

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on June 14, 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:

Ken Erbey	John Combs
Richard Best	Mike Chmielewski
Kathrine Vanover	Kevin Brown
Brad Hanson - arrived at 7:15	

Also in attendance were the following:

Sara Jansen, Acting City Manager
Michael Gatti, City Attorney arrived at 7:32
Janette Bower, City Clerk
Shelly Acteson, Deputy City Clerk

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Vanover.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. June 16, 2009 Special Meeting
 - b. June 23, 2009 Special Meeting
 - c. June 23, 2009 Regular Meeting

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Alaska USA Insurance Brokers Account Executive Janet Martinson:

- provided Council with an overview of the Summary of Insurance document; and
- fielded questions from Council.

Public Safety Director Jon Owen:

- thanked Public Works Director Carter Cole and Public Works Superintendent Greg Wickham for their assistance with the City property evaluations.

Palmer Municipal Golf Course Manager George Collum:

- presented an overview of the Palmer Golf Course Mid-Season Update.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Greg Gussi:

- commented on the City's information dissemination methods;
- stressed the importance of pro-activism; and
- requested Council evoke a more comprehensive public notification procedure.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1 – Ordinance 09-014: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Section 2.04.110 Order of Business by Modifying the City Council Agenda (IM 09-030)

City Clerk Janette Bower:

- explained the legislation.

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing for Ordinance No. 09-014. There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed and the matter was brought before the council.

MOVED BY:	Erbey	To adopt Ordinance No. 09-014
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke in favor of the legislation; and
- explained the function of the "Reports" section of the agenda.

Council Member Best

- requested clarification.

City Clerk Bower:

- clarified the legislation.

Mayor Combs:

- spoke in favor of the legislation.

Council Member Erbey:

- expressed confusion with the proposed legislation.

City Attorney Gatti:

- offered various explanations of the "Reports" section of the legislation.

Council Member Vanover:

- spoke in favor of the legislation.

Council Member Brown:

- spoke in favor of the legislation.

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

H. BIDS

Item 1 - Action Memorandum 09-040: Authorize the City Manager to Award and Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Hattenburg Dilley & Linnell Engineering Consultants LLC in the Amount of \$322,731 for the Professional Engineering Services of Gulkana Water and Street Improvements Project

Council Member Erbey requested recusal. There were no objections.

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To approve Action Memorandum 09-040
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Public Works Director Cole:

- explained the legislation.

Mayor Combs:

- requested clarification.

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

Item – 2 Action Memorandum 09-042: Authorize the City Manager to Award and Execute a Contract in the Amount of \$24,900 and Change Order No. One in the Amount of \$15,099.36 for the 2009 Palmer Street Crack Sealing Bid to Alaska Sure Seal for a Total Amount of \$39,999.36 for Both Contract and Change Order One

MOVED BY:	Hanson	To approve Action Memorandum 09-042
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

Public Work Director Cole:

- outlined the request.

Council Member Best:

- questioned curb deformation.

Council Member Hanson:

- commented on curb restoration.

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

Item 3 - Action Memorandum 09-043: Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Professional Services Contract with Convention Sports and Leisure International to Conduct a Feasibility Study for the Community and Convention Center for a Sum Not to Exceed \$40,000

MOVED BY:	Best	To approve Action Memorandum 09-043
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Acting City Manager Sara Jansen:

- explained the Community Focus Group's selection process.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- spoke in support of the legislation;
- recommended Council receive a copy of the Focus Group's minutes; and
- reminded Council the Focus Group was formed by the Council.

Council Member Hanson:

- questioned the Focus Group's participation prior to the legislation; and
- requested a report from the Focus Group;

Council Member Best:

- inquired of the members of the Focus Group;
- commented on the lack of a symbiotic relationship between Council and committees and groups; and
- discussed obtaining reports from all Committee and Groups formed by Council.

Council Member Combs:

- commented on future subsidization obligations;
- recommended postponing the request; and
- questioned the property owners willingness to sell.

Council Member Erbey:

- reminded Council the request was for a feasibility study.

Council Member Vanover:

- spoke in favor of the legislation.

Council Member Brown:

- spoke in favor of the legislation;
- inquired of re-establishing the Focus Group after the sunset clause expires; and
- commented on Council's direction for the Focus Group.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by 4 to 3 voice vote					
Yes:			No:		
Chmielewski	Vanover	Brown	Best	Hanson	Combs
Erbey					

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1 – Action Memorandum 09-038: Authorize the City Manager to Enter into and Execute a One Year Contract with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for Dispatch Services

MOVED BY:	Best	To authorize Action Memorandum 09-038
SECONDED BY:	Chmielewski	

Public Safety Director Jon Owen:

- provided Council with a Staff Report; and
- explained the length of the contract.

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

Item 2 - Action Memorandum 09-041: Authorize the City Manager to Enter into and Execute a One Year Contract with the City of Houston for Fire Dispatch Services

MOVED BY:	Erbey	To authorize Action Memorandum 09-041
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

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

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 1 - Action Memorandum 09-037: Amend the 2009 City of Palmer Fee Schedule to Increase Ice Rental Rates for the Palmer Ice Arena

Motion brought forth from the June 23, 2009 meeting.

MOVED BY:	Erbey	To authorize Action Memorandum 09-037
SECONDED BY:	Chmielewski	

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

Item 2 - Palmer Municipal Code 2.04.080 "Meetings"

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To bring the issue to the table
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

Council Member Vanover:

- explained the request.

City Attorney Gatti:

- outlined the ordinance process.

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To direct the Clerk and the Attorney to produce an ordinance that proposes changing the Council's meeting night from Tuesday to Monday
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by a 6 to 1 voice vote					
	Yes:			No:	
Chmielewski	Hanson	Brown		Erbey	
Vanover	Best	Combs			

K. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 –Resolution No. 09-016: Establishing the City of Palmer’s Capital Project Priorities for Fiscal Year 2011 Funding Under the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation’s Municipal Matching Grant Program (IM 09-038)

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To adopt Resolution No. 09-016
SECONDED BY:	Chmielewski	

Public Works Director Cole:

- explained the categorization of the summary.

City Clerk Janette Bower;

- reminded Council the resolution was an annual requirement.

Council Member Hanson:

- asked when the Master Plan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant was updated; and
- questioned the project descriptions.

Mayor Combs:

- requested recusal.

The Council opposed the request.

Council Member Best:

- questioned the project arrangement.

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

Item 2 – Resolution No. 09-032: Amending the Fee Schedule to Increase the Rental Rates for the Palmer Ice Arena (IM 09-053)

MOVED BY:	Erbey	To adopt Resolution No. 09-032
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Community Services Director Pat Kilmain:

- explained the legislation.

Primary Amendment #1 to Main Motion		
Moved by:	Hanson	To amend by deleting “and for Junior Varsity games to \$195” in the last paragraph, and change the rates from \$165 to \$150 for non prime-time to \$195 to \$185 for prime-time and by deleting “by \$20 per hour (approximately 12%” from the last WHEREAS, and by deleting “by \$20 per hour (approximately 12%)” from the last paragraph, and change the Ice for High School Varsity games from \$215 to \$205.
Seconded by:	Best	

Council Member Hanson:

- explained the positive results of the ice arena’s activities;
- spoke in favor of the amendment.

Mayor Combs:

- questioned the fiscal impact of the changes.

Council Member Brown:

- commented on the amount of the increase.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- posed a question concerning the fiscal impact of the proposed amendment.

Vote: Motion carried by 6 to 1 voice vote			
Yes:			No:
Erbey	Brown	Best	Combs
Hanson	Vanover	Chmielewski	

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

Item 3 – Resolution No. 09-033: Approving a Supplemental Appropriation of \$10,000 from the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Fund 01) to 2009 Manager’s Contractual Services (01-01-05-6030) to Pay for a Portion of the Feasibility Study for the Community and Conference Center (IM 09-054)

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To adopt Resolution No. 09-033
SECONDED BY:	Chmielewski	

Acting City Manager Sara Jansen:

- explained the request.

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

Item 4 - Resolution No. 09-034: Authorizing the Addition of One Accounting Technician I for City Wide Collection Efforts and Approving a Supplemental Appropriation of \$22,150 from the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Fund 01) to the 2009 Administration’s Salary and Benefit Operating Budget (IM 09-055)

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To adopt Resolution No. 09-034
SECONDED BY:	Brown	

Director of Administration Kelli Veech:

- explained the request;
- mentioned the increase in overtime requests; and
- justified the legislation.

Council Member Best:

- questioned the request.

Council Member Hanson:

- questioned the continued use of the undesignated fund balance.

Mayor Combs:

- commented on the increased payroll costs; and

- noted the number of new City employees.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Carried by 6 to 1 voice vote				
Yes:			No:	
Chmielewski	Combs	Brown	Hanson	
Vanover	Best	Erbey		

Item 5 - Information Memorandum 09-052: Informational Memorandum to Palmer City Council Regarding the City Council's Request to Move the Stop Signs at the Dogwood/Cobb Intersection

Public Safety Director Jon Owen:

- explained the memorandum.

Council Member Erbey:

- expounded on the recommendation.

Council Member Best:

- concurred with Council Member Erbey's recommendations.

Acting City Manager Sara Jansen:

- suggested a reassessment at a future date.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- mentioned local groups were reviewing the City's overall traffic needs.

L. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Acting City Manager Sara Jansen commented on the following items:

- Road construction update;
- Map of the construction project;
- Public Works crew;
- Parade route;
- Walking map;
- Palmer Convention and Visitor Guide;
- Mat Maid property appraisal; and
- Golf Tournament.

M. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following items:

- Nominating Period; and
- Committee and Commission minutes.

N. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Combs reported on the following items:

- Palmer Pride Day;
- Palmer Pride Beautification Contest;
- AML Policy Meeting August 12-14;

- Public Notification;
- Mayor Pro-Tempore Hanson; and
- Visitor Center Restrooms

O. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Palmer Golf Course Mid-Season Update

P. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mike Madar:

- commented on the ridiculousness of increased council recusal requests;
- stressed the importance of public attending council meetings; and
- thanked Council for supporting the ice rink.

Q. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Vanover:

- expressed concern regarding uncovered loads;
- commented on unlawful refuse deposits; and
- requested Palmetto fans.

Council Member Brown:

- commented on paving South Bonanza Street;
- spoke appreciatively of the Palmer Walking Map; and
- mentioned the Joint Marketing Plan.

Council Member Erbey:

- commented on the potholes in downtown.

Council Member Best:

- questioned placement of the new flag;
- recommended a house for the Palmer Pride Beautification Contest; and
- related a story concerning the Palmer Golf Course.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- recommended Council Member Hanson's house for the Palmer Pride Beautification Contest; and
- commented on the stop sign at Valley Way.

Council Meeting Hanson:

- requested an itemized list of undesignated fund balance expenditures; and
- indicated preference for having his house removed from the Palmer Pride Beautification Contest.

Mayor Combs:

- expressed kudos to the Staff and City Attorney.

R. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm

Approved this twenty eighth day of July, 2009.

/s/

John C. Combs, Mayor

/s/

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk