

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on March 24, 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

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)
Sabrena Combs (participated telephonically)
Jill Valerius (participated telephonically)

Staff in attendance were the following:

Nathan Wallace, City Manager
Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk
Michael Gatti, City Attorney (participated telephonically)

Kara Johnson, Deputy City Clerk
Kimberley Green, HR (participated telephonically)

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. **Action Memorandum No. 20-023:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute Professional Services Agreement with Agnew::Beck Consulting, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$129,305.00 for a Community and Economic Analysis for the Preparation of an Annexation Study
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. March 10, 2020, Joint Meeting

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

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

E. REPORTS

1. City Manager's Report

None.

2. City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Alley reported she was in receipt of two citizens' petition applications.

- The first was an initiative to enact term limits. The initiative application was rejected due to not being in the proper form, because it was styled as a code amendment instead of a charter amendment. A

new application would not need to be submitted if Council approved Resolution No. 20-010, which is on the meeting agenda.

- The second was a referendum to repeal PMC Chapter 5.32 pertaining to the prohibition of marijuana business within the city of Palmer. The referendum application was certified.

3. Mayor's Report

Mayor DeVries highlighted her written report and entered into the record an email from Who Let the Girls Out thanking the city for the grant they received.

4. City Attorney's Report

None.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Fuller spoke about a previous incident with Council Member Best incident and Palmer Police Department. He stated the public is still waiting on an apology from Council Member Best, an acknowledgment from Mayor DeVries, and the Council's response to ethics and values (see official meeting packet for written testimony).

G. PUBLIC HEARING

1. **Ordinance No. 20-002:** Amending Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 3.16 Sales Tax and Adopting Remote Seller Sales Tax Code, By Reference, to Create Uniform Provisions for Collection and Remittance of Sales Tax

Mayor opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 20-002. Seeing no one come forward to speak and hearing no objection from the Council, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

City Manger Wallace provided the staff report and highlighted some suggested amendments (see official meeting packet for amendments).

Main Motion: To Approve Ordinance No. 20-002 with Amendments as Stated by the City Manager

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Valerius
Vote:	6 Yes/1 No (Best)
Action:	Motion Carried

2. **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 opened the public hearing on Resolution No. 20-010. Seeing no one come forward to speak and hearing no objection from the Council, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Main Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 20-010

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Valerius

Primary Amendment #1: To Strike Mayor from the Resolution

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	
Action:	Failed for Lack of Second

Motion to Postpone: To Postpone Resolution No. 20-010 to April 14, 2020

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	L. Combs

Primary Amendment #1: To Postpone to Date to be Determined at the Discretion of the City Clerk

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

Vote on Motion to Postpone: To Postpone Resolution No. 20-010, as Amended, to a Council Meeting Determined at the Discretion of the City Clerk

Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Action Memorandum No. 20-024:** Directing the City Manager to Notify the State of Alaska of the City Council's Statement of Non-Objection to Liquor License No. 4366 for Fred Meyer, Located at 535 E. Palmer Wasilla Highway

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 20-024

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

2. **Action Memorandum No. 20-025:** Approving a Council Community Grant in the Amount of \$475.00 to the Organizers of the Drive Your Tractor to Work

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 20-025

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

Mayor Devries called a recess at 8:46 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

3. **Committee of the Whole** for Discussion Regarding COVID-19

Main Motion: To Enter Into Committee of the Whole

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Valerius
Vote:	6 Yes/0 No/1 Absent (Best)
Action:	Motion Carried

The Council entered into a Committee of the Whole at 9:01 p.m.

Council Member Best joined the meeting by teleconference at 9:02 p.m.

Topics addressed included:

- FEMA activation for Federal and State;
- State of Emergency declaration by the Governor;
- Council's authority to adopt emergency orders;
- Local services the city provides; and
- Steps city has taken for the health of the employees.

Council Member S. Combs left the meeting at 9:40 p.m. and rejoined quickly after at 9:40 p.m.

The Mayor adjourned from Committee of the Whole at 9:46 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

4. **Committee of the Whole** for Discussion Regarding City Manager Recruitment

Main Motion: To Enter Into Committee of the Whole

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

The Council entered into a Committee of the Whole at 9:47 p.m.

Topics addressed included review of the applications, interview dates, and process to select interview questions:

- Review of the applications and applicant qualifications;
- Interview dates;
- Process to select interview questions; and
- City Manager recruitment advertisement.

Council Member S. Combs requested inviting John Ardaugh, Serena Bemis-Goodall, Brad Hanson, John Moosey and George Zoukee to interview.

Council Member L. Combs requested inviting John Alcantra and Jannette Bower to be interviewed.

Human Resources Specialist Kimberly Green joined the meeting, by teleconference, at 9:59 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding interviewing candidates that did not meet the minimum requirements, potential concerns for providing equal opportunity to those that met the qualifications, re-advertising with changing the minimum qualifications, and interviewing all candidates.

Council Member S. Combs left the meeting at 10:14 p.m. and rejoined quickly after at 10:14 p.m.

The Mayor adjourned from Committee of the Whole at 10:15 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

Main Motion: To Interview John Ardaugh, Serena Bemis-Goodall, Brad Hanson, John Moosey, and George Zoukee on March 31, 2020, and Open to Others Applied if Needed After the Interviews

Moved by:	S. Combs
Seconded by:	Valerius

Motion to Postpone: To Postpone for Two Weeks, Have Wording Changed In the Advertisement for the Position Requirements to be Bachelor Degree or Experience

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

Vote on Main Motion: To Interview John Ardaugh, Serena Bemis-Goodall, Brad Hanson, John Moosey, and George Zoukee on March 31, 2020, and Open to Others Applied if Needed After the Interviews

Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

I. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

City Clerk Alley reported Council Member L. Combs' email regarding COVID-19 and email from Who Let the Girls Out were Items Placed on the Table.

J. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Chmielewski spoke about the city manager hiring process and his experience.

K. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the City Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Approved this 14th day of April, 2020.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor