

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on July 28, 2009 at 7 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor John Combs called the meeting to order at 7:02 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	

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
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. June 30, 2009, Special Meeting
 - b. July 7, 2009, Special Meeting
 - c. July 14, 2009, Regular Meeting

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

F. REPORTS

Item 1 - City Manager's Report

City Manager Bill Allen reported on the following items:

- Alaska Railroad Board Meeting;
- Request to postpone Alaska Railroad Board action on Resolution 09-025;
- Stimulus funds;
- City Planning powers;

- Dump truck purchase;
- Borough Dispatch Fees;
- Audit cost increase;
- Budget Review Committee;
- Building permits; and
- Department of Justice and FAA meeting.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- expressed concern with putting the track removal project on hold; and
- questioned the project progression.

Council Member Hanson:

- questioned the Trail Plan progression; and
- requested clarification concerning the modified dump truck purchase.

Special Assistant Sara Jansen

- updated Council regarding the Trail Plan as it relates to the Palmer Economic Development Authority.

Public Works Director Carter Cole:

- clarified the dump truck purchase modification.

Council Member Brown:

- requested clarification concerning Mat-Su Borough Planning powers.

City Attorney Gatti:

- explained the delegation of planning, platting, and land use regulatory powers.

Item 2 - City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Janette Bower reported on the following items:

- nominating period closure on Friday, July 21, 2009

Item 3 - Mayor's Report

Mayor John Combs reported on the following items:

- Palmer Pride picnic;
- Shane Woods Trail dedication;
- Wheelchair Challenge Alaska participants;
- Gravel extraction limitation proposed by the Mat-Su Borough; and
- Sewage lagoon complaints.

City Manager Allen:

- expressed appreciation to Patrick Garley for generously donating the hand-cast bronze memorial plaque.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- questioned the Mayor's heavy handed comments toward the Borough Assembly.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Executive Director of the North America Outdoor Institute Debra McGhan:

- Invited Council to the National Emergency Preparedness Fair September 19;
- stressed the importance of preparedness; and
- requested a letter of support to assist with grant funding.

Mayor Combs offered a letter of support.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 - Resolution No. 09-030: Accepting and Appropriating Grant No. 67117 from the State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) in the Amount of \$1,974,000 for the Steel Water Main Replacement, Phase VII (IM 09-050)

MOVED BY:	Vanover	To adopt Resolution No. 09-030
SECONDED BY:	Erbey	

Public Works Director Carter Cole:

- explained the request.

Council Member Best:

- requested clarification.

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

Item 2 - Resolution No. 09-037: Repealing Resolution No. 07-015: Selecting the Preferred Alternative for the Palmer Urban Traffic Study and Requesting the Alaska Department of Transportation Expand their Scope of Work to Consider Traffic Mitigation Techniques and Conduct an Independent Economic Analysis Concerning Potential Impacts on Existing Downtown Palmer Businesses of any Proposed Traffic Flow Solutions and Supporting a Citizens Traffic Advisory Panel Established by the Department of Transportation (IM 09-058)

Council Member Hanson requested recusal. There was no objection.

MOVED BY:	Best	To adopt Resolution No. 09-037
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Primary Amendment #1 to Main		
Moved by:	Combs	Amend the resolution by deleting "Department" and replace with "City of Palmer" in the second to last BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED.
Seconded by:	Best	

Mayor Combs;

- justified the amendment.

Council Member Best:

- questioned the financial ramifications of the amendment.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- explained his aversion to the amendment.

City Manager Allen:

- indicated preference for the legislation as presented.

Vote on Primary Amendment #1: Failed by a unanimous voice vote			
Yes:		No:	
	Chmielewski	Best	Brown
	Vanover	Erbey	Hanson
	Combs		

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

L. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Information from Ms. McGhan

M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Lorie Koppenberg:

- thanked the Council for adopting Resolution 09-037;
- explained the foundation of the Traffic Advisory Panel; and
- commented on decreasing traffic counts.

N. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Hanson:

- explained his absence from Palmer Pride; and
- commented on the lack of specificity of the undesignated fund balance report.

Council Member Chmielewski:

- commented on the Palmer Pride festivities; and
- questioned the possible negation of the track removal resolution.

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To repeal Resolution No. 09-025 via the resolution process during the August 25, 2009 regular meeting
SECONDED BY:	Best	

City Manager Allen:

- provided details of the track removal resolution inaction.

City Clerk Janette Bower:

- requested clarification of the amendment.

City Attorney Michael Gatti:

- shed light on the proposed amendment.

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

Council Member Best:

- reminded Council of the need for a formal process to handle non-profit funding requests.

Council Member Erbey:

- explained his non-attendance during the Palmer Pride picnic; and
- questioned the enforceability of the City's noise ordinance.

Council Member Brown:

- commented on Palmer Pride picnic participation;
- requested a set of flags for the Depot;
- noted his office hours for Council issues; and
- commented on the sewage lagoon expansion concerns.

Mayor Combs:

- stressed the importance of Council participation in City events.

O. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 1 - Subjects That Tend to Prejudice the Reputation and Character of Any Person – City Manager Evaluation (Note: Personnel action regarding the City Manager may be taken following the executive session)

MOVED BY:	Chmielewski	To discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person- City Manager Evaluation
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

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

The Council entered into the executive session at 8:28 pm and exited at 10:42 pm.

P. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 pm.

Approved this eleventh day of August, 2009.

/s/

John C. Combs, Mayor

/s/

Janette M. Bower, CMC, City Clerk