

A. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on March 21, 2017, at 6:00 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor DeVries called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Edna DeVries, Mayor	Linda Combs, Deputy Mayor
Richard Best – arrived at 7:35	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	

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

City Clerk Alley handed out written testimony from Mr. Jack Snodgrass to be entered into the record.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Discussion on City of Palmer Vision and Goals

Main Motion: To enter into a Committee of the Whole to Discuss City of Palmer Vision and Goals

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

The Council entered into a Committee of the Whole at 6:05 pm.

City Manager Wallace reviewed each of the handouts provided on the table. Discussion ensued regarding the vision statement.

Topics of discussion and ideas brought forth included:

- Continue current standard of Public Safety services;
- Ensuring the Palmer community remains desirable and sought after due to good quality of life, translated to walkability, access to wilderness, and quality beverages provided by the community;
- Proposed additions to the vision statement including:
 - Growth of tourism;
 - Palmer's relationship with surrounding area regarding recreational uses;
 - Hotels
 - Value of Quad and green space to the community. Define long term value and possibly remove the fence;
 - Clarify different sections of the City to become a destination point.
 - Provide more clarification on Matanuska River being a multi-use area;
 - Clean up the transportation piece of the Vision Statement to provide clarity. Incorporate the major transportation discussions had by Council, and tie them together.
 - Annexation providing growth being an important part of a viable community;
 - Include Palmer as a skiing recreation destination;
 - Removal of limiting descriptors such as "basic shopping needs"; and
- Obtaining input from the public through meetings or a survey.

Discussion ensued on Comprehensive Plan Goals and topics included:

- The use of the term adequate being equated to average and that not being the tone the City wants to project;
- Goals speak of services being provided inside the City of Palmer; however, those services are also being provided outside the City of Palmer limits, and the goals need to reflect current practice; and
- Focus needs to reflect the Palmer Community rather than the City of Palmer.

Main Motion: To Come Out of the Committee of the Whole

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

The Council exited the Committee of the Whole at 7:44 pm.

F. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Written Testimony provided by Mr. Jack Snodgrass
Palmer 2035 Vision Statement
City of Palmer Goals
Cross Reference Terms
Mission Statement

Mayor DeVries suspended the rules and hearing no objection from the Council, she opened an additional Audience Participation.

Ms. Terry Snyder:

- Complimented the Council for their work and discussion;
- Announced she would be presenting on AARP's Livable Communities at the Regular City Council meeting next week; and
- Believed the information to be presented may significantly add to the vision and goals discussion.

G. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Combs:

- Complimented the initiative and creativity of the City Manager to inspire the Council.

Council Member Fuller:

- Encouraged the mention of annexation from the beginning if there is a vision to pursue it; and
- Felt it was a great meeting.

Council Member LaFrance:

- Stated the Council would not go wrong if it continued to focus on livability and quality of life.

Council Member Carrington:

- Thanked the City Manager and staff for providing a good starting point for the Council.

Mayor DeVries:

- Thanked the City Manager for his work, and stated he did an excellent job.

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Approved this 11th day of April, 2017.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor