

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on February 11, 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:

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| Edna DeVries, Mayor | Linda Combs, Deputy Mayor |
| Julie Berberich | Sabrina Combs |
| Richard W. Best (participated by teleconference) | Jill Valerius (participated by teleconference) |
| Steve Carrington | |

Staff in attendance were the following:

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Nathan Wallace, City Manager | Michael Gatti, City Attorney |
| Norma I. Alley, MMC, 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. 20-010:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Contract with HDL Engineer Consultants LLC, Not to Exceed \$37,500.00, for Engineering Services and Underwater Robotic Inspection of the Cedar (Bailey) Hills Reservoir
 - b. **Action Memorandum No. 20-011:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Contract with USI Insurance Services, Not to Exceed \$60,000.00 the first year, for Healthcare Brokerage Services for a Three-Year Contract
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. December 10, 2019, Regular Meeting
 - b. January 14, 2020, Regular Meeting

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

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| Moved by: | S. Combs |
| Seconded by: | L. Combs |
| Vote: | 7 Yes/0 No |
| Action: | Motion Carried |

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

1. Presentation of the Golden Heart Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

Mayor DeVries presented the Golden Heart Lifetime Achievement Award to Betty Pierce. Council Member Berberich highlighted the community service Betty Pierce provided to the Palmer community.

2. Presentation from the Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ailis Vann

Executive Director Vann summarized the Chamber's events and happenings over the last year and upcoming 2020 events.

F. REPORTS

1. City Manager's Report

City Manager Wallace reported he would begin working on obtaining proposals for a consultant to assist the city with annexation and another consultant to facilitate the Council's strategic planning meeting.

2. City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Alley noted she had yet to hear from all Council Members on dates in March and April that would work for the strategic planning meeting. Council deliberated on a date and requested the City Clerk send additional correspondence to Council regarding a possible April 25 meeting.

3. Mayor's Report

Mayor DeVries highlighted her written report.

4. City Attorney's Report

None.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Tristan Hampson, MAT+SAR Search and Rescue, requested Council's support for their grant request.

Mr. Mike Chmielewski provided a demonstration on how to view the Council meetings on the live video and audio stream on the Radio Free Palmer website.

Ms. Barbara Hunt testified on the recent Palmer Alaska Buzz Facebook page activities.

Mr. Todd Smolden, Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office Director, provided an update on Governor's Office.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **Ordinance No. 20-001:** Amending Palmer Municipal Code Section 5.28 Relating to Itinerant Vendors

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 20-001.

Ms. Ailis Vann, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, expressed support.

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

Main Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 20-001

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| Moved by: | S. Combs |
| Seconded by: | L. Combs |
| Vote: | 7 Yes/0 No |
| Action: | Motion Carried |

2. **Resolution No. 19-005-B:** Amending the 2019 City of Palmer Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 20-001. Seeing no one come forward and hearing no objection from the Council, Mayor DeVries closed the public hearing.

Main Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 19-005-B

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| Moved by: | S. Combs |
| Seconded by: | L. Combs |
| Vote: | 7 Yes/0 No |
| Action: | Motion Carried |

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Action Memorandum No. 20-012:** Approving a Council Grant in the Amount of \$1,650.00 to the MATSAR Search and Rescue for the Year 2020

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 20-012

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| Moved by: | L. Combs |
| Seconded by: | S. Combs |
| Vote: | 7 Yes/0 No |
| Action: | Motion Carried |

2. **Action Memorandum No. 20-013:** Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Two-Year Agreement to Purchase Healthcare Insurance Coverage with Premera through the City's Healthcare Insurance Broker, USI Insurance Services

City Manager Wallace provided the staff report and noted the change in estimated annual savings.

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 20-013

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| Moved by: | S. Combs |
| Seconded by: | Carrington |
| Vote: | 7 Yes/0 No |
| Action: | Motion Carried |

J. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE - None.

K. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None.

L. COUNCIL COMMENTS

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

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Subjects That Tend to Prejudice the Reputation and Character of Any Person – City Clerk (Note: action may be taken following the executive session)

Main Motion: To Enter into Executive Session to Discuss Subjects that Tend to Prejudice the Reputation and Character of Any Person – City Clerk

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| Moved by: | L. Combs |
| Seconded by: | S. Combs |
| Vote: | 7 Yes/0 No |
| Action: | Motion Carried |

Mayor DeVries called a break at 8:11 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Mayor DeVries announced the Council was going to enter into Executive Session and to secure the privacy of the session Council Members Best and Valerius left the meeting.

The Council entered into Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. and exited at 9:11 p.m.

Upon exiting the Executive Session, Council Members Best and Valerius joined the meeting and the following motion was made:

Main Motion: For a Vote of Confidence in the City Clerk, Directing the City Clerk to Work with the City Attorney to Draft a New Three-Year Employment Contract and Placing it on the March 10 Agenda

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| Moved by: | Berberich |
| Seconded by: | S. Combs |
| Vote: | 7 Yes/1 No (Best) |
| Action: | Motion Carried |

Council Member Best explained he would have abstained if allowed, but voted no instead because he did not have all the information needed to vote yes.

N. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Approved this 25th day of February, 2020.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor