

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A special meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on June 16, 2009, at 6 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Kevin Brown	Kathrine Vanover
Richard Best	Mike Chmielewski
John Combs	

The following council member was absent and excused by the council:

Ken Erbey	Brad Hanson (previously recused from the matter by the council)
-----------	---

Also in attendance were the following:

Bill Allen, City Manager  
Michael Gatti, City Attorney  
Janette Bower, City Clerk

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Attorney Jack Snodgrass.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

- Item 1** - Presentation by an Independent Consultant Regarding the Proposed Palmer Couplet
- a. Committee of the Whole (Council action may be taken following the Committee of the Whole)

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To enter into a committee of the whole to discuss the Proposed Palmer Couplet
SECONDED BY:	Best	

The council entered into the committee of the whole at 6:05 pm and exited at 8:02 pm.

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

While in the committee of the whole, Mr. John Edwards explained his credentials, history and background in engineering. Mr. Edwards provided the council with an overview of couplets and their impacts on municipalities.

## E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Barbara Miller:

- commented on parking within the area stop signs;
- referred to the map sent to property owners from the Department of Transportation (DOT);
- suggested two traffic lights be added to relieve traffic congestion;
- urged DOT to spend money outside of Palmer to ease congestion in Palmer;
- stated teachers could train students to walk in the cross walks;
- commented on the flow of traffic for employers and employees in the city; and
- stated the entrance into Fred Meyer needed to be closed.

Michelle Kincaid, Valley Hotel/Koslosky's:

- inquired if a pedestrian had ever been hit within the City;
- asked why DOT had the right to come into the City and mandate that work be completed within the City limits;
- inquired if the City had ever contacted the Valley Hotel regarding the impact on their business;
- stated the council based their opinions regarding traffic on the opinions of Kinney engineering; and
- suggested the council should base their opinions on what the businesses think.

Greg Gusse, Mad Matters:

- stated the downtown businesses were not concerned about the amount of traffic but the quality of the traffic;
- described two way traffic as a better operation for downtown businesses; and
- commented on the ability of commuting traffic to leave Palmer.

Noel Kopperud:

- spoke of his family's ownership of property within the City;
- opposed the couplet;
- spoke of Commissioner Moses in New York city;
- stated destroying Palmer to make more places for the automobile was short sighted;
- suggested the Arctic to Dogwood extension would address many of the problems on Evergreen Avenue;
- encouraged the council to further consider the matter;
- stated the citizens made a major choice to speak to the council; and
- described the citizens as not being ignorant of DOT's design process.

Cindy Lynch:

- inquired of the limitation of three alternative plans in Resolution No. 07-015;
- voiced concern over the intersection at the Glenn & Palmer-Wasilla Highways;
- stated her property would be taken in construction of the couplet; and
- inquired of the status of the assisted living home.

Sue Welton, First National Bank of Anchorage:

- stated the couplet affected the traffic flow and parking at First National Bank.

Janet Kincaid:

- expanded on the pride she holds with her daughter for her passion and concern for the issue;
- spoke of her ownership of Valley Hotel;
- expressed concern regarding the history of the Colony Inn;
- stated the one way couplet would take the soul out of Palmer; and
- complimented Council Member Vanover for her change of mind regarding the matter.

Lorrie Koppenberg:

- thanked the Mayor for allowing Mr. Edwards to address the council;
- expanded on Walmart's arrival in Palmer;
- spoke of the Palmer Urban Traffic Study and Kinney Engineering's presentation to the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council; and
- commented on the timeframe involved in the Palmer Urban Traffic Study.

Denise Stoz, Non-Essentials:

- spoke of a previously held conversation regarding the couplet;
- stated the person with whom she was speaking had many other opportunities to shop outside Palmer; and
- described the blinking light as the last measure of civility within Palmer.

Karen Hearst, Ideal Nutrition:

- stated many people moved to Palmer because of the blinking light and what Palmer represents;
- described Palmer as a community – a community which helps and watches out for one another;
- asked the council to examine their hearts to see what the definition of community means; and
- stated problems arise from not asking people what they do day in and day out.

Rob Czarnezki, Zar Guitars:

- commented on the Governor's budget and resolution of the Palmer couplet;
- stated the couplet would accomplish and accommodate the "Wasillafication" of Palmer;
- commented on 45 mile hour one way roads with strip malls;
- stated the couplet would accelerate the building of Walmart in Palmer;
- stated the couplet would fail to preserve the community of Palmer;
- spoke of his conversation with DOT regarding the project; and
- requested the council put the project on hold until other considerations could be made.

Cheryl Bailey, Pom Pom:

- voiced her concern regarding the arrogance of the city;
- stated that no one had been consulted concerning the project;
- described Palmer as a quaint location; and
- stated she directs people to Palmer on a daily basis.

Sally Koppenburg, Red Beet:

- expanded on her ownership of a business in downtown Palmer;
- stated the downtown businesses had not been consulted on the matter;
- spoke of a lack of respect and the interpretation of data from the businesses; and
- asked everyone in the room who was a business owner to raise their hand and asked for a show of hands of those who had been contacted by the city.

Helen Munoz:

- expanded on her ownership of a business on the outskirts of town and spoke of the comments regarding Palmer;
- described the town in which she grew up in New York; and
- spoke of a lack of communication between private citizens and the businesses.

Gerri Keeling, Palmer Historic Society:

- described the main purpose of the city as consideration of the well-being of the community;
- stated one of the greatest City assets was the small town feeling of the community;
- stated the business owners were located in Palmer in part because of their love of the community; and
- expanded on the cutting of the historic district into three pieces.

Jim Amandmusen, Department of Transportation Project Manager:

- asked the audience to join him Tuesday, June 23 as the public involvement process begins regarding the project; and
- described the final alternative which would be of benefit to the community.

Barbara Hanson:

- commented on the construction of Fred Meyer and the projected traffic problems;
- spoke of the big box store ordinance;
- quoted Anchorage Daily News stating the couplet would accommodate Wal-Mart;
- stated the couplet project had gone on under the radar;
- announced that the tax payers did not want the couplet; and
- expanded on the traffic issues caused by big box stores.

Richard Shields:

- thanked the council for the education;
- stated it had become clear that decisions were made, the project would go through, and the public process had been by-passed; and
- challenged the public to 'care enough' to follow along and make a change.

Penny Griffin:

- voiced her desire to keep the integrity of Palmer intact;
- commented on the Colony Days event; and
- questioned where the parade would go if the one way couplet were to go through.

LuAnn Bower:

- commented on her ownership of a home in Palmer;
- spoke of her route to get home and to work;
- voiced concern regarding the proposed traffic pattern and emergency service access to her subdivision; and
- expanded on the quaintness of Palmer.

## F. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

**Approved this fourteenth day of July, 2009.**

*/s/*

---

John C. Combs, Mayor

*/s/*

---

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk