

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on November 28, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in 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	Richard Best, Deputy Mayor
Sabrina Combs	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	Pamela Whitehead, Minutes Recorder

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. **Introduction to Ordinance No. 17-015:** Adopting a New Official Zoning Districts Map Superseding the Prior Map Adopted February 24, 2015, in Accordance with Palmer Municipal Code 17.16.040 Map – Replacement.
 - b. **Action Memorandum No. 17-078:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Replacement Agricultural Lease with Robert Shumaker for a Parcel of Land Containing Approximately 5.44 Acres of Airport Land Described as Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Mohan Subdivision Located on Outer Springer Loop.
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. October 17, 2017, Special Meeting
 - b. October 24, 2017, Special Meeting

Mayor DeVries called for approval of the Agenda.

Main Motion: To Approve the Consent Agenda and Minutes

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

E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Item 1 – Presentation from MEA Director of Public Affairs, Julie Estey, Regarding MEA Easement Clearing and Rate Adjustments.

Julie Estey, MEA Director of External Affairs:

- Reported on the planned easement clearing within Palmer city limits;
- Explained recent rate changes and rate projections for 2018;
- Provided pertinent information contained in the packet; and
- Responded to Council member questions.

Mayor DeVries thanked Ms. Estey for her presentation.

Item 2 – Presentation from Palmer Golf Course.

Director George Collum:

- Provided a slide show report summarizing the Palmer Golf Course 2017 season;
- Highlighted golfing events and tournaments attracting golfers from out of state as well as Alaska;
- Discussed condition of the greens, promotion, maintenance, equipment, revenue, goals and projections; and advocated for a new maintenance building and renewal of his contract; and
- Responded to Council member questions regarding contract elements, fee schedule, capital requests, and junior golf.

Mayor DeVries thanked Mr. Collum for his report and noted the Council looks forward to his budget presentation for capital improvements.

F. REPORTS

Item 1 – City Manager’s Report

City Manager Nathan Wallace:

- Highlighted his written report;
- Provided an update of October statistics for Police, Fire, Community Development, Building Department, and Airport;
- Advised the new sign unveiling for Warren “Bud” Woods Palmer Municipal Airport is scheduled for November 8 in addition to celebrating the renamed Randy Thom Flight Service Center in conjunction with the beginning of Colony Christmas; and
- Reported on security measures being taken at the Airport and discussed the Airport Watch program;
- Discussed insurance coverage for the Airport.

Item 2 – City Clerk’s Report

City Clerk Norma Alley:

- Highlighted her written report on the table;
- Reported there are no concerns related to attendance records of the boards and commissions;
- Announced that Angie Anderson will begin her duties as the new Deputy Clerk on December 4;
- Reported on the AAMC and AML Conference and felt the training was exceptional;
- Spoke to elections and voter rolls; and
- Provided a tentative schedule for Boards and Commissions joint meetings.

Item 3 – Mayor’s Report

Mayor DeVries highlighted her written report speaking to upcoming events and announced the Hanukah Celebration on December 13 and the Depot

Item 4 – City Attorney’s Report - None

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Eugene Carl Haberman spoke to the lack of transparency by Matanuska Electric Association referencing its presentation on rates this evening without opportunity for the public to question the reports.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1 – Ordinance No. 17-013: Amending Palmer Municipal Code 8.36.025: Certain Acts Requiring Permit, Authorizing the City Manager to Grant a Noise Permit Extension for Public Construction Projects.

City Manager Wallace provided a brief overview noting the amendment would give the City Manager discretion, if warranted, to authorize a time extension of a noise permit for longer than 8 hours following review of any impact to the public.

Mayor DeVries opened the public Hearing. There being no one coming forward to speak, and hearing no objection by the Council, the public hearing was closed.

Main Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 17-013.

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

Mayor DeVries called a recess from 8:24 to 8:34 p.m.

Item 2 – Ordinance No. 17-014: Amending Palmer Municipal Code 17.64.021: Parking Lot Design Standards, Deleting 17.64.121(H) Requiring Refuse Containers Located Within or on the Same Pavement as the Parking Area to be Screened.

City Manager Wallace provided background information and outlined the underlying reasons for the proposed amendment, referencing the Planning and Zoning Commission’s recommendation that the screening requirement (paragraph H) be removed from PMC 17.64.021 and more appropriately addressed in the sanitation section of the Palmer Municipal Code.

Mayor DeVries opened the public Hearing. There being no one coming forward to speak and hearing no objection by the Council, the public hearing was closed.

Main Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 17-014.

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

The Council discussed the issue at length, primarily debating the intent of the requirement, endeavoring to find a balance between aesthetics and public health. The majority were ultimately in favor of removal and to more appropriately deal with the screening requirement in Title 8 of the Palmer Municipal Code.

Council Member LaFrance expressed concern of fully removing the requirement without a clear plan for amendment or replacement.

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1 – Action Memorandum No. 17-079: Approving a Council Community Grant in the Amount of \$1,500.00 to Radio Free Palmer to Support Live Video Streaming/Recording of City Council Meetings.

Main Motion: To Authorize Action Memorandum No. 17-079, as amended, in the amount of \$1,335.00 to Radio Free Palmer to Support Live Video Streaming/Recording, as Amended

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

Primary Amendment #1: To Reduce the Grant Amount to \$1,335.00.

Moved by:	Carrington
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion Carried
In favor:	Carrington, Combs, Fuller, LaFrance
Opposed:	Best, Hanson, DeVries

Applicant, Mike Chimelewski, Radio Free Palmer:

- Responded to Council questions, addressed some of the concerns raised, and described how the video software system would work; suggested visiting the Eugene, Oregon, website for an example;
- Emphasized the value in being able to key agenda items to the video;
- Noted the system could be used for other community events as well as city meetings.

Motion to Postpone: To the December 12, 2017 Council Meeting.

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Hanson
Action:	Motion Failed
In favor:	Best, Hanson, DeVries
Opposed:	Carrington, Combs, Fuller, LaFrance

Concerns were raised about implementing the video system for City Council meetings until it can be discussed further.

Primary Amendment #2: To Strike “Of City Council Meetings” From the Subject Line of AM No. 17-079 Until There is Further Discussion on The Matter.

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

J. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Information Memorandum No. 17-018: Reporting on an Airport Influence Area as Recommended by the Airport Advisory Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Upon request, City Manager Wallace provided a staff report explaining the defined Airport Influence Area. The purpose is for notification purposes only of proximity to the airport and not for imposing any restrictions.

K. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

City Clerk Norma Alley reported the following documents were Items Placed on the Table:

- Flyer highlighting Golf Board features; and
- City Clerk's Report.

L. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Spoke to the lack of notice for public participation in the Mat-Su Borough sales tax meetings;
- Suggested it would be inappropriate for the City to participate in such meetings if they are held without public involvement; and
- Commented in opposition to the location of the Borough Assembly January special meeting for a financial overview of the 2019 budget being held in Talkeetna.

M. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Carrington commented in support of the video streaming issue, reflecting that one of his jobs when he worked for MEA years ago was to audio-record the MEA Board Meetings and place them on the web; and spoke in appreciation for software that would lay it all out instead of doing it manually.

Council Member Hanson spoke in appreciation for Stan Guthrie and Country Cutts for the magnificent fireworks display this past Friday, noting it was his 18th year.

Council Member Fuller:

- Commented in support of the video streaming and hopes it goes forward;
- Thinks it would set a new level of transparency and hopefully get more people involved;
- Thought it was a great Black Friday/Small Business Saturday in Palmer; and
- Commented also that it was a great firework show.

Council Member Combs agreed that the video-keyed agenda would be an amazing addition and Spoke in appreciation of Radio Free Palmer for all of the work that they do in our community.

N. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Approved this 23rd day of January, 2018.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor