

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on February 23, 2016 at 7 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Richard Best	Brad Hanson
Steve Carrington	DeLena Goodwin Johnson
Linda Combs	Peter LaFrance
Edna DeVries	

Also in attendance were the following:

Nathan Wallace, City Manager
Janette Bower, City Clerk
Bernadette Packa, Deputy City Clerk
Michael Gatti, City Attorney

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tom Jurasek.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Introduction – Ordinance No. 16-008: Enacting Palmer Municipal Code Section 12.08.015 Fuel Flowage Fee (IM 16-007)
 - b. Action Memorandum 16-020: Approve Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Advisory Board Member Eddie Kessler’s Resignation from the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Advisory Board
 - c. Action Memorandum 16-022: Confirm the Mayor’s Appointment of Fran Seager-Boss to the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Advisory Board
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. January 26, 2016, Special Meeting
 - b. February 2, 2016, Special Meeting

E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

1. Brittney Jurasek, representing Quill, Inc.:
 - Introduced Quill Inc. DBA Valor Construction program;

- Noted the veteran and active board members; and
- Outlined the Homes for Heroes program, benefits to veterans, and anticipated community impact.

F. REPORTS

Item 1 – City Manager’s Report

City Manager Wallace:

- Highlighted his written report;
- Commented on Planned Unit Development Appeal Hearing results; and
- Commented on AML trip to Juneau.

Council Member Best asked questions concerning project report. Council Member DeVries asked the Manager for an update on the malfunctioning scoreboard at the MTA Events Center.

Item 2 – City Clerk’s Report

City Clerk Janette Bower:

- Addressed ordinances concerning Elections which will come before the Council at the next meeting; and
- Commented on preparatory work being done for Elections.

Item 3 – Mayor’s Report

Mayor Johnson:

- Commented on the Alaska Railroad bringing three train cars out on April 20, 2016 for the Who Let the Girls Out event;
- Commented on meeting with Alaska’s congressional delegates to discuss Palmer; and
- Highlighted contacts made with the public.

Item 4 – City Attorney’s Report

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Rachel Greenberg, Executive Director of Palmer Senior Center:

- Provided updates regarding the old Senior Center;
- Shared reasons behind rejecting the Salvation Army’s offer to purchase the center; and
- Thanked the Council for its support in the past and in the future.

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Commented on the hiring process for the new City Clerk;
- Addressed the need to insure public process; and
- Shared information concerning local board meetings.

Kenni Psenak Linden:

- Spoke in support of Action Memorandum 16-024 and the Community Grant;
- Spoke to the great work done by Active Soles in the community; and
- Spoke in support of the Grow Palmer garden relocation.

Del Sampson:

- Spoke in favor of Grow Palmer.

Jan Newman, Grow Palmer Volunteer:

- Provided an overview of the Grow Palmer program;
- Spoke to a technical assistance grant received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and
- Asked support for the Edible Rail Trail project this summer.

Curtis Slater, Quill Inc. Board Member:

- Strongly encouraged the council to support and move forward with the Valor Construction Program.

Hal Docherty, representative from Spenard Builders Supply:

- Encouraged support for the Quill Inc. project.

Marcus Crowley:

- Addressed the needs of veterans; and
- Spoke in support of the Quill Inc. project.

Laura Sampson:

- Spoke in support of Grow Palmer.

Jill Valerius:

- Spoke in support of Grow Palmer and what it has done for the community;
- Expressed appreciation for the community grant provided to Active Soles; and
- Commented on the community building opportunity provided by the Quill Inc. project.

Megan Talley, Farm Manager at Spring Creek Farm:

- Spoke in support of Grow Palmer; and
- Commented on the shortage of farmers in Alaska.

Gary Simmons, Quill Inc. Board Member:

- Commented on the need to help veterans in the community; and
- Asked support for the project.

Kate Arnold, works with Active Soles Footwear:

- Commented on the development of local races;
- Addressed current and future benefits provided by local racing events; and
- Requested support for the community grant.

Mayor Johnson asked support to have the City Manager meet with Quill Inc. and bring back a report to Council concerning the project at the April 12 meeting. Council Members Combs and Carrington offered support.

Council Member DeVries requested that the City Attorney also participate in the discussion with Quill Inc.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing.

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Expressed concern regarding clarifying information not included in the packet content.

Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

Item 1 – Resolution No. 15-001 K: Amending the 2015 City of Palmer Budget for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2015 (IM 16-009) (Public Hearing 2 of 2)

Main Motion: To approve Resolution No. 15-001 K as amended

Moved by:	Hanson
Seconded by:	DeVries
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Hanson, Johnson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

Primary Amendment #1: To include previously overlooked items requiring a transfer of \$53,000 from the Public Works 2015 Budget to the General CIP Equipment Fund 09.

Moved by:	Johnson
Seconded by:	Hanson
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Hanson, Johnson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1 – Action Memorandum 16-019: Authorize the City Manager to Purchase Two New Police Patrol Vehicles and Equipment in the Amount of \$88,230, as Approved by the 2016 Budget, and to Purchase the Vehicles Under the Governmental and Proprietary Procurements Section of Palmer Municipal Code 3.21.230, by Attaching to the State of Alaska Contract Pricing

Main Motion: To authorize Action Memorandum 16-019

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Carrington
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Hanson, Johnson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

Item 2 – Action Memorandum 16-021: Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Contract with Triple V Contracting, LLC for the Palmer Building Maintenance and Upgrades Phase 2 Project in the Amount of \$239,800

Main Motion: To authorize Action Memorandum 16-021

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	DeVries
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Hanson, Johnson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

Item 3 – Action Memorandum 16-024: Approve a Council Community Grant in the amount of \$1,000 to Active Soles Performance Footwear/MatSu Miners to Support a Mayor’s Green Day Gallop Foot Run in Palmer on March 13, 2016

Main Motion: To authorize Action Memorandum 16-024

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	LaFrance
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Hanson, Johnson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

Council Member Best requested the race name be changed to Palmer’s Green Day Gallop Foot Run. Mayor Johnson provided clarification to the development of the race. Discussion by the Council ensued.

Primary Amendment #1: To propose a change to the name of the race to Palmer’s Green Day Gallop Foot Run

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Carrington
Action:	Motion carried by 4-3 voice vote.
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries
Opposed:	Hanson, Johnson, LaFrance

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 1 – City Clerk Recruitment Process

The City Manager presented three options for the Clerk’s farewell event.

Main Motion: To accept Farewell Event Option B

Moved by:	DeVries
Seconded by:	Carrington
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Hanson, Johnson, LaFrance
Opposed:	Johnson

K. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Resolution No. 16-007: Supporting Designation of Area along the Railroad Right-Of-Way North of the Depot as a New Grow Palmer Garden Area (IM 16-008)

Main Motion: To approve Resolution No. 16-007

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	DeVries
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Hanson, Johnson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

Item 2 – Resolution No. 16-010: Supporting Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Efforts to Develop a Regional Transportation Planning Partnership Process (IM 16-012)

Main Motion: To approve Resolution No. 16-010

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Carrington
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Hanson, Johnson, LaFrance
Opposed:	None

L. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

- Quill Inc. information
- USDA/EPA Grow Palmer information
- Resolution 15-001 K amendment information
- Nutrition Center and Ball Fields Land Transfer information
- Clerk Farewell information

M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

John Lee, Palmer businessman:

- Spoke to the proposed name change for the Mayor’s race.

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Complimented the transparency of the clerk hiring process;
- Encouraged the Council to accept additional applicants for the position; and
- Expressed concern about the Regional Transportation Planning Partnership Process.

Jessica Smith, Borough Transportation Planner:

- Provided clarification regarding requirements for the Regional Transportation Planning Partnership Process;
- Brought forth current population numbers and projections for 2020 census; and
- Explained requirements for being designated a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

N. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Carrington:

- Commended Del Sampson for his comments during audience participation; and
- Commented on the different organizational structures of cities.

Council Member LaFrance:

- Expressed appreciation to Jan Newman for the work being done by Grow Palmer; and

- Thanked Active Soles for bringing out the best in the City of Palmer.

Council Member Best:

- Commented on a productive AML trip to Juneau.

Council Member Hanson:

- Expressed appreciation to Active Soles for all they do for the community.

Council Member DeVries:

- Addressed the variety of applications for the Clerk position; and
- Requested clarification on the meeting time for March 3.

Council Member Combs:

- Echoed appreciation for the good job being done through Grow Palmer;
- Provided additional details about the April 22-23 Who Let the Girls Out event; and
- Expressed appreciation to the presenters from Quill, Inc.

Mayor Johnson:

- Expressed appreciation for those in attendance at the meeting and the projects they support in the community of Palmer.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Approved this eighth day of March, 2016.

DeLena Goodwin Johnson, Mayor

Janette M. Bower, MMC, City Clerk