

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on July 11, 2017, 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	Linda Combs, Deputy Mayor
Richard Best	Steve Carrington
David Fuller	Brad Hanson

Council Member LaFrance was absent and excused.

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 Consent Agenda
 - a. Introduction of **Ordinance No. 17-011**: Amending the City of Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 5.04 Business Licenses Regarding Landlords
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. June 13, 2017, Regular Meeting

Main Motion: To Approve Consent Agenda and Minutes

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

E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Item 1 – Planning & Zoning Commission Chair Dan Lucas addressed actions taken by the commission over the last six months including:

- Recommendations for three rezones;
- Review of five platting actions;
- Began an update of Title 17;

- Attendance of a Population Migration Statistics Presentation from the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Work Force Management; and
- Attendance of a Long-Range Transportation Plan presentation by the Mat-Su Borough Planning Department.

Mayor DeVries thanked Chairman Lucas for his work and asked him to extend the Council's appreciation to the Planning & Zoning Commission as well.

F. REPORTS

Item 1 – City Manager's Report

City Manager Nathan Wallace:

- Highlighted his construction report;
- Noted the Open House scheduled for tomorrow night at the Depot to provide an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant progress;
- Commented on projected sewage rates;
- Confirmed the Dispatch Service was successfully transferred over;
- Spoke to a grant proposal placed with Mat-Su Health Foundation to fund an Opioid Task Force;
- Addressed a letter from Granite concerning their upcoming deadline for water main installation across the Glenn Highway;
- Handed out copies of the Mat-Su Bike Map; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Item 2 – City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Norma Alley:

- Highlighted her written report; and
- Noted Senator Murkowski would attend the Chamber Luncheon on August 30, 2017, to be held at the State Fair Grounds.

Item 3 – Mayor's Report

Mayor DeVries:

- Highlighted her written report;
- Commented on the 11 Board and Commission appointments to be made in October;
- Announced the Hatcher Pass Epic Bike Ride to take place August 12, 2017; and
- Commented on the Palmer Pride awards and the number of nominations received.

Item 4 – City Attorney's Report

Michael Gatti:

- Announced having signed Stipulation to Dismiss with Prejudice the Mountain Rose Estates Administrative Appeal; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Monica Goyette, Mat-Su Borough School District Superintendent:

- Addressed the need for the proposed Mat-Su Borough sales tax;
- Noted other large boroughs in the state received over a thousand dollars more per student; and
- Strongly encouraged the Council to act in favor of the proposed sales tax.

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Addressed the borough sales tax resolution and the lack of time provided for public comment before action would be taken by the Council; and
- Encouraged the Council not to take action and hold an additional public hearing at the next meeting.

The Council took a brief recess from 8:15 to 8:25 p.m.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1 – Ordinance No. 17-008: Adopting a City of Palmer Parks, Recreation and Outdoor Facilities Donation Policy (Pending Motion) (3rd Public Hearing)

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Spoke to Ordinance No. 17-008-S and noted due to changes to the original document the ordinance should have been re-introduced prior to holding the public hearing.

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

Main Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 17-008 as Amended to Adopt by Substitute Ordinance No. 17-008-S

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

Primary Amendment #1: To Correct Format on Item 4.B.

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

Primary Amendment #2: To Amend by Substitute Ordinance No. 17-008-S

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

Primary Amendment #3: To Amend Substitute Ordinance to Include Item 4.B Format Correction

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

Primary Amendment #4: To Remove Items 5.A., B., C., and D., and Direct the Manager to Create Policy Addressing Specifications for Bicycles, Benches, and Picnic Tables

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

Primary Amendment #5: To Remove Item 9. Public Art

Moved by:	DeVries
Seconded by:	Best
Action:	Motion carried by 5-1 voice vote
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Hanson
Opposed:	Fuller

Item 2 – Resolution No. 17-024: Authorizing the City Manager and Mayor to Execute the Necessary Documents to Purchase Fire Station No. 3-1 on Lots 10, 11, and 12, Block 12, of the ARRC Subdivision from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough In the Amount of One Dollar per Lease Agreement Dated February 28, 1978

Mayor DeVries asked for a staff report. City Manager Wallace provided an historic overview of the agreement.

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

Main Motion: To Authorize Resolution No. 17-024

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

I. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Committee of the Whole to Discuss Borough Sales Tax (note: action may be taken by the council following the committee of the whole)

- a. **Resolution No. 17-025:** Requesting the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Not Adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-093, Ordinance Serial No. 17-094, and Ordinance No. 17-095 all Pertaining to an Implementation of an Areawide Sales Tax

Main Motion: To Enter Into a Committee of the Whole to Discuss Borough Sales Tax and Resolution No. 17-025

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

Deputy Mayor Combs asked if any communication from the public had been received concerning the matter. The City Clerk noted hearing from the Mat-Su Borough Superintendent's Office and recommending Superintendent Goyette attend the meeting to speak during Audience Participation.

The City Clerk also noted receipt of substitute Resolution No. 17-025-S, which had been prepared by the City Attorney and staff but not printed in the packet. The resolution was distributed at the table for review during the Committee of the Whole.

Deputy Mayor Combs provided a report on the development of Resolution No. 17-025, which stood against an areawide Borough sales tax. She noted the stance had nothing to do with whether it was a good idea to fund education, but rather, she was concerned with the disparities and clarity in the Borough's documents.

The Council took a brief recess from 9:06 to 9:09 p.m. to review the substitute resolution.

Concerns addressed within the Committee of the Whole included:

- The City Council's full support of education in the Mat-Su Valley;
- An additional sales tax being burdensome to seniors and young families;
- The impact of an additional sales tax on the economic viability of the City of Palmer businesses;
- The responsibility of the State of Alaska to fully fund all educational needs;
- The Borough's role and collection mechanisms for the proposed tax;
- The need to maintain sales tax as Palmer's funding source and leave property tax to the Borough;
- The Borough's need to seek out other avenues to generate revenue; and
- The lack of transparency concerning the Mat-Su Borough School Budget.

Council consensus noted the substitute resolution embodied the intent of the original resolution opposing the proposed Borough tax.

Main Motion: To Come Out of a Committee of the Whole to Discuss Borough Sales Tax and Resolution No. 17-025

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

The Council entered into a Committee of the Whole at 9:00 p.m. and exited at 9:33 p.m.

Main Motion: To Adopt Resolution No. 17-025-S

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

J. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

- Letter from Granite and the Mat-Su Bike Map provided by the City Manager
- Handout from Mat-Su Borough Superintendent Monica Goyette
- Substitute Resolution No. 17-025-S

K. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Spoke against the substitution of Resolution No. 17-025-S; and
- Addressed upcoming School Board and Assembly meetings.

L. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Carrington:

- Noted actions taken tonight were on behalf of the citizens of Palmer.

Council Member Best:

- Shared hearing from many residents and businesses about the proposed borough tax; and
- Believed actions taken were in the best interest of Palmer.

Council Member Hanson:

- Noted the passion of the Council was to take care of the residents of Palmer and to do it well; and
- Thanked the Superintendent for attending the meeting.

Council Member Hanson requested support to have the City Manager develop policy for memorials within the City of Palmer. Mayor DeVries offered support.

Council Member Hanson requested support to have the City Manager develop policy for the incorporation of art on public land. Council Member Carrington offered support.

Council Member Fuller:

- Thanked Superintendent for attending the meeting; and
- Expressed no confidence in what the Borough has proposed to handle the shortfall for education.

Deputy Mayor Combs:

- Expressed appreciation to the Superintendent for attending the meeting;
- Commented on being available to the constituents to discuss concerns about the City of Palmer;
- Commented on last week's attendance of the Palmer Wine Walk; and
- Reminded everyone of the upcoming Palmer Pride celebration.

M. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Approved this 25th day of July, 2017.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor