

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on May 12, 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-via teleconference	Mike Chmielewski
Ken Erbey	

The following members were absent and excused by the council:

Kevin Brown and 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 Mayor Combs.

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
  - a. Introduction – Ordinance No. 09-009: Amending the City of Palmer Personnel Regulation in the Following Sections: Section 1.00 Definitions, to Reduce the Number of At Will Employees, to Provide the Definition Certified Trainer, and to Designate the Human Resource Specialist as the Personnel Officer; Subsection 3.30 Residency, to Repeal the Residency Requirement for Department Directors and to Add a Requirement for the Public Safety Director to Live within 15 Miles of the City; Subsection 4.05 Holidays With Pay, to Define the Actual Holiday Observation Day For Employees with a Non-Standard Work Week and to Eliminate the Practice of Payment of Floating Leave Days for Terminated Employees; Subsection 4.10 Overtime and Holiday Pay, to Clarify Overtime Wages and to Define Standby and Callout Pay; Enacting Subsection 4.12 Shift Differential, to Provide for a Shift Differential Rate; Enacting Subsection 4.13 Certified Trainers, to Recognize

- Additional Pay for Certified Trainers; Subsection 5.00 Personal Leave, to Reduce the Maximum Amount Of Accrued Leave; Subsection 5.20 Payment In Lieu of Leave, to Reduce the Amount of Required Leave Following a Payment In Lieu of Leave; Subsection 7.05 Suspension, to Provide for Five Working Days for the Investigative Processes; and Subsection 7.20 Category 1: Infractions That May Result in Disciplinary Actions, to Include the Language "Other Employees, and the Public" Concerning Inappropriate Conduct (IM 09-024)
- b. Introduction – Ordinance No. 09-011-Z-3: Amending the Zoning Map to Revise the Zoning Designation of Tract C, Cope RSB, Section 4, Township 17 North, Range 2 East, S.M. from P, Public Use District to C-G, General Commercial District (IM 09-021)
  - c. Introduction – Ordinance No. 09-012: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 17.08 Definitions, to Enact Section 17.08.467 Winery; Section 17.28.030 Conditional Uses in the Limited Commercial District, to Enact Subsection 17.28.030 E. Wineries; and Amending Subsection 3 of 17.32.020 Permitted Uses in the General Commercial District, to Include Wineries (IM 09-022)
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
    - a. April 28, 2009, Regular Meeting

## **E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS**

Sister City Chairperson Carla Williams:

- introduced the other attendee.

Assistant English Teacher, Shawn Holland:

- explained the economy of Saroma; Japan; and
- fielded questions from Council.

Community Services Director Pat Kilmain:

- presented Council with a department update.

Mayor Combs:

- questioned the Visitor Center restroom project time-line.

## **F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mark Masteller:

- stressed the importance of treatment center compliance; and
- spoke in favor of a regional facility.

Colette Thibodeau:

- expressed appreciation for the opportunity to comment;
- reminded Council of the importance of public safety; and
- expressed concern with the proposed Personnel Policy changes.

Cindy Larson:

- expressed concern with removing the residency mileage requirement; and
- voiced unease with a cap on personal leave hours.

Donna Anthony:

- verbalized displeasure with the residency requirement; and
- asked Council to reconsider the personal leave cap.

Jamie Hammons:

- described shift differential issues;
- voiced concern with the residency requirement; and
- expressed trepidation with the personal leave cap.

Greg Wickham:

- described the inadequacy of a 320 hour personal leave cap.

Sara Jansen:

- expounded on the Relay for Life Project.

## **G. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

## **H. BIDS**

## **I. ACTION MEMORANDA**

## **J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **K. NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1** – Resolution No. 09-013: Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for a Loan from the Alaska Clean Water Fund for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements (IM 09-025)

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To approve Resolution 09-013
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

Public Works Director Carter Cole:

- explained the legislation.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke in favor of the legislation; and
- expounded on the importance of embracing choices.

City Manager Allen:

- stressed the importance of the regional versus solo treatment plant decision;
- discussed a regional treatment plant versus a plant on our own;
- spoke in favor of the legislation;
- stated the legislation applies to phase one; and
- disagreed with Hanson's comments.

Council Member Hanson:

- questioned the lack of a point source funding priority list;

- commented on the funding breakdown;
- spoke against the legislation; and
- expressed apprehension with the prematurity of the project.

City Attorney Gatti:

- explained the absence of debt obligation created by applying for the loan.

Bill Gissel:

- discussed wastewater limitations concerns;
- stressed the importance of capturing the debt forgiveness time-line.

Council Member Erbey:

- concurred with Council Member Chmielewski.

Mayor Combs:

- spoke in support of the legislation.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by 4 to 1 roll call vote			
	Yes:		No:
Chmielewski	Combs	Hanson	
Erbey	Best		

**Item 2 – Resolution No. 09-014: Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for an Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Pre-development Grant in the Amount of \$14,000 to Conduct a Pre-development Study of Housing for Correctional Officers as Part of a Comprehensive Development Plan in the City of Palmer (IM 09-026)**

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To approve Resolution 09-014
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

City Manager Allen:

- explained the legislation.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- requested clarification.

Special Assistant Sara Jansen:

- explained the grant process.

Council Member Best:

- questioned the comprehensive development program.

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

### **Item 3 – First Quarter 2009 Reviews and Project Status Reports**

Council Member Hanson:

- requested the item be placed on the agenda every quarter.

### **L. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Bill Allen reported on the following items:

- Trip to Washington DC;
- Stimulus funds;
- FAA meeting;
- EPA meeting;
- White House tour; and
- Reception for Dan Sullivan.

### **M. CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following items:

- Upcoming legislation;
- Basement renovation;
- New internal procedures;
- Elections; and
- May 19 Special Meeting.

### **N. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Combs reported on the following items:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Hanson.

### **O. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE**

Saroma information sheet

Department of Community Services Report

### **P. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

### **Q. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Council Member Best:

- requested the support of another Council member to have an independent audit conducted on credit card usage and expense reports for all Department Directors, Mayor, and City Clerk. Council Member Hanson offered his support.

Council Member Erbey

- requested the support of another Council Member to add the consideration of moving the stop sign from Dogwood Avenue to Cobb Street to the next agenda. Mayor Combs offered his support.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- requested an update concerning wind tower placement; and
- asked for an update of meetings concerning the couplet project.

Community Development Director Garley:

- outlined the upcoming meetings concerning the couplet project.

## **R. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

**Approved this twenty-sixth day of May, 2009.**

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John C. Combs, Mayor

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Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk