

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on April 12, 2016, at 7 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:10 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
Bernadette Packa, Acting City Clerk
Summer Rife, Deputy Clerk
Michael Gatti, City Attorney

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Allan Linn.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Introduction – Ordinance No. 16-002: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Section 3.16.050 Exceptions (IM 16-001)
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a. March 22, 2016, Special Meeting
 - b. March 22, 2016, Regular Meeting
3. Action Memorandum 16-032: Approve a Council Community Grant in the Amount of \$600 to the Palmer High Junior Class Student Government to Support the 2016 Prom

Main Motion: To approve the consent agenda as amended

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

Primary Amendment #1: To move Action Memoranda item I.3 (AM 16-032) to Consent Agenda item D.3

Moved by:	Hanson
Seconded by:	Best
Action:	Motion carried by a 4-2 voice vote.
In favor:	Best, Carrington, DeVries, Hanson
Opposed:	LaFrance, Johnson

E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

F. REPORTS

Item 1 – City Manager’s Report

City Manager Nathan Wallace:

- Highlighted his written report;
- Stated the groundbreaking ceremony for the Fred Meyer construction project had been moved up to May 18;
- Announced the City has been granted authority by the State Fire Marshal to conduct building Plan Reviews;
- Confirmed the hiring of Frank Kelly as the Airport Superintendent; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Item 2 – City Clerk’s Report

Item 3 – Mayor’s Report

Mayor Johnson:

- Spoke to her attendance of Who Let the Girls Out meetings;
- Stated she had been invited to be on the Mat Su Health Foundation’s Steering Committee for their Health Needs Assessment and spoke to project details; and
- Spoke to Council Member Best’s question.

Council Member Best:

- Expressed a need to be aware of the Mayors’ schedule and asked if the City Manager could share her schedule with Council Members; and
- Stated he thought if the Mayor attends meetings pertaining to City business, up to two Council Members should also be able to attend.

Council Member Hanson:

- Asked why the Mayor’s schedule was maintained by the Manager’s Office.

Item 4 – City Attorney’s Report

Michael Gatti:

- Responded to issues surrounding knowledge of the Mayor’s schedule.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Keith Morberg, Mountain Rose Estates:

- Discussed the Planned Unit Development and how it was not consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan;
- Encouraged the Council Members to review the Comprehensive Plan;
- Pointed out PMC 17.84.010b indicates consideration must be given to the underlying zoning (R1) of the parcel in question, and spoke to the issues involved; and
- Requested City Attorney Gatti review the mentioned section of code.

Emma Uschmann, Representative from the Palmer High School Junior Class:

- Spoke to the Community Grant request; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Sandra Peterson:

- Thanked the Council; and
- Announced her retirement effective May 1.

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Spoke to order of business changes made to the agenda; and
- Stated the City should not make decisions without giving the public a chance to speak.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1 – Ordinance No. 16-009: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Section 2.04.021 Composition (IM 16-017) (Public hearing 2 of 2)

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing.

Dave Fuller:

- Spoke against the resolution; and
- Shared comparison research he had done concerning voting in Wasilla.

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Expressed concern that the public was not given ample time to be heard and requested a third public hearing be scheduled for the ordinance.

Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

Main Motion: To adopt Ordinance No. 16-009

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

Discussion ensued addressing the following:

- The need to fix a system that is not broken;

- The potential reasons why such a large percentage of voters choose not to participate in voting for the Council;
- The current voting system and its potential for confusion by the voter;
- The Voter’s right to choose to vote for only one person;
- The possibility for Council Members to manipulate the system by getting their supporters to only vote for one person;
- The possibility of introducing negativity into the election by campaigning for seats; and
- The change in the way the school board was elected.

Item 2 – Ordinance No. 16-010: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Section 4.15.060 Residency (IM 16-018)

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing.

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Suggested roll call votes be used for clarity; and
- Spoke to the need to hold at least two public hearings.

Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

Main Motion: To adopt Ordinance No. 16-010

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

Mayor Johnson recommended holding a second public hearing and asked if there was opposition by the Council.

Discussion ensued and the following points were addressed:

- Other ways for the public to voice their opinion besides attending a public hearing;
- The reasons for requiring upper management to live within City limits;
- The current requirement and historical exceptions to the residency rule;
- The potential limitation of qualified candidates due to the residency requirement; and
- The possibility of amending the ordinance to match the residency requirements placed on the Department Heads.

Primary Amendment #1: To match the residency requirement for Department Heads of living within five-miles of the City of Palmer

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

Item 3 – Resolution No. 16-001 A: Amending the City of Palmer 2016 Budget by Approving an Appropriation of \$54,500 from the General Fund to Pay for Improvements to the Randy Thom Flight Service Center (IM 16-003) (Public hearing 1 of 2)

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. Seeing no one come forward the public hearing was closed.

Main Motion: To approve Resolution No. 16-001 A

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	DeVries
Action:	Motion pending to April 26, 2016 meeting
In favor:	
Opposed:	

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

Item 1 – Action Memorandum 16-029: Authorize the City Manager to Reimburse the Alaska State Fair \$42,223.20 for Oversizing 1,928 Feet of Class 50 Ductile Iron Pipe Sewer Main

Main Motion: To authorize Action Memorandum 16-029

Moved by:	Best
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 16-031: Authorize the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Alaska USA Insurance Broker for the Period of April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 with the Option of Two Additional Renewal Years for Insurance Brokerage Services

Main Motion: To authorize Action Memorandum 16-031

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

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Resolution No. 16-006: Authorizing Submission of Full Application for Land and Water Conservation Funding for Purchase of the Kopperud Family Matanuska River Property Project (IM 16-006)

Main Motion: To approve Resolution No. 16-006

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Hanson
Action:	Motion failed by a 2-5 voice vote.
In favor:	Johnson, LaFrance
Opposed:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Hanson

City Manager Wallace:

- Spoke to the resolution;
- Provided a status update on the funding application;
- Pointed out restrictions and mandates associated with using the grant funds; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Item 2 – City Owned “Granite Property”

City Manager Wallace:

- Presented to the Council information on the Granite Property
- Spoke to the history and details of the property;
- Spoke to the existing performance bond and the date utilities will be provided for the property;
- Highlighted several options for disposal of the property;
- Recommended the City execute a sale of the property; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Main Motion: To direct the City Manager to pursue Option B for sale of the property, with the noted advantages and disadvantages, following an updated appraisal

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Johnson
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

Information concerning the Dispatch Services Request for Proposal
Resume information from Keith Morberg
Card from Sandra Peterson

M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Thomas Mack:

- Spoke to the Homes for Heroes project and the possible use of the Granite property;
- Spoke to the needs of veterans; and
- Voiced appreciation to the Council for their consideration of the project.

Eugene Carl Haberman:

- Spoke to the executive session at the special meeting and noted the public did not witness the Council come out of session;
- Stated a break was called without specifying how long the break would last;
- Spoke to the need to follow public process; and
- Spoke to his comments at a Mat-Su Borough Assembly meeting.

Brittney Jurasek:

- Thanked the Council for considering the Homes for Heroes project.

N. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Hanson:

- Stated it was nice to see the large number of people in the audience; and
- Responded to Mr. Haberman’s comment and appreciated his attendance.

Council Member DeVries:

- Thanked the Police and Fire Department for their work on the Choose Respect march;
- Stated she was sorry to see Sandra Peterson leave and wished her well; and
- Requested that Keith Morberg be contacted and told, due to the quasi-judicial position the City was in, the Council could not discuss the Planned Unit Development.

City Attorney Gatti:

- Stated he would contact Keith Morberg’s attorney to explain the Council’s position.

Council Member Combs:

- Spoke of Governor Walker’s visit and his message at the Joint Chamber Meeting;
- Spoke to the Homes for Heroes project and thanked them for their presentation to the Board of Economic Development;
- Spoke to the upcoming 65th anniversary of the City; and
- Spoke of the passing of Eve Hermon and the Hermon’s contributions to the City; and
- Provided the time, date, and location for Eve’s vigil and funeral mass.

Council Member Best:

- Asked all to be safe and to watch for motorcycles.

Council Member Carrington:

- Expressed confidence in the clerks and thanked Bernadette and Summer for their hard work.

Mayor Johnson:

- Responded to Mr. Haberman’s comments about the end of executive session and thanked him for calling the issue to her attention;
- Requested the City send flowers to Eve Hermon’s funeral service;
- Read a letter from Dan Sullivan to the Homes for Heroes project; and
- Stated she wanted the City to be involved in the Homes for Heroes project.

O. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 1 – Potential litigation; matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the City concerning the Wastewater Treatment Facility (Note: council action may be taken following the executive session)

Main Motion: To extend the meeting past 11:00 pm if necessary

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

Main Motion: To enter into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation; matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the City concerning the Wastewater Treatment Facility

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

The Council entered into Executive Session at 10:25 pm and exited at 11:06 pm.

P. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:06 pm.

Approved this twenty-sixth day of April, 2016.

DeLena Goodwin Johnson, Mayor

Bernadette Packa, Acting City Clerk