

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on August 8, 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
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 Carrington.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. **Action Memorandum No. 17-057:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Contract with K&H Civil Constructors, in the Amount, Not to Exceed, \$105,415.00, to Perform Site Work and Utility Extensions for a Future Water Pressure Booster Station Located on Bogard Road
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. June 27, 2017, Regular Meeting
 - b. July 25, 2017, Special Meeting
 - c. July 25, 2017, Regular 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 – Airport Advisory Commission Chair John Lee

- Commented on the paving project underway at the airport;
- Spoke to the Federal Aviation Administration Pancake Breakfast and Summer Solstice Boogie;

- Commented on outcome of the fuel flowage fee and addressed lease activity;
- Highlighted accomplishments of the commission to include additions to the City website airport pages;
- Noted the direction in which the commission wanted to move; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Deputy Mayor Combs thanked Chair Lee for his years of service and the hard work accomplished by the entire Airport Advisory Commission. Mayor DeVries expressed appreciation to the commission for their service.

F. REPORTS

Item 1 – City Manager’s Report

City Manager Nathan Wallace:

- Provided an overview of the project report;
- Provided an update on the proposed Mat-Su Borough Sales Tax;
- Addressed a proposed plastic bag tax by the Mat-Su Borough;
- Noted the Mat-Su Miners won the 2017 Alaska Baseball League Championship;
- Noted the city was on the list to receive a Homeland Security Grant;
- Highlighted work on the Palmer–Wasilla Eastern Terminus;
- Commented on receipt of a new offer from Granite Construction;
- Noted his evaluation was scheduled for the August 22, meeting; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

City Attorney Gatti spoke to the provision for municipalities to dedicate funds received through sales tax. He also noted the differences between a sales tax and an excise tax.

Item 2 – City Clerk’s Report

City Clerk Norma Alley highlighted her written report.

Item 3 – Mayor’s Report

Mayor DeVries:

- Highlighted her written report;
- Addressed a letter received from the Mat-Su Tennis Association concerning resurfacing of the Bill Hermann Tennis Courts;
- Addressed a work party scheduled for Friday to clean-up graffiti at the Amosment Park;
- Noted additional upcoming events; and
- Commented on the public’s reception of the Beautification Awards for Palmer Pride.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Addressed Information Memorandum No. 17-016 concerning proposed meeting time change for the boards and commissions;
- Spoke against the potential changes to sections on recording proceedings and noticing; and
- Spoke against use of substitute resolutions.

Mike Chmielewski:

- Spoke to excise taxes and noted positive points regarding them.

Reese Everett:

- Provided Mat-Su Borough School District updates; and
- Expressed excitement regarding the start of the new school year.

H. NEW BUSINESS

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

- Discuss 2018 Budget Priorities
- Discuss IM No. 17-016: Potential Palmer Municipal Code Amendments Regarding Boards and Commissions

Main Motion: To Enter Into a Committee of the Whole to Discuss the 2018 Budget Priorities and IM No. 17-016: Potential Palmer Municipal Code Amendments Regarding Boards and Commissions

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

The Council took a brief recess from 8:07 to 8:21 p.m.

a. Discussion on 2018 Budget Priorities

City Manager Wallace provided a handout which graphically displayed budgeted amounts and actual expenditures from the last four years. He also spoke to items from the capital projects list he handed out.

City Clerk Alley presented and addressed three major budget items, including an electronic records management system, election equipment, and the addition of a half-time administrative assistant.

b. Discussion on IM No. 17-016: Potential Palmer Municipal Code Amendments Regarding Boards and Commissions

City Clerk Alley presented and clarified the proposed changes while fielding questions from the Council.

Items of discussion included:

- Meeting time change;
- Excused absences;
- Change of term to start January 1 and end December 31;
- Appointment of an ex officio student member from an area high school;
- Resident requirement for the Board of Economic Development;
- Noticing in the Frontiersman; and
- Recording of meetings.

The Council entered into a Committee of the Whole at 8:06 p.m. and exited at 10:00 p.m.

I. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Mat-Su Tennis Association Funding Request letter handed out during the Mayor’s Report
 Map of Palmer–Wasilla Highway Eastern Terminus Project handed out by City Manager Wallace
 Graphs and Spreadsheets regarding 2018 Budget handed out by City Manager Wallace
 Table of Items for 2018 Budget handed out by City Clerk Alley

J. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Addressed the Mat-Su Borough's proposed sales tax and responses from local governments.

K. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Combs:

- Reminded everyone of the first at home football game for Palmer High School scheduled for Friday night;
- Commented on the success of the Palmer Pride Picnic;
- Commented on the outstanding video on the City's Facebook page showing work being done at the airport; and
- Mentioned the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center would be applying for a Certificate of Need to add beds specifically for behavioral health assessments.

Council Member Fuller:

- Noted he would be out of state for the next meeting, and he hoped to participate telephonically.

Council Member Hanson:

- Extended his support to Deputy Mayor Combs; and
- Suggested the City look at the installation of security cameras to stave off the occurrence of graffiti.

Council Member Best:

- Concurred with Council Member Hanson concerning security cameras; and
- Spoke in support of the use of cameras as well, but addressed concern regarding retention of the images.

Council Member LaFrance:

- Reminded everyone of the Hatcher Pass Epic scheduled for this weekend;
- Expressed his heartfelt condolences to Deputy Mayor Combs;
- Commented on the wonderful experience of his first flight from the Palmer Airport.

Council Member Carrington:

- Offered his condolences and prayers to Deputy Mayor Combs; and
- Thanked Radio Free Palmer for partnering with the Council to broadcast the meetings.

Mayor DeVries:

- Noted this week's cancellation of the meeting of the Mayor's, Manager's, and Mat-Su School District.

L. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Approved this 22nd day of August, 2017.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor