

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A Special meeting of the Joint Palmer City Council and Board of Economic Development was held on August 10, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. Mayor DeVries called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Comprising a quorum of the Council and Board of Economic Development, the following roll call was taken:

City Council:

Edna DeVries, Mayor  
Sabrena Combs, Deputy Mayor  
Julie Berberich  
Richard Best (participated telephonically)  
Steve Carrington  
Brian Daniels  
Jill Valerius

Board of Economic Development:

Dusty Silva, Chair  
Lorie Koppenberg, Vice Chair (telephonically)  
Chris Chappel  
Barbara Hunt  
Janet Kincaid  
Ronalee Moses

Excused Absence: Peter Christopher

Staff in attendance were the following:

John Moosey, City Manager  
Brad Hanson, Community Development Director

Michael Gatti, City Attorney (participated telephonically)  
Pam Whitehead, Recording Secretary (telephonically)

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**CC Main Motion: To approve the Agenda.**

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

**BED Main Motion: To approve the Agenda as corrected: F.1.a should be 2020 accomplishments; F.1.b should be 2021 Board Projects.**

Moved by:	Kincaid
Seconded by:	Moses
Vote:	Unanimous (Absent: Christopher)
Action:	Motion Carried by roll call vote.

**E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Ms. Robyn Bjork, who is new to the area, spoke in appreciation for living in Palmer and thanked the Council for its hard work in keeping Palmer a wonderful place to call home. As a medical professional, she testified in opposition to the new Federal mandates and Covid lockdowns.

Ms. Jackie GoForth testified concerning the Covid vaccine discussing reasons for vaccine hesitancy.

There being no others wishing to testify, Mayor DeVries closed Public Participation.

## **F. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Committee of the Whole (note: action may be taken following the committee of the whole)
  - a. Recap of 2020 (~~2018~~) Board Accomplishments
  - b. 2021 (~~2019~~) Board Projects and Goals
  - c. Other Matters Related to the Board
  - d. City Council Direction to the Board

### **CC Main Motion: To enter Committee of the Whole.**

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Daniels
Vote:	Unanimous (Absent: Christopher)
Action:	Motion Carried by roll call vote.

### **BED Main Motion: To enter Committee of the Whole.**

Moved by:	Moses
Seconded by:	Hunt
Vote:	Unanimous.
Action:	Motion Carried by roll call vote.

[The CC/BED entered Committee of the Whole at 6:13 p.m.; exited at 6:55 p.m.]

Discussion topics included:

- (a) BED Chair Silva provided a recap of board accomplishments over 2020 and first half of 2021, resulting in Resolution 21-001, *A Resolution of the Palmer BED Recommending City Council Implement Elements of the Brownfield Area Wide Plan to Support the Development of a Coordinated Marketing Strategy for Downtown Palmer*, presented for City Council consideration. She read the Resolution for the record.
- (b) BED members spoke in support of the Resolution which outlines a destination marketing strategy and identifies priority projects that support community values and enrichment of life in Palmer.
- Open discussion took place emphasizing the importance of directional signage on the Parks and Glenn Highways coming into Palmer; there was also emphasis on support for keeping up-to-date with the latest in technology.
- (c) Other Matters: The Board asked the Council to consider appointing the Executive Director of the Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce as a non-voting Board position.
- (d) City Council Direction to the Board:

Mayor DeVries declared exit of Committee of the Whole at 6:55 p.m.

### **CC Main Motion: To bring BED Resolution 21-001 forward to City Council for discussion.**

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Berberich
Vote:	Unanimous (Absent: Christopher)
Action:	Motion Carried by roll call vote.

**G. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE:** There were no items placed on the table.

**H. COUNCIL AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

BED Chair Silva announced that her term, as well as those of Board Members Chappel and Koppenberg, will be expiring this year. She spoke in appreciation having served on the BED for the last six years, however, has decided that it is time for her to step down and will not be resubmitting an application to renew. The Council and BED thanked her for her service to the City. (Standing ovation!)

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the City Council and Board of Economic Development, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

**APPROVED by the City Council this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.**

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Nichole Degner, Interim City Clerk

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Edna DeVries, Mayor

**APPROVED by the Board of Economic Development this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.**

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Brad Hanson, Community Development Director

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Dusty Silva, Chair