

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on March 14, 2017, at 7:00 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor DeVries called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Edna DeVries, Mayor	Linda Combs, Deputy Mayor
Richard Best	Steve Carrington
David Fuller	Brad Hanson
Peter LaFrance	

Also in attendance were the following:

Nathan Wallace, City Manager	Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk
Michael Gatti, City Attorney	Bernadette Packa, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Zoe Rigmaiden.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. **Action Memorandum No. 17-017:** Authorize the City Manager to Purchase Flail Boom Mower From Craig Taylor Equipment – Wasilla Branch in the Amount of \$64,723.00
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. January 17, 2017, Joint City Council and Airport Advisory Commission Meeting

Main Motion: To Approve Consent Agenda and Minutes

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Item 1 – Legislative Update with Senator Shelley Hughes (Teleconference)

- Thanked the Council for their service;
- Thanked the Council Members who traveled to Juneau recently;
- Expressed appreciation to Police Chief Ketterling for his participation in the Town Hall on Criminal Justice Reform;
- Addressed some of the proposed cuts to the State of Alaska Budget; and

- Fielded questions from the Council.

F. REPORTS

Item 1 – City Manager’s Report

City Manager Nathan Wallace:

- Highlighted his written report;
- Commented on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility pre-bid meeting;
- Provided a status update on progress with the Borough Dispatch transition;
- Provided an update on the Department of Transportation property acquisition, and the pursuit of a commercial property market analysis;
- Noted the appraisal on the Church property was underway;
- Spoke to planned construction of a new deck at the Golf Course to be completed by students from the Alaska Job Corps Center; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Item 2 – City Clerk’s Report

City Clerk Norma Alley:

- Highlighted her report provided on the table;
- Commented on upcoming Clerk’s Coalition meeting addressing records retention; and
- Noted a revised Records Retention Schedule was planned for review at an April meeting.

Item 3 – Mayor’s Report

Mayor DeVries:

- Requested Council Members have their biographies updated on the website as needed;
- Commented on a City Hall tour provided to a group of American Heritage Girls and their parents;
- Spoke to an upcoming Mat-Su Borough all day recycling event to be held at the lodge at Hatchers Pass;
- Spoke to an opportunity to provide a resolution in support of proposed upgrades for Denali National Park; and
- Announced Deputy Mayor Combs was scheduled to speak concerning Palmer Pride at a breakfast meeting for the Chamber of Commerce.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Allie Barker, Avalanche Specialist for the Hatchers Pass Avalanche Center:

- Provided an overview of the Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center and its mission;
- Requested the Council favorably consider their Community Grant application.

Ralph Baldwin, serves on the community advisory group supporting the Hatchers Pass Avalanche Center:

- Provided an overview of the community advisory group and its outreach activities; and
- Highlighted the community benefits which would be afforded the City of Palmer for its support.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1 – Ordinance No. 17-004: Amending the City of Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 4.30.100 Personal Leave Donations (IM No. 17-011)

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing. Seeing no one come forward, and hearing no objection from the Council, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Best required a staff report.

City Manager Wallace provided an explanation of items identified through time and experience which needed to be changed.

Main Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 17-004

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present.
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

Item 2 – Resolution No. 17-013: Accepting and Appropriating the 2017 State of Alaska High Visibility Enforcement Overtime Grant 405d M5HVE-17-01-00(A)-10 in the Amount of \$24,000.00 to be Used for High Visibility DUI Enforcement Activities by the Palmer Police Department (IM No. 17-013)

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing. Seeing no one come forward, and hearing no objection from the Council, the public hearing was closed.

Main Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 17-013

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Best
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

Item 3 – Action Memorandum No. 17-018: City Council Statement of Non-Objection to the Renewal of Liquor License #649, for Klondike Mike’s Saloon, Located at 820 S. Colony Way

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing. Seeing no one come forward, and hearing no objection from the Council, the public hearing was closed.

No statements of objection were received from the public.

Main Motion: To Authorize Action Memorandum No. 17-018

Moved by:	Carrington
Seconded by:	Best
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1 – Action Memorandum No. 17-019: Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute Amendment No. 4 to the Professional Services Agreement with HDR Alaska, Inc. for Construction Administration Services for the WWTP Facility Plan Updates, Not to Exceed \$789,895.00

Council Member Hanson requested a staff report.

City Manager Wallace provided information concerning a request made by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The City was asked to forego going out to bid for the Construction Management phase of the project and instead follow the USDA's standard procedure of coupling Design Services with Construction Management.

Main Motion: To Authorize Action Memorandum No. 17-019

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

Item 2 - Action Memorandum No. 17-020: Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Allowing the Palmer Police Department to Participate in the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Tactical Diversion Task Force Program

Council Member Hanson raised concerns regarding the cost of the program and the task force agreement.

City Manager Wallace explained the actual cost of the program was equal to adding an additional officer, approximately \$100,000.00 a year in salary and benefits. He noted the officer would be primarily dedicated to working Drug Enforcement Agency cases including those in the Palmer area.

Chief Ketterling shared what he viewed as the pros and cons of the program, noted other possible options, and fielded questions from the Council.

Main Motion: To Authorize Action Memorandum No. 17-020

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion carried by a 5-2 vote
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller
Opposed:	Hanson, LaFrance

Item 3 - Action Memorandum No. 17-021: Approve a Council Community Grant in the Amount of \$1,500.00 to MatSu Miners Baseball to Support the Mayor Green Day Gallup 2017

Main Motion: To Authorize Action Memorandum No. 17-021 as Amended

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Combs
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

Primary Amendment #1: To Reduce the Amount From 1,500.00 to \$1,000.00

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

Item 4 - Action Memorandum No. 17-022: Approve a Council Community Grant in the Amount of \$2,500.00 to the Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center to Provide Educational Information to the Public

Main Motion: To Authorize Action Memorandum No. 17-022 as Amended

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

Primary Amendment #1: To Reduce the Amount From \$2,500.00 to \$1,000.00

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Carrington
Action:	Motion failed by 3-4 vote
In favor:	Best, Carrington, DeVries
Opposed:	Combs, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance

Council Member LaFrance spoke to the work the group does in terms of community service, courses offered, and work to keep citizens safe. He believed they provide a valuable service to the community and supported funding the full request.

Deputy Mayor Combs spoke to the quality and thoroughness of the completed application. She believed the service provided by the organization, especially from the education standpoint, made it stand out as being a level above.

Council Member Fuller pointed out the value of having the City of Palmer logo on the Hatchers Pass Avalanche Center’s brochures. He felt it would not only speak the City’s support, but would work to market Palmer as the Gateway to Hatchers Pass.

Primary Amendment #2: To Reduce the Amount From \$2,500.00 to \$2,000.00

Moved by:	Hanson
Seconded by:	Best
Action:	Motion carried by 6-1 vote
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson
Opposed:	LaFrance

J. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Clerk’s Report

K. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

L. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member LaFrance:

- Commented he would see everyone at the Mayor’s Green Day Gallup.

Council Member Best:

- Reminded everyone to beware of slick roads and playing children.

Deputy Mayor Combs:

- Noted the Criminal Justice Reform Town Hall was a success;
- Expressed appreciation to Chief Ketterling’s outreach to the community; and
- Spoke to the successful grand opening of the new Fred Meyers; and expressed appreciation for the emphasis placed on the employee’s during the events.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. **Item 1** – Subjects That Tend to Prejudice the Reputation and Character of Any Person – City Clerk
(Note: Personnel 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

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Best
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

The Council took a recess from 8:54 pm to 9:04 pm.

The Council entered into Executive Session at 9:04 pm and exited at 9:47 pm.

Upon exiting the Executive Session, the following motions were made:

Main Motion: To Increase Salary by 5% Following a Satisfactory Evaluation and Have Increase Take Effect on Anniversary Date

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Best
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

N. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm.

Approved this 28th day of March, 2017.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor