

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on November 9, 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  
Pamela Melin  
Richard W. Best  
Sabrina Combs

Steve Carrington, Deputy Mayor  
Brian Daniels  
Jill Valerius (on Zoom)

Staff in attendance were the following:

John Moosey, City Manager  
Shelly M. Acteson, CMC

Michael Gatti, City Attorney (on Zoom)

**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 to November 23, 2021, for **Ordinance No. 21-019:** Amending Palmer Municipal Codes 2.04.080, 2.20.080, 2.22.080, 2.25.080, and 2.30.080 to modify the start time of meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  - b. Introduction and Setting a Public Hearing to November 23, 2021, for **Ordinance No. 21-020:** Amending the Palmer Municipal Code 3.16 Sales Tax, To Create Certain Uniform Provisions for the Collection and Remittance of Sales Tax in Alignment with the Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Code PMC 3.16.300, Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Code Adopted by Reference
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
  - a. September 14, 2021, Regular Meeting

**Main Motion: To Approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda, without the Minutes**

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Melin
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

**E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS**

1. Mayor DeVries read and presented a proclamation declaring November 27, 2021, as Small Business Saturday.
2. Ailis Vann, Executive Director, Palmer Chamber of Commerce, provided a brief overview of the Chamber's recent activities and upcoming events.

3. Julie Estey, senior Director of External Affairs & Strategic Initiatives, Matanuska Electric Association, presented an update on the Lucas Street Substation Project.

## F. REPORTS

### 1. City Manager's Report

City Manager Moosey reported the following:

- Reminded Council of upcoming Veteran's Day activities.
- Trash would be picked up on Friday due to the holiday.
- Alaska Municipal League Conference; and
- COVID in-home test kits available at the library.

City Manager Moosey requested Council clarification regarding how and when the Council would like the Report from the law firm concerning the alleged release of previous confidential and privileged reports on Facebook. Council discussed the issue and agreed to allow City Manager Moosey to include the Report, if it's completed in the packet for the November 23 Council Meeting.

### 2. City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Shelly Acteson reported the following:

- Thanked Interim City Clerk Nichole Degner for her help during the transition.

### 3. Mayor's Report

- Mayor DeVries notes she would start as the newly elected Borough Mayor on November 22, 2021; and
- Noted she had negotiated a viable contract for legal services with Heath Law, LLC, and Council would bring an action memorandum forward during the next meeting to approve the contract

**Main Motion: To Direct the City Manager to Provide Legislation during the next meeting to Sign and Execute a Professional Service Agreement with Heath Law, LLC for Legal Services**

Moved by:	Carrington
Seconded by:	Melin
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

### 4. City Attorney's Report

Attorney Gatti had no comments.

## G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mike Coons:

- Commented on his distrust with local and national elections.
- Spoke in favor of utilizing the hand count method during the past election and voter integrity.
- Requested that Council stand with Senator Shower and push for SB39.

Jack Snodgrass:

- Provided Council with a memo explaining a potential problem with the City's recent RFP approval process during the selection of legal services.

Jackie Goforth:

- Spoke of the importance of Resolution 21-10, Code of Ethics.
- Requested that Council adhere to the requirements of the resolution.

Michelle Kruger:

- Stated that several Council members had violated the City Code of Ethics:
- Read a recall petition summary statement.

## **H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

## **I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **J. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Committee of the Whole:** Presentation of the 2022 Budget

The Council did not enter into Committee of the Whole

Discussion ensued regarding the public request for City funds to maintain and upgrade to the tennis courts and the ball fields.

## **K. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE**

City Clerk reported the following document was Placed on the Table:

- Memo from Jack Snodgrass.

## **L. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mike Coons:

- Quoted the City Code of Ethics and requested Council act for alleged violations by Council members through censure or recall.

Jackie Goforth:

- Read Facebook posts aloud, citing Council member comments.
- Commented on the number of genders, and Rules for Radicals number 8.

Erik Anderson:

- Recommended that Council allocate additional funds for more streetlights, roads, infrastructure needs.
- Consider different revenue streams for future City projects, including purchasing an additional Zamboni.

Sam Dinges, Executive Director, Palmer Museum:

- Thanked the Council for continued support for the Museum/Visitor Center.

## **M. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Council did not hold an Executive Session.

## **N. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Valerius:

- Thanked the Fire Chief and the other presenters.
- Wished Mayor DeVries good luck in her new position as the Mat-Su Borough Mayor.

Council Member Daniels:

- Thanked the Fire Chief Shelton and the other presenters for their thorough presentations.
- Congratulated Mayor DeVries on her new position.

Council Member Melin:

- Expressed appreciation to all the meeting attendees and presenters.
- Congratulated Mayor DeVries.
- Thanked the audience for participating.
- Requested Council support to hold the members of the Council who violated the Open Meetings Act (OMA) accountable through the City Code of Ethics document. Council Member Best seconded the motion and requested that the issue be brought forth after January 1, 2022.

Discussion followed between the Council and the City Attorney regarding Council Member Melin's request.

Council member Combs:

- Thanked the presenters
- Requested Council support to remain on the Alaska Municipal League's (AML) Executive Board of Directors as Secretary/Treasurer and noted the AML Conference starts next week. Council Member Valerius offered support of Combs' request.

Council Member Best objected and requested a Council vote on Council Member Combs' request to remain on the AML Board.

Discussion followed between the Council and the Attorney about the best path forward regarding Combs' request.

**Main Motion: To Allow Council Member Combs to Continue to Represent the City of Palmer on the AML Board of Directors**

Moved by:	Requested by Combs
Seconded by:	Objection raised by Best
Vote:	No – 4, Yes-3; Valerius, Daniels, and Combs in favor
Action:	Motion Failed

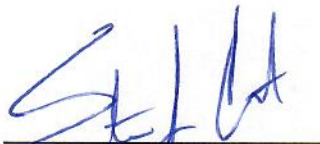
Council Member Best:

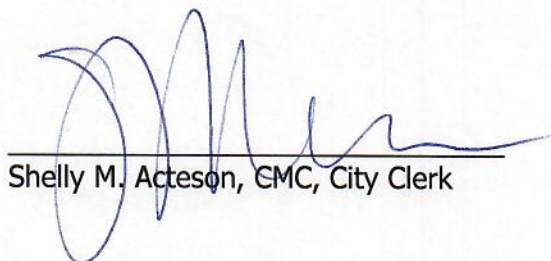
- Asked for the Council member currently the subject of recall petition to submit their resignations.

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

**Approved this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021.**

  
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Steve Carrington, Mayor

  
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Shelly M. Acteson, GMC, City Clerk