

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on July 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. Mayor DeVries called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Edna DeVries, Mayor	Sabrena Combs, Deputy Mayor
Julie Berberich	Brian Daniels
Steve Carrington	Jill Valerius

Council Member Best was absent and excused.

Staff in attendance were the following:

John Moosey, City Manager	Michael Gatti, City Attorney (participated telephonically)
Brad Hanson, Community Development Director	Nichole Degner, Acting City Clerk

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Introduction and Setting a Public Hearing for July 27, 2021, for **Ordinance No. 21-013:** Amending Palmer Municipal Code Section 5.32.030 Standards for Marijuana Businesses and Enacting Additional Sections for Chapter 5.32 Marijuana Businesses.
 - b. Introduction and Setting a Public Hearing for July 27, 2021, for **Ordinance No. 21-014:** Amending the Zoning Map to Revise the Zoning Designation of Lot 200, Block 1, Felton Add Subdivision, from R-3, Medium Density Residential to R-4, High Density Residential.
 - c. **Action Memorandum No. 21-042:** Authorize the City Manager to Purchase Insurance Coverage for the Period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 3022, per the Premium Quote Submitted by the City's Insurance Broker, RISQ Consulting.
 - d. **Action Memorandum No. 21-043:** Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate and Enter into a Contract with Bering Marine Corporation for the Purchase and Delivery of 180 Tons of Road Salt in the Amount of \$35,100.00.
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. May 25, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. June 8, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes

Main Motion: To Approve Agenda, Consent Agenda, and Minutes

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Valerius
Vote:	6 Yes, 1 Absent (Best)
Action:	Motion Carried.

E. REPORTS

1. City Manager's Report

City Manager Moosey reported regarding:

- Council interviews of qualified City Clerk applicants scheduled for July 27.
- Interview this week for the Public Works Director position; Manager Assistant interviews expected at the end of the month.
- Explained the Matsu Trip Call-In Center.
- Will present for Council consideration at the July 27 meeting, a Resolution in opposition to the proposed sales tax initiative by the Mat-Su Borough.
- Discussed the Memorial Service for Chief Dan Contini, 11:00 a.m., MTA Center.
- Responded to Council member questions primarily regarding interim City Clerk responsibilities.

2. City Clerk's Report – None.

3. Mayor's Report

Mayor DeVries reported on the big events happening in Palmer and spoke to the Resolution concerning the proposed Borough sales tax initiative; responded to Council member questions.

4. City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Gatti had no report; responded to Council member questions.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Jackie Ivey GoForth spoke regarding postal service operations and raised concerns about election mail-out ballots.

Mr. Mike Chmielewski, brought to the Council's attention Resolution No. 07-009 (June, 2009) regarding the City's previous opposition to the Borough sales tax; noted he interviewed Borough Manager Mike Brown for broadcast on Radio Free Palmer who explained the rationale for presenting a 1.5% borough sales tax; spoke to and reflected on the 40-year career of Chief Dan Contini and his powerful influence on the City.

Matt Tomter, Matanuska Brewing Company, spoke in favor encouraging Council approval of Action Memorandum 21-044, for non-objection to renewal of the Matanuska Brewing's distillery license.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **Ordinance No. 21-010:** Amending Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 17.86 Allowing Accessory Dwelling Units in the Commercial Limited and Commercial General Districts and Elimination of Lot Size Requirements Within the Central Business District.

Director Hanson provided a staff report explaining the Ordinance.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 21-010.

Mr. Mike Chmielewski testified in support of Ordinance No. 21-010 allowing accessory dwelling units and commended Director Hanson and staff for all the work that went into it; recommended approval.

Hearing no objections from the Council, Mayor DeVries closed the public hearing.

Deputy Mayor Combs recused herself from voting on this issue, as she lives in the Central Business District and is the owner of an accessory dwelling unit from which she benefits financially.

Main Motion: To Approve Ordinance No. 21-010.

Moved by:	Valerius
Seconded by:	Berberich

Vote: 5 Yes, 1 Absent (Best), 1 Recusal (Combs)
Action: Motion Carried.

2. **Ordinance No. 21-011:** Amending Palmer Municipal Code Section 3.16.050 Pertaining to the Removal of Sales Tax Exemptions at the Warren "Bud" Woods Palmer Municipal Airport.

City Manager Moosey provided a staff report clarifying Ordinance No. 21-011.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 21-011. Seeing no one come forward and hearing no objection from the Council, Mayor DeVries closed the public hearing.

Main Motion: To Approve Ordinance No. 21-011.

Moved by: Combs
Seconded by: Carrington
Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Absent (Best)
Action: Motion Carried.

3. **Ordinance No. 21-012:** Amending Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 Pertaining to the fuel Flowage Fee for the Warrant "Bud" Woods Palmer Municipal Airport.

There being no request for a staff report, Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 21-012. Seeing no one come forward and hearing no objection from the Council, Mayor DeVries closed the public hearing.

Main Motion: To Approve Ordinance No. 21-012.

Moved by: Combs
Seconded by: Daniels
Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Absent (Best)
Action: Motion Carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Action Memorandum No. 21-044:** Directing the City Manager to Notify the State of Alaska of the City Council's Statement of Non-Objection for the Renewal of Liquor License Number 5966 for the Matanuska Brewing Company, LLC Located at 513 South Valley Way.

Main Motion: To Action Memorandum No. 21-044.

Moved by: Combs
Seconded by: Berberich
Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Absent (Best)
Action: Motion Carried.

2. **Information Memorandum No. 21-003:** Committee of the Whole for a Presentation By Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Main Motion: To enter Committee of the Whole.

Moved by: Combs
Seconded by: Carrington
Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Absent (Best)
Action: Motion Carried.

Committee of the Whole topic included:

- Slide presentation by Community Development Director Brad Hanson providing an update on the Metropolitan Planning Organization concept which was introduced by former City Manager Nate Wallace some months ago.
- Explained an MPO is a planning organization that develops short- and long-range plans for local governmental agencies to carry out transportation planning activities based on population and community growth.
- Described a Policy Board would determine the allocation of monies from the Federal government directed through DOT to local municipalities that have MPOs.
- Directed attention to the packet, p. 132, for considerations the City would need to determine: 1) steering committee; 2) pre-policy board, 3) policy board comprised of elected government officials.
- Director Hanson and City Manager Moosey responded to Council questions and open discussion ensued.

The Council adjourned from Committee of the Whole and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Matters, the Immediate Knowledge of Which Would Clearly Have an Adverse Effect Upon the Finances of the Public Entity and Matter which by Law, Municipal Charter, or Ordinances are Required to be Confidential – Potential Litigation Attorney Client Communication: State of Alaska City of Palmer Dispatch Agreement (note: action may be taken by the council following the executive session)

City Manager Moosey stated the Executive Session was not needed at this time.

J. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Ms. Degner reported no items placed on the table.

K. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Jackie Ivey GoForth clarified why she has concerns over mail-out ballots noting that she moved from Wyoming in 2001; she was able to verify that in the last election, even though she hadn't lived in Wyoming for two decades, a mail-in ballot in her name was received by the county clerk.

Mr. Mike Chmielewski spoke to the many roles of the City Clerk, one of which is Public Information Officer; inquired who in the City of Palmer would take on that role in the interim. City Manager Moosey stated it would be him under "all other duties as assigned."

L. COUNCIL COMMENTS

No direction was given to staff for legislation to be placed on a future agenda.

M. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the City Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

APPROVED this 10th day of August, 2021.

Nichole Degner, Acting City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor