concerning public project requirements;
- advocated for strong public project processes; and
- questioned the amount of unrestricted funds available for this project.

City Attorney Michael Gatti:

- stated Council would make the decision concerning another public hearing.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- suggested Council needed more public input; and
- spoke in support of the new process and the legislation.

City Manager Bill Allen:

- explained Administration had obtained good estimates.

Public Works Director Carter Cole:

- commented having the funds available and established before a public hearing was held.

Department of Administration Director Kelli Veech:

- explained the unaudited general fund balance.

Council Member Brown:

- requested clarification concerning exterior of the building.

Council Member Best:

- requested a to-scale preliminary design for the upcoming public hearing.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- called for the question.

There were no objections.

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

Item 2 - Information Memorandum 09-018: Information Regarding the City of Palmer Application for Stimulus Funding through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program: Local Solicitation

Mayor Pro-Tem Hanson opened the public hearing for Information Memorandum 09-018. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed and the matter was brought before the council.

Public Safety Director Jon Owen:

- described the grant.

H. BIDS

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1 – Action Memorandum 09-026: Accept and Appropriate the Opportunity Online Hardware Matching Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, in the Amount of \$3,900 for Purchase of Computer Hardware for the Library

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To approve Action Memorandum no. 09-026
SECONDED BY:	Brown	

Community Services Director Pat Kilmain:

- explained the request.

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

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 1 – Resolution No. 09-009: Requesting the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) Develop a Multi-Year Surface Transportation Capital Improvement Program and Appoint a Surface Transportation Advisory Board (IM 09-015)

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To adopt resolution no. 009-009
SECONDED BY:	Brown	

Community Development Director Sandra Garley:

- explained the legislation;
- stressed the importance of local input; and
- explained the legislation replicates State requirements.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- voiced concern with another layer of government.

Council Member Brown:

- verbalized support for long term planning.

City Manager Allen:

- spoke in favor of the legislation.

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

Item 2 – Report of Current Rates Regarding Borrowing Money (Requested by Council Members Brown and Erbey)

City Manager Bill Allen:

- expounded on the report; and
- recommended council tie the City interest rate to the Bond Bank Authority rate.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- expounded on the rate change.

Mayor Tempore Hanson:

- requested support for an ordinance tying the City’s assessment interest rate to the Bond Bank Authority’s rate. Council Member Brown concurred.

K. NEW BUSINESS

L. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

City Manager Bill Allen reported on the following items:

- Health issues;
- Newly hired Director of Administration;
- Juneau trip.; and
- Appreciation to Carter Cole.

M. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Deputy City Clerk Shelly Acteson reported on the following items:

- Cancellation of special meeting slated for April 14.

N. MAYOR'S REPORT

O. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Letter from the Palmer Downtown Merchants Association

P. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Delena Johnson:

- thanked Council for listening and working with the local merchants.

Q. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Brown:

- expressed excitement with the number of public in attendance;
- recommended holding more meetings at the depot;
- thanked Director Garley for attending the Downtown Association meeting;
- encouraged everyone to vote in the MEA election;
- informed Council of his family emergency; and
- expressed apprehension relating to meeting attendance.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- provided Council with an update concerning video conferencing;
- expressed appreciation for the public input;
- encouraged residents to start walking;
- remarked on the public hearing process;
- stressed the importance of information dissemination; and
- encouraged the public to work with Council.

Mayor Tempore Hanson:

- commented on the accessibility of the downtown area; and
- verbalized the importance of traffic flow control in and out of Palmer.

R. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Approved this twenty eighth day of April, 2009.

/s/

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk

/s/

John C. Combs, Mayor