

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on August 9, 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     | Edna DeVries   |
| Steve Carrington | DeLena Johnson |
| Linda Combs      | Peter LaFrance |

Deputy Mayor Hanson was absent and excused.

Also in attendance were the following:

|                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nathan Wallace, City Manager | Bernadette Packa, Deputy City Clerk |
| Norma Alley, City Clerk      | Michael Gatti, City Attorney        |

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Combs.

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
  - a. July 26, 2016, Regular Meeting

**Main Motion: To approve agenda and minutes**

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

**E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS**

**Item 1** – Maggie Aube-Tramwell, Park, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Board Chair:

- Highlighted her written report provided at the table; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

## **F. REPORTS**

### **Item 1 – City Manager’s Report**

City Manager Nathan Wallace:

- Highlighted his written report and the August Construction Projects report;
- Pointed out there was no update on RFP evaluation process for Dispatch Services;
- Addressed the need to develop a notification process for unanticipated short term (Less than 4 hours) water outages;
- Provided an update on the Celebrate Palmer with the Miners event;
- Commented on meeting with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to address landscaping and maintenance agreements for the Glenn Highway upgrade;
- Reported the Grow Palmer Grants would be on the next meeting agenda;
- Shared progress on compression brake signage; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

### **Item 2 – City Clerk’s Report**

City Clerk Norma Alley:

- Highlighted her written report presented on the table; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

### **Item 3 – Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Johnson:

- Commented on her attendance of the Wellness Summit on the Opioid epidemic;
- Stated the Grow Palmer conference was great; and
- Commented on an upcoming meeting with a group interested in putting an Extended Care Facility in each community.

### **Item 4 – City Attorney’s Report**

Michael Gatti:

- Commended the Clerk for her efforts in acquiring the Certificate of Service Mark Registration for Alaska At Its Best!; and
- Introduced Attorney Bonnie “Betsy” Bull.

## **G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Terry Snyder:

- Spoke in favor of term limits; and
- Emphasized a need for balance between fresh eyes and a historical perspective.

## **H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Item 1 – Resolution No. 16-020:** Submitting the Question of Amending Charter Section 3.2, Terms of Office to Limit Mayor and Councilmember Terms to Three Three-Year Terms, to the City’s Qualified Voters at the October 4, 2016, City of Palmer Election (IM 16-033) (2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing)

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing.

Written testimony read into the record by the City Clerk included Joe Lawton opposed to and Julie & Tony Berberich, Sabrena Combs, Scott Faber, Sally Hitchcock, Bruce Jordan, Kathryn Jordan, Jan Newman, Robyn Schroeder, Rebecca Turner, and Jill Valerius in favor of Resolution No. 16-020.

Dave Fuller:

- Believed the decision for term limits should be left to the vote of the people.

Maggie Aube-Tramwell:

- Spoke in favor of allowing the question to be voted on by the public.

Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing. Discussion by the Council ensued.

**Main Motion: To approve Resolution No. 16-020 as amended**

|              |                                       |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Moved by:    | DeVries                               |
| Seconded by: | LaFrance                              |
| Action:      | Motion failed for lack of a majority. |
| In favor:    | Carrington, Johnson, LaFrance         |
| Opposed:     | Best, Combs, DeVries                  |

**Item 2 – Resolution No. 16-018:** Authorizing the City of Palmer to Issue Utility Revenue Bonds in the Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$5,000,000 to Finance Water and Wastewater Utility and Related Capital Improvements, and to Submit the Question of the Issuance of Such Bonds to the Qualified Voters of the City at the October 4, 2016, City Election (IM 16-031) (3<sup>rd</sup> Public Hearing)

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

Mayor Johnson asked for a staff report. City Manager Wallace reaffirmed the required principal amount of \$5,000,000.

**Main Motion: To approve Resolution No. 16-018**

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

**I. ACTION MEMORANDA**

**Item 1 – Action Memorandum No. 16-059:** Authorizing the City Manager to Amend the Professional Services Agreement with HDL Engineering Consultants in an Amount Not to Exceed \$64,145 for Design and Engineering Services for the Sherrod Area Water & Street Improvements Project Phase Four Additional Extension

Council Member DeVries requested an opinion from the attorney concerning her potential conflict of interest as her home was on the street being improved. It was determined no conflict of interest existed.

**Main Motion: To authorize Action Memorandum 16-059**

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

**Item 2 – Action Memorandum No. 16-060:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute Change Order No. 1 with Dirtworks, Inc. for the Sherrod Area Water & Street Improvement Project Phase 4, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$490,000

**Main Motion: To authorize Action Memorandum 16-060**

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

**J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**K. NEW BUSINESS**

**L. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE**

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Board written report  
City Clerks report  
Written Public Testimony concerning Resolution 16-020  
New Sherrod Phase 4 Project Map for construction on Bonanza Street

**M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

**N. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Council Member DeVries:

- Requested support for signs to be posted in the area along the railroad tracks requesting animal waste be cleaned up. Council Member Best offered support, as did Council Member LaFrance.

Council Member Combs:

- Highlighted information presented by the CEO of Matanuska Telephone Authority at the Board of Economic Development (BED) meeting; and
- Commented on the Mat-Su Colony Skilled Nursing Facility and urged the Council to consider supporting the project.

Council Member Best:

- Commented on attendance of Grow Palmer event and participation in a farm tour;

- Spoke to attendance of the conference on Opioid addiction sponsored by Senator Dan Sullivan; and
- Requested support to have the question of Clerk's residency requirement be brought back to the next meeting. Council Member Combs offered support.

Council Member LaFrance:

- Reminded everyone of the Hatcher Pass Epic taking place on Saturday; and
- Shared he will be conducting an informal bike audit as part of the Local Foods / Local Places initiative.

Council Member Carrington:

- Inquired whether the written testimony would be placed on the City website.

Mayor Johnson:

- Commented on the potential need for an additional dog park for the City; and
- Suggested the City be part of community discussions with organizations dependent upon state funding in order to determine the impact of a tighter state budget on the community as a whole.

## **O. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

**Approved this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2016.**

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Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

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DeLena Johnson, Mayor