

A. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on May 1, 2018, 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	Richard Best, Deputy Mayor
Steve Carrington	Sabrena Combs
David Fuller	Brad Hanson
Peter LaFrance	

Staff in attendance were the following:

Nathan Wallace, City Manager	Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk
Michael Gatti, City Attorney	Angie Anderson, Deputy City Clerk

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 1. Introduction to **Ordinance No. 18-004**: Enacting Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 8.09 Prohibiting the Distribution of Single-Use Disposable Plastic Shopping Bags and Amending the City of Palmer Fine Schedule
 2. **Action Memorandum No. 18-054**: Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Change Order No. 2 with Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc., to Install a 3' Stainless-Steel Spool Piece in the ALP Lines as Part of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Plan Update, in the Amount of \$15,476.00
 3. **Action Memorandum No. 18-055**: Accepting Commission Member Douglas Cruthers' Resignation from the Planning and Zoning Commission
 4. **Action Memorandum No. 18-056**: Approving the Cancellation of the May 8, 2018, Regular Council Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 1. December 5, 2017, Special Meeting

Main Motion: To Approve Consent Agenda and Minutes

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion Carried
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

1. Presentation of a Proclamation Declaring May 2018 as Bike Month
2. Presentation of a Proclamation Declaring April 30, 2018, as Olympian Day
3. Presentation of a Proclamation Declaring May 2018 as Older Americans Month
4. Presentation of a Proclamation Declaring May 19, 2018, as National Kids to Parks Day

Ms. Roxy Mayberry MTA Board Secretary presented a capital credits check to the city of Palmer in the amount of \$3,450.69.

City Clerk Norma Alley administered new Parks Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Board Member Denise Christopher's Oath of Office.

Mayor DeVries read and presented proclamations recognizing May as Bike Month, April 30 as Olympian day, May as Older American Month, and May 19 as National Kids to Parks Day.

F. REPORTS

1. City Manager's Report

City Manager Nathan Wallace reported:

- Projects were on schedule;
- Met with property owners near arboretum to discuss a future of sign, access on property, and trees on private property;
- Attended Alaska Trials Board conference to learn how to procure trail grant funds; and
- Announced Palmer Clean Up Days began May 7, with the Chamber picnic on Saturday, May 12, after the clean up event.

2. City Clerk's Report

None.

3. Mayor's Report

Mayor DeVries announced she will be attending the BP Teachers of Excellence Reception, car show at the MTA Event Center, and Palmer High School's graduation. Mayor DeVries encouraged everyone to participate in Palmer Clean Up Days and announced the resignation of Parks Recreation Cultural Resource Advisory Board Member David Dodd.

4. City Attorney's Report

None.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Kenda Huling spoke on possibilities of commuter rail for the valley and requested City Council consider train options for Palmer.

Ms. Carol Montgomery spoke in favor of Ordinance No. 18-004.

Mr. Joe Schlanger asked the City Council to consider a different option, rather than taxation, for plastic bag legislation and encouraged all to recycle more.

H. PUBLIC HEARING

1. **Ordinance No. 18-003:** Amending the Palmer Municipal Code Title 18 Pertaining to Absentee Voting by Electronic Transmission

City Clerk Norma Alley summarized the written staff report, stated electronic transmissions pose risk of security breaches, and recommended support of Ordinance No. 18-003.

Deputy Mayor Best asked if there were other voting options. City Clerk Alley answered vote by mail was still an option.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 18-003. Seeing no one come forward to speak and hearing no objection from the Council, the public hearing was closed.

Main Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 18-003

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion Carried
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

2. **Resolution No. 18-013:** Accepting and Appropriating the 2018 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant from the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry in the Amount of \$7,500.00 for the Purchase of Wildland Fire Personal Protective Clothing and Wildland Firefighting Equipment

City Manager Nathan Wallace reported this grant is specifically for forestry gear and approval of Resolution No. 18-013 allows funds to be appropriated.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing on Resolution No. 18-013. Seeing no one come forward to speak and hearing no objection from the Council, the public hearing was closed.

Main Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 18-013

Moved by:	Fuller
Seconded by:	Carrington
Action:	Motion Carried
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

1. **Action Memorandum No. 18-057:** Approving an Exception to the City of Palmer Charter Section 2.3 Allowing Council Member Hanson to be Eligible for Employment for Which a Salary is Paid by the City Prior to One Year Elapsing Following His Term

Council Member Hanson recused himself and left the Council Chambers.

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 18-057

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion Carried
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, LaFrance
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	Hanson

Council Member Hanson returned to the dais.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Information Memorandum No. 18-001:** Updating the Council on the Governor’s Commuter Rail Advisory Task Force

Council Member LaFrance commented an alternative option needs to be addressed for transportation in the Mat-Su valley.

Council Member Fuller recommended a smaller scale pilot program, such as Anchorage to Eagle River or Birchwood, be implemented to save money.

Council Member Carrington agreed money could be saved and used better elsewhere.

Deputy Mayor Best inquired why the Palmer City Council was commenting on the Commuter Rail Task Force if Palmer is not included in the pilot program.

City Manager Nathan Wallace explained Palmer’s input was important because if the pilot is successful Palmer would be included in an expanded final program.

Main Motion: To Stop Funding and End the Commuter Rail Task Force

Moved by:	Fuller
Seconded by:	Best
Action:	Motion Failed
In favor:	Best, Fuller
Opposed:	Combs, DeVries, Hanson, LaFrance, Carrington

K. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

City Clerk Norma Alley reported a commuter rail survey under the Mayor’s Report and Ms. Carol Montgomery’s written public testimony regarding plastic bags were Items Placed on the Table.

L. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Kenda Huling commented she hoped City Council would consider bringing the train back to the city of Palmer.

M. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Combs announced she is looking forward to the public hearing regarding the plastic bag legislation and thanked the Mayor for accepting the invitation to throw out the first pitch at the Little League opening ceremony on May 5.

Council Member Fuller commented he wished the public turnout would continue and wished Council Member Hanson well with his new job.

Council Member Carrington declared a plastic bag solution was on his mind and wished Council Member Hanson well in his new endeavors.

Council Member LaFrance stated he was grateful for bike month being recognized by a proclamation and encouraged Mr. Joe Schlanger to tour the local recycling center.

Deputy Mayor Best Affirmed Council Member Hanson's dedication to Palmer and a job well done.

Council Member Hanson stated his resignation from City Council and submitted his written resignation to the City Clerk.

Mayor DeVries encouraged City Council to attend the Little League's opening ceremonies and thanked Council Member Hanson for 20 years of service on the City Council and six years on the Planning & Zoning Commission.

N. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Approved this 22nd day of May, 2018.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor