

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on May 23, 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 Council Member Hanson.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. April 25, 2017, Regular Meeting

Main Motion: To Approve Agenda and Minutes

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

E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Item 1 – Sister School Student Delegation from the Middle and High School

Instructor Carla Swick introduced the group. Each student recited an introduction in Japanese and then in English. They all shared their hopes and expectations for their upcoming trip to Japan in June and thanked the Council for its support.

Monetary checks were presented to the group by Tawna Lang, from Palmer Saroma Kai, and by Mayor Edna DeVries, from the City Council.

The Council took a brief recess for a group photo.

Item 2 – Presentation on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Long Range Plan from Mat-Su Borough Planner II Jessica Smith

Jessica Smith's presentation:

- Explained the purpose of a Long Range Transportation Plan was to determine what transportation needs would be in twenty years, and how that differs from use today;
- Noted the process used for development of the current plan;
- Supplied addresses and phone numbers to make comment on the Long Range Transportation Plan by contacting www.MSBLRTP2035.com, planning@matsugov.us, or 907-861-8514; and
- Strongly encouraged everyone to share their thoughts and concerns about the proposed plan.

F. REPORTS

Item 1 – City Manager's Report

City Manager Nathan Wallace:

- Highlighted his written report;
- Expressed appreciation to the Palmer Dispatch staff for a job well done;
- Anticipated receipt of a Notice to Proceed on the Wastewater Treatment Facility from the United States Department of Agriculture within the week;
- Provided an update on the Airport Paving project;
- Spoke to concerns regarding the Greater Palmer Fire Service Area contract renewal; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Item 2 – City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Norma Alley:

- Noted a change to the meeting schedule;
- Provided an update on the election season;
- Noted the deadline for ballot propositions; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Item 3 – Mayor's Report

Mayor DeVries:

- Highlighted her written report;
- Commented on speeding issues;
- Noted Crowley's Open House scheduled for May 24, 2017; and
- Commented on attendance of a Mayors and Managers Meeting where a 3% Summer Sales tax was proposed by the Mat-Su Borough School District Administration.

Item 4 – City Attorney's Report

Michael Gatti:

- Commented on hearing from the Alaska Municipal League Executive Director concerning state legislation HB5004 addressing sales tax; and
- Suggested the Council review the bill and become aware of its impact on local communities.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Steve Colligan:

- Spoke in favor of the creation of a public utility for dispatch services to utilize resources more efficiently.

Jill Valerius:

- Spoke to the success of the Palmer Spring Classic; and
- Expressed appreciation for the Bike Repair Station located near the Palmer Depot building.

Robert Trout:

- Suggested a reduced water and sewer fee be established for "snowbirds," individuals whose homes remain vacant while they are out of state for several months during the winter.

John Sliwinski, owner of Alaska Air Fuel:

- Spoke to its mission of providing fuel to rural locations;
- Commented on a Notice to Vacate received from the City;
- Expressed a need for better communication with the City; and
- Commented on business plans for the future.

Mary Smith, owner and publisher of Edible Alaska:

- Introduced herself and supplied a recent copy of the magazine.

Jim Sykes:

- Encouraged the Council to work to provide continued quality fire and safety services; and
- Requested the Council provide input to the Mat-Su Borough Assembly concerning a borough tax.

Don King:

- Spoke in support of Alaska Air Fuel; and
- Requested the City meet with Alaska Air Fuel and come to a resolution.

Eric Mohrmann:

- Commented on the excellent quality of work performed by the Palmer Fire Department; and
- Requested the City work to renew its Greater Palmer Fire Service Area contract.

Rick Howe:

- Commented on his service over the last 30 years and having had the tools necessary;
- Spoke to asset limitations provided by the borough; and
- Spoke to working together to get the job done.

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Spoke to conflicts in meeting dates; and
- Addressed a Mat-Su Borough bid process error.

Bentley Surdyk:

- Spoke to a lack of communication between Alaska Air Fuel and the City of Palmer; and
- Noted he believed things could be worked out.

The Council took a brief recess from 8:55 pm to 9:11 pm.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1 – Ordinance No. 17-008: Adopting a City of Palmer Parks, Recreation and Outdoor Facilities Memorial and Donation Policy (Pending Motion) (2nd Public Hearing)

Mayor DeVries requested a staff report. City Manager Wallace pointed out the ordinance was establishing policy, not code.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

Dot Helm:

- Spoke to development of the policy; and
- Provided clarification concerning legacy (life cycle) funding.

Hearing no objection, Mayor DeVries closed the public hearing.

Discussion ensued by the Council.

Main Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 17-008

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	
In favor:	
Opposed:	

Motion to Postpone: To postpone to the July 11, 2017, meeting in order to allow staff to make the following changes: remove all references to memorial, change the reference from purchase to donation where appropriate, and remove the last line from the first paragraph of 4.B. ~~The Board must approve all text and graphics for the donation plaques.~~

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

Item 2 - Resolution No. 17-019: Authorizing the Sale of 1.34 Acres of the Parcel of Land Located at 2390 S. Glenn Highway to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in Accordance with Palmer Municipal Code 3.20.080.D in the Amount of \$64,600.00

City Clerk Alley clarified an error in the agenda which confused this property with another property also for sale. No pending motion existed, and this would be the first public hearing on Resolution No. 17-019.

Mayor DeVries requested a staff report. City Manager Wallace pointed out the property was the Church Estate. He noted the appraisal came in higher than the appraisal done for the City last year.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Commented on the need for an additional public hearing on Resolution No. 17-019; and
- Suggested the need for additional information prior to the Council making a decision.

Hearing no objections, Mayor DeVries closed the public hearing.

Council Member Hanson missed not having the comparison properties included in the packet. He also asked if the utilities easement was within these 1.34 acres or if there was the possibility of a future request for an additional portion of the property for use as an easement.

Council Member Best noted a plat map showing existing structure and improvement detail was needed.

Main Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 17-019

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

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1 - Action Memorandum No. 17-037: Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Two Year Agreement, With up to Three One-Year Extensions, with the City of Wasilla in which Palmer Will Act as a Secondary Public Safety Answering Point in the Event of Overflow Calls to the Primary Public Safety Answering Point

Main Motion: To Authorize Action Memorandum No. 17-037

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

Council Member Hanson noted a responsibility to the people to provide quality trusted service for less cost. Deputy Mayor Combs and Council Member Carrington concurred with Council Member Hanson's comments.

J. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Long Range Transportation Plan Road Improvement Map provided by Mat-Su Borough Planner
Edible Alaska Magazine for Spring 2017 provided by Mary Smith

K. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Noted the more complicated an issue was the more important it was for the public to be heard.

L. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Carrington:

- Noted he would like to see the issue with Alaska Air Fuel reconciled without violating anything with the FAA; and
- Requested acquisition of and updated election map only showing City of Palmer precincts.

Council Member LaFrance:

- Expressed appreciation to the City for the repairs being done on south Alaska Street; and
- Requested support to pursue a Parks and Trails Grant with funds from the easement sale. Council Member Hanson offered support.

Council Member Best:

- Thanked the public for showing up and expressing their thoughts and opinions; and
- Expressed displeasure at Assembly Member Colligan's representation of unfortunate events associated with dispatch units in other communities and wanted to make sure the record was clear it was not addressing an event in Palmer.

Council Member Hanson agreed with Council Member Best.

Council Member Fuller:

- Commented on the Friday Fling kick-off last week; and
- Encouraged everyone to visit Alaska Pickers, a new business in town, opening June 3, 2017.

Deputy Mayor Combs:

- Recapped the numerous events which took place in Palmer on May 13, 2017, including the High School Regional Track Meet, City Clean-up Day, Opening Day for Little League, Bike Blessing, Palmer Art Walk, Bike Classic, and appearance of the first Tour Bus for the season; and
- Encouraged everyone to attend Colony Days events on June 9, 10, and 11.

Mayor DeVries:

- Mentioned being approached concerning the possibility of installing a 70-foot flag pole at the library, and requested Council feedback on the idea be submitted to the City Clerk.

M. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 pm.

Approved this 27th day of June, 2017.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor