

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on May 12, 2020, 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

Due to COVID-19 Mayor DeVries was present in the Council Chambers while the Council Members participated in the meeting by teleconference.

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

Edna DeVries, Mayor

Julie Berberich (participated telephonically)

Richard W. Best (participated telephonically)

Steve Carrington (participated telephonically)

Linda Combs, Deputy Mayor (participated telephonically)

Sabrina Combs (participated telephonically)

Jill Valerius (participated telephonically)

Staff in attendance were the following:

Brad Hanson, City Manager

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Michael Gatti, City Attorney (participated telephonically)

Gina Davis, Finance Director

Kara Johnson, Deputy City Clerk

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. **Action Memorandum No. 20-031:** Authorizing the City Manager to Amend the Professional Services Agreement with HDR, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$70,018.00 for Additional Engineering Services to Support the City in Consent Decree Negotiations/Coordination with the EPA/DOJ and On-Going Operations at the Palmer Wastewater Treatment Facility
- b. **Action Memorandum No. 20-032:** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Design Contract Addendum with HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC in the Amount of \$93,960.00 for the Phase I Design Work on the 2020 Avigation Easement Planning Study
- c. **Action Memorandum No. 20-033:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Sole Source Contract with Adam Jenski, RK Ranch, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$17,000.00 for the Reconditioning of Approximately 22 Acres of Hay Field at the Palmer Airport
- d. **Action Memorandum No. 20-034:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Sole Source Contract with Dirtworks, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$18,000.00 for the Watering of Approximately 22 Acres of Reconditioned Hay Field at the Palmer Airport
- e. **Action Memorandum No. 20-035:** Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for and Accept a Cares Act Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for Assistance to Airports During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
- f. **Action Memorandum No. 20-036:** Authorizing the City Manager to Apply, Accept, and Execute a Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration at 100% Funding for the 2020 Avigation Easement Planning Study Phase I

- g. **Action Memorandum No. 20-037:** Authorizing the City Manager to Extend the Professional and Data Services Contract with AlasConnect, LLC for One Additional Year
 - h. **Action Memorandum No. 20-038:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute Addendum Number 1 with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to Provide Fire Emergency Response to the Greater Palmer Fire Service Area
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. April 14, 2020, Regular Meeting

Main Motion: To Approve the Agenda, Consent Agenda, and Minutes with Scrivener Error

Moved by:	L. Combs
Seconded by:	Best
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

E. REPORTS

1. City Manager’s Report

City Manager Hanson highlighted his written report.

2. City Clerk’s Report

City Clerk Alley highlighted her written report and spoke about upcoming changes to Summer AML Conference due to COVID-19.

3. Mayor’s Report
 - a. Palmer/Saroma Sister City 40th Anniversary Trip

Mayor DeVries Highlighted her written report and Proclaimed May as Palmer Bike Month and Older Americans Month.

4. City Attorney’s Report

None.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Margo Jones, with Sunshine Community Health Clinic, participated telephonically, spoke about the opening of their new clinic in Wasilla and discussed what types of services they will be providing to the community.

Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman, testified on the public process and rights for the public to address policies and procedures.

City Clerk Alley read written testimony received from David Fuller. He stated the public is still waiting on an apology from Council Member Best and the Council’s response to ethics and values (see official meeting packet for written testimony).

Ms. Ailis Vann, with Palmer Chamber of Commerce, gave update on current events, spoke about the cancelation of Colony Days and future plans from the chamber in dealing with COVID-19.

Ms. Price, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Public Safety spoke to the changes and as to why they were needed. They are excited for the change and to be able to serve the community better.

G. PUBLIC HEARING

1. **Resolution No. 20-010:** Submitting the Question of Amending Charter Section 3.2: Terms of Office, to Limit Mayor and Councilmember Terms, to the City's Qualified Voters at the October 6, 2020, City of Palmer Election

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing on Resolution No. 20-010.

Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman, testified on the public process and rights for the public to address policies and procedures. Process of elections.

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

Main Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 20-010

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Valerius

Primary Amendment #1: To Change Council Terms from 2 to 3, Section 3.2, and Total Terms from 4 to 6, Section 3.2

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Valerius
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

Secondary Amendment #1: To Divide the Question – To Separate Council and Mayor Terms into Separate Legislation

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Carrington
Vote:	3 Yes/4 No (Berberich, DeVries, S. Combs, Valerius)
Action:	Failed for Lack of Majority Vote

Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 20-010 as Amended

Vote:	5 Yes/2 No (Best, L. Combs)
Action:	Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Action Memorandum No. 20-040:** Approving the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety for Dispatch Services

Mayor DeVries requested Action Memorandum No. 20-040 to be moved up on the Agenda, due to the members in the Audience for Action Memorandum No. 20-040.

City Manager Hanson provided the requested staff report on Action Memorandum No. 20-040.

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 20-040

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Berberich
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

Mayor DeVries called a recess at 9:00 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

G. PUBLIC HEARING

2. **Ordinance No. 20-003:** Amending Palmer Municipal Code Sections 2.04.031, 2.05.020, and 18.15.010 Relating to Mayor and Council Member Candidate Residency Requirements for Elections

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 20-003.

Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman, testified on the public process and rights for the public to address policies and procedures.

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

Main Motion: To Approve Ordinance No. 20-003

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Valerius
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

3. **Ordinance No. 20-005:** Amending Palmer Municipal Code Section 2.04.160 Council Community Grants

City Manager Hanson reported this was a change to current code and to clean up the code language.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 20-005.

Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman, testified on the public process and rights for the public to address policies and procedures.

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

Main Motion: To Approve Ordinance No. 20-005

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Berberich

Motion to Postpone: To Move Ordinance No. 20-005 to August 25, 2020 Agenda with Public Hearing

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	L. Combs
Vote:	4 Yes/3 No (Berberich, S. Combs, Valerius)
Action:	Motion Carried

H. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Action Memorandum No. 20-039:** Approving the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Resource Data, Inc., for Vote By Mail Feasibility Study Services for \$3,000.00

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 20-039

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Valerius
Vote:	3 Yes/4 No (Best, Carrington, L. Combs, DeVries)
Action:	Failed for Lack of Majority Vote

- b. **Action Memorandum No. 20-040:** Approving the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety for Dispatch Services

Mayor DeVries requested Action Memorandum No. 20-040 to be moved up on the Agenda, due to the members in the Audience for Action Memorandum No. 20-040. See New Business under G. 1. above.

- c. **Action Memorandum No. 20-041:** Approving a Council Community Grant in the Amount of \$500.00 to the Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce for the Virtual Cash Mob

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 20-041

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Best
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

- d. **Information Memorandum No. 20-005:** Committee of the Whole for Discussion on General Financial Matters Related to COVID-19 (note: action may be taken by the Council following the Committee of the Whole)

Main Motion: To Enter Into Committee of the Whole

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Valerius

The Council entered into a Committee of the Whole at 9:52 p.m.

Ms. Gina Davis, Finance Director entered into the conversation at 9:57 p.m. to answer questions regarding to the city's finances and how COVID-19 has affected the city.

Topics addressed included:

- liquidity;
- General Asset Fund Balance;
- Capital Project Fund;
- Business Closures;
- Provided clarification of the Cares Act Funding;
- Hardship agreements with Utility customers; and
- Provided clarification on proposed resolution that deals with late fees.

The Council adjourned from Committee of the Whole at 10:23 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

Main Motion: To Add, A Resolution to the Fees and Fines Schedules for the Waiver of Certain Fees or Fines Due to COVID-19 Public Health Disaster Emergency, to May 26, 2020 Agenda

Moved by:	L. Combs
Seconded by:	Best, Carrington
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

I. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

City Clerk Alley reported city Building report, annexation strategy 2020, local boundary commission, and Mr. David Fuller written testimony were Items Placed on the Table.

J. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman testified on the public process and rights for the public to address policies and procedures.

K. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Main Motion: To Add Council Member Assigned Seats to Future Agenda

Moved by:	Carrington
Seconded by:	L. Combs

L. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the City Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Approved this 9th day of June, 2020.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor