
City Council Minutes

City of Palmer, Alaska

Regular Meeting
August 26, 2003

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on August 26, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

Jim Cooper	Brian Fish
Steve Carrington	Tony Pippel
Kathrine Vanover	John Combs

Also in attendance were the following:

Dan Contini, Acting City Manager
Jack Snodgrass, City Attorney
Janette Persinger, City Clerk

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion carried by unanimous consent to approve the agenda with the following amendments:
Removal of item K.1. – Alaska Family Resource Center Shelter Construction Project

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Pippel.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Unanimous consent – to approve the amended minutes of the 8-12-03 regular meeting.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

G. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

1. Librarian Pat Kilmain – Library Department Report

Ms. Kilmain reported that during the Mat-Su Borough fiscal months of July 2002 through June 2003, all seven libraries reported an increase in circulation of books of 7%. The Palmer library reported an increase of 22% for the year. During the current summer months, the Palmer library is reporting 300 – 400 patrons per day using the facility. Ms. Kilmain reported 500 children were signed up for the Summer Reading Program and 350 children were in attendance for the weekly craft projects. During the summer months, two additional part-time employees were hired and the Teen Advisory Board assisted with the programs. Ms. Kilmain stated that currently there are eight public access computers, three

of which are older. The Palmer library sees an average of 30 – 40 patrons per day using the computers.

Discussion ensued regarding Junior High students who hang around in the area after school. Council Member Combs reported that a joint meeting was held with Candy Kopperud, the Salvation Army and the church community. The topic of the discussion was an alternative activity for the junior high students. Council Member Combs stated that the Salvation Army is attempting to put together a program at their facility that would accommodate the junior high students. He further explained the fees for the program and stated that the Salvation Army is in the process of obtaining grants to defray the costs.

2. Guy AlLee – Planning and Zoning Commission

Mr. AlLee expressed his interest in becoming a Planning and Zoning Commission member and explained his background as a school counselor, former police and fire marshal and former city council member. Mr. AlLee stated that he is impressed by the Council and is learning the community of Palmer.

H. BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

J. HEARINGS, ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

Item 1 – Resolution No. 1317: Identifying the Need to Adopt a Unified, State of Alaska, Trademarked Slogan for the City of Palmer

MOVED BY:	Combs	To adopt resolution no. 1317
SECONDED BY:	Pippel	

Council Member Combs spoke of the concept of a slogan and the need for the slogan to identify the City. Council Member Combs shared his vision for slogan usage. The cost of the slogan would be \$50.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item 2 – Resolution No. 1318: Identifying a Unified, State of Alaska, Trademarked Slogan for the City of Palmer

MOVED BY:	Combs	To adopt resolution no. 1318
SECONDED BY:	Pippel	

Council Member Combs stated that the slogan “Alaska at its Best!”™ embodies the attributes of Palmer. Council Member Combs explained the exactness needed for the trademark.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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K. BIDS

L. OLD BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Authorize City Manager to Enter Into a Professional Services Agreement with Mikunda, Cottrell & Co. for Audit Services

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To authorize the City Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with Mikunda, Cottrell & Co. for audit services with the provision laid out by City Attorney Snodgrass
SECONDED BY:	Vanover	

Discussion ensued regarding the additional dollar amount of the contract over the previous year's costs.

Council Member Vanover explained the differences in auditing procedures due to GASB34 implementation and added that due to GASB34, additional auditing costs would be necessary.

City Attorney Snodgrass raised his concern with the indemnification clause in paragraph 2 on page 3 and the statute of limitations language in paragraph 3 on page 4. City Attorney Snodgrass recommended that due to the nature of the paragraphs, both paragraphs be removed from the agreement.

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item 2 – Authorize City Manager to Enter Into a Professional Services Agreement with Wolf Architecture for Golf Course Building Design Services

MOVED BY:	Pippel	To authorize the City Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with Wolf Architecture for Golf Course building design services
SECONDED BY:	Fish	

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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N. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Acting City Manager Contini highlighted the following items:

- The building department is operational and doing well.
- Fred Meyer will be proceeding with masonry work on September 2, 2003.
- Work on Evergreen is progressing favorably and the contractors are ahead of schedule.
- Curb and gutter work will be on August 27, 2003, on North Valley Way. Paving will begin after September 2, 2003.

O. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Janette Persinger, City Clerk highlighted the following items:

- The status of the City of Palmer website and the usage of the slogan within the site.
- The status of identification of voters in the annexed area by the Division of Elections.

P. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Q. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Carrington had no comment.

Council Member Vanover inquired of the Mayor that status of road signs. Mayor Cooper stated that he would have more information on September 9, 2003.

Council Member Combs raised the question of whether a stop sign is needed in the Gold Key subdivision; it is unknown why the sign was placed there. Council Member Combs stated that the biggest complaint he has received regarding Evergreen Avenue is the lack of notification to the

businesses and stated the necessity for proper notification to be accomplished on all further projects. Council Member Combs raised the concern over the access to Subway and to Slack's Sugar Shack being through a residential area. He has witnessed children at play and cars speeding through the area to gain access to the business. Council Member Combs suggested the signs that are within the community which do not have the "Alaska at its Best!"™ slogan be taken down and given to their owners. It was suggested that due to historical purposes, the sign with "Heart of the Matanuska Valley" be moved to the Visitor Center. Council Member Combs elaborated on the meeting with Congressmen Young and Bill Sharrow, reporting the meeting to be positive. Council Member Combs announced that as of September 2, 2003, he would be taking a position with the Mat-Su Boys & Girls Club as area manager.

Council Member Fish suggested that more notification to businesses and residents regarding upcoming construction projects could be accomplished in the form of a newsletter in water/sewer bills. Council agreed that this would reach all of the effected customers in an adequate form.

Council Member Pippel commented on the garbage service notification that he received in his utility bill. He stated that the notice was poorly written and suggested that any notices that are to be sent to the public be placed on letterhead. Council Member Pippel stated that it should be the goal of the City to communicate more effectively with the public. Due to all of the existing land being unavailable at the business park, he urged the City to identify grants for land purchase for an expansion of the park.

Mayor Cooper explained the City of Palmer funding request document under the City Manager's report and stated that the document would be given to Congressman Young. He announced that Governor Murkowski would be speaking at the Chamber meeting on August 27, 2003, and urged everyone's attendance. Mayor Cooper gave an overview of the dispatch meeting that was held earlier in the day. He described the meeting as being difficult but strides were being made to work together and move forward. Mayor Cooper stated the intention of a governing body to be established to guide decisions. He further stated that the meeting was requested by MTA. MTA stated that due some of the technical issues, there may be a delay of 5 – 6 months before the dispatch center could be opened.

R. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

APPROVED THIS 9th day of September 2003.

For a signed copy – contact the City Clerk.