

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on July 27, 2021 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 Council Members were present:

Edna DeVries, Mayor	Sabrena Combs, Deputy Mayor
Julie Berberich	Brian Daniels
Richard W. Best	Jill Valerius
Steve Carrington	

Council Member Best was absent.

Staff in attendance were the following:

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

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Consent Agenda
 - a. ~~Introduction and Setting a Public Hearing to July 27, 2021 for **Ordinance No. 21-015** Amending Palmer Municipal Code Sections 2.45.030(H) and 2.61.020(J) to Move Parks Maintenance to Community Development.~~
 - a. **Resolution No. 21-025:** Accepting and Appropriating an American Rescue Plan Grant offer from the Federal Aviation Administration in an amount of \$32,000.00 by way of the Airport Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for additional assistance to airports during the COVID 19 public health emergency and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Grant When Offered.
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. June 22, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes
 - b. June 22, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes
 - c. July 6, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes

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

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Daniels

City Manager Moosey proposed amendments to the Agenda: 1) Remove 1.a. to a future meeting; 2) Replace 1.a with H.2 Resolution 21-025 as it does not require a public hearing; 3) Remove I, Executive Session, as it will not be necessary this evening.

Primary Amendment #1: To Amend the Agenda as specified by the City Manager.

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Carrington
Vote:	Unanimous (Absent: Best)
Action:	Motion Carried

Vote on Motion: To Approve Agenda, as amended, Consent Agenda, and Minutes

Vote:	Unanimous (Absent: Best)
Action:	Motion Carried.

E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS:

1. Presentation from *Palmer Museum and Visitor Information Center* Director, Sam Dinges

Mr. Sam Dinges narrated a slide presentation updating the Council on activities of the Palmer Museum and the Visitor's Center this past year.

F. REPORTS

1. City Manager's Report

City Manager Moosey reported on the City of Palmer election process for the election on October 5; signed a contract with Christie Smithers, who has election experience, to see us through the election; reported corrections to the election packet; informed of access problems with the City's Facebook page; reported he will be attending the AML and Manager's Association Meeting in Fairbanks next week; spoke to tonight's agenda item asking for Resolution to oppose the proposed sales tax initiative for infrastructure projects; commented on the Alaska Journal of Commerce article announcing new broadband capacity that will cover the State of Alaska.

[Council Member Best joined the meeting]

City Manager Moosey fielded Council Member questions concerning tree growth in the Matanuska River Park located in the avigation easement at the Airport.

2. Mayor's Report

Mayor DeVries reported in appreciation for the Matsu Miners.

3. City Attorney's Report

City Manager Moosey reported that City Attorney Gatti does not have a report tonight.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Lee Hendrickson, Palmer resident, spoke in appreciation for winning the beautification award, that there is a nice sign in her front yard; discussed the Palmer Pride Picnic noting it was hard to find information about it; commented regarding the avigation easement noting was glad to hear replacement and improvement are part of the process.

Mr. Daniel Potter testified regarding the Amendment to Ordinance 21-013 related to marijuana businesses, speaking in opposition to the high restrictions on licensing requirements.

Ms. Jackie Ivey GoForth, testified regarding mailout ballots and the postal service as it relates to customer service and delivery.

There being no others come forward, Mayor DeVries closed audience participation at 7:46 p.m.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **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.

Director Brad Hanson provided a staff report.

Public Hearing:

Mr. Daniel Potter spoke in full support of the zoning change.

Mr. Marty Moffat, one of the owners of the property, spoke in support of the zoning change.

There being no others coming forward, Mayor DeVries closed the public testimony at 7:15 p.m.

Main Motion: To Approve Ordinance 21-014.

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Daniels
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried by roll call vote.

- ~~2. **Resolution No. 21-025:** Accepting and Appropriating an American Rescue Plan Grant offer from the Federal Aviation Administration in an amount of \$32,000.00 by way of the Airport Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for additional assistance to airports during the COVID-19 public health emergency and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Grant When Offered.~~

~~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):~~

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Resolution No. 21-026:** A Resolution Stating an Opposition to a Proposed Sales Tax Initiative for Infrastructure Projects Initiated by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Main Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 21-026.

Moved by:	Valerius
Seconded by:	Berberich
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried by roll call vote.

Mayor DeVries announced she received an email from a Palmer resident asking that it be read into the record.

Interim City Clerk Nichole Degner read the email from Kaitlen Levit into the record, opposing an increase to the sales tax.

City Manager Moosey reported the City of Wasilla and City of Houston also sent letters in opposition. He noted two other considerations the Borough may make is a tax on fuel and a tax on gravel. Further brief discussion followed.

2. **Action Memorandum No. 21-045:** Recommendation to the City Council for the City Clerk Interim Appointment.

Following brief discussion in appreciation of Nichole Degner's willingness to fill in as Interim City Clerk:

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 21-045.

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Valerius
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried by roll call vote.

K. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Daniel Potter testified regarding not being able to make large dollar purchases in the city of Palmer, having to go elsewhere; that it is a loss of sales tax revenue for the City.

There being no others coming forward, Mayor DeVries closed public testimony at 8:01 p.m.

L. COUNCIL COMMENTS

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

There was discussion regarding Council Member Best's failed telephonic attempts to connect to the meeting.

M. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the City Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED this 24th day of August, 2021.

Nichole Degner, Interim City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor