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**PALMER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, April 13, 2009 @ 7:00 PM**  
**Town Council Meeting Room, Palmer Town Building**  
**Minutes**

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1. Called to order at 1906 by Mr. Magiera
  2. Attending:
    - a. Present: Mr. Magiera, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Duguay, Mr. Whitney, Mr. Burns, Mr. Backus, Ms. Barry, Mr. Streeter, Palmer Citizens Casino Impact Study Committee
    - b. Absent: Mr. Dinuovo
  3. Pledge of Allegiance
  4. Consent of the Agenda Order moved by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Backus; Council voted unanimously to accept the agenda
    - a. Mr. Streeter moved to add resolution 2009-29 to authorize free weekend tag sale dates after 7B in new business
    - b. Mr. Magiera added item 9B for Mr. Whitney to speak
  5. Visitors Comments (for items not on the agenda): Town Clerk: public congratulations to Genevieve Janosz on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday
  6. Minutes of Preceding Town Council Meetings:
    - a. Feb. 19, 2009
      - i. Moved by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Backus to accept minutes as written
      - ii. Vote was 6/0/2 to accept minutes; Mr. Whitney and Mr. Duguay abstained
    - b. March 9, 2009
      - i. Item 7a-Veterans' services cuts- Mr. Backus, not Mr. Burns made comment on Veterans Services cuts
      - ii. Item 9f: Mr. Duguay mentioned finding out about surrounding towns instead of Mr. Dinuovo
      - iii. Ms. Barry: Item 10: Issues not discrepancies; remove conducting audits; strike conducting audits
      - iv. Ms. Barry: Item 11f: review to insert who said what in that item
      - v. Ms. Barry: Item 12: numbers are not sequential
      - vi. Ms. Barry: Item 13: correct quarterlies to collections; collector not assessor
      - vii. Moved by Mr. Backus, seconded by Mr. Burns to accept minutes as amended
      - viii. Council voted 7-0-1 to accept minutes with Mr. Whitney abstaining
    - c. March 23, 2009
      - i. Ms. Barry: Item 5a: Correct witnesses to closed with no discussion
      - ii. Ms. Barry: Item 5b2: Bill should read ordinance
      - iii. Ms. Barry: Item 5c3(d): Correct state statute to read ordinance
      - iv. Mr. Magiera: Outline numbering is not sequential
      - v. Mr. Magiera: Item 5g3(d): amend guess to maximum to be expended from that fund
      - vi. Moved by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Duguay to approve minutes as amended

- 1                   vii. Council voted 6/0/2 to accept minutes as amended with Ms. Barry and Mr. Whitney  
2                   abstaining
- 3       7. Old Business:
- 4           a. Casino Committee Report
- 5           i. Committee Chair Mr. Chudy presented Casino report; read cover letter
- 6           1. Report is organized by subject matter, includes data gathering, expert witness  
7           testimony, data analysis, debate, and final documentation.
- 8           2. Recommend forming a negotiating committee led by a professional negotiator to  
9           negotiate a host agreement
- 10          ii. Not all questions were addressed but as many as possible were anticipated and explored
- 11          iii. Mr. Streeter recommended that committee has fully met its responsibilities; subject to  
12          recall for questions and further explanation
- 13       8. New Business:
- 14          a. Resolution 2009-27 – Transfer Groundwater Monitoring to General Insurance
- 15           i. Read and moved by Mr. Whitney
- 16           ii. Seconded by Mr. Burns
- 17           iii. Discussion: Mr. Streeter recapped necessity for funds transfer to provide increased  
18           coverage for new library building
- 19           iv. Council voted 7/0/1 to approve the resolution; Mr. Whitney abstained
- 20          b. Resolution 2009-28 – Transfer Free Cash to Assessor’s Salary
- 21           i. Read and moved by Mr. Whitney
- 22           ii. Seconded by Mr. Burns
- 23           iii. Discussion:
- 24           1. Assessor does work for fire districts paid for by fees; former town manager  
25           removed pay for position but town manager’s authority doesn’t supercede state  
26           statutes requiring compensation for that extra work
- 27           2. Legal opinion is that former assessor is entitled to money
- 28           3. Budget discussions about funding positions in the future and adjusting  
29           compensation to acknowledge these fees
- 30           4. Discussed considering this extra compensation in setting compensation for new  
31           hires, based on this work which is over and above the normal work required
- 32           5. Discussed how salaries are set for Assessor and Treasurer and others
- 33           iv. Council voted 6/0/2 to approve transfer of funds, with Mr. Whitney and Mr. Remillard  
34           abstaining
- 35          c. Resolution 2009-29 to set permit-free tag sale dates on May 15-17, June 19-21, July 10-12.
- 36           i. Moved and read by Mr. Whitney
- 37           ii. Seconded by Mr. Burns
- 38           iii. Discussion:
- 39           1. Mr. Streeter recapped the history and significance of the dates offered
- 40           2. Mr. Burns moved to amend the motion to change the dates to May 15-17, June 19-  
41           21, July 10-12, and maybe September 4-6; seconded by Mr. Hebert
- 42           3. Vote: 7/0/1 to amend dates with Mr. Whitney abstaining
- 43           iv. Council voted 6/0/2 to set dates with Mr. Whitney and Mr. Remillard abstaining
- 44          d. Manager’s Appointment – Palmer Cultural Council (Christine Miarecki)
- 45           i. Read and moved by Mr. Whitney
- 46           ii. Seconded by Mr. Hebert
- 47           iii. Discussion: none
- 48           iv. Council voted 7/0/1 with Mr. Whitney abstaining to appoint Ms. Miarecki to the Palmer  
49           Cultural Council
- 50          e. Discussion-Town Manager Evaluation
- 51           i. Forms passed out
- 52           ii. Review needs to be done by June 30
- 53           iii. Tentative date during week of 18 May
- 54           iv. Forms will be public record
- 55       9. Sub-Committee Reports
- 56          a. Public Safety Sub-Committee met this evening

- 1 b. Ordinance concerning public ingestion of marijuana; motion before subcommittee was to refer
- 2 proposed ordinance to police chief for review
- 3 c. Subcommittee voted 1 in favor with 1 abstention to forward ordinance to chief
- 4 i. Also for first reading to next Council meeting
- 5 ii. Also for referral to town attorney
- 6 10. Town Manager's Report
- 7 a. Moving forward with surveys and planning to complete CSO
- 8 b. Aggressive timeline to meet deadlines for SRF funding
- 9 c. Resolution on budget reductions will be brought forward next budget meeting; items were
- 10 previously discussed
- 11 d. Council on Aging project is waiting on plans from the architects to be put out for bids; there is no
- 12 current provision for interim location while renovations are being made
- 13 e. Community Development Block grant requires Community Development office to be moved
- 14 permanently from building
- 15 f. Met with Mohegan Sun and Paul Brody, members of tribal Council and Northeast Realty reps
- 16 regarding negotiations and local presence prior to action on Beacon Hill
- 17 11. Mr. Whitney read a letter to the Council pertaining to his new job with Census Bureau, and resigning his
- 18 position on the council
- 19 a. Mr. Backus moved to accept letter of resignation
- 20 b. Mr. Hebert seconded motion
- 21 c. Council voted unanimously to accept resignation with regret with Mr. Whitney abstaining
- 22 12. Councilor's Round Table
- 23 a. Mr. Hebert: Thank Thorndike fire and water District for scholarship grant funds donation of \$500,
- 24 also \$500 donation to Palmer youth leagues Boys Basketball and girls' softball)
- 25 b. Mr. Remillard: nothing this evening
- 26 c. Mr. Duguay: May 8 Fundraiser for beautification project in Three Rivers; May 16 is Palmer
- 27 Pickup Day; cookout afterwards sponsored by Three Rivers Chamber
- 28 d. Mr. Backus: Thank you, Mr. Whitney, for your service to the council
- 29 e. Ms. Barry:
- 30 i. Noise ordinance-is there provision for enforcement? And has subcommittee met to move
- 31 on noise ordinance? Can manager look into restrictions on permits to permit police
- 32 enforcement? And are permits required per event? Do we have subcommittee to draft
- 33 ordinance? Mr. Magiera: Subcommittee will be restructured at next regular meeting. Can
- 34 Town manager come back to us with recommendations on permitting requirements to
- 35 address this issue instead of noise ordinance? Mr. Streeter: If it be will of the Council.
- 36 ii. Whole discussion involving revolving funds is 10% instead of 1%; this makes a huge
- 37 difference in how funds are limited and used
- 38 1. Revolving funds are being set up incorrectly
- 39 2. We need to set limits on revolving funds and be specific as to purpose of funds
- 40 iii. Met with Mr. Streeter and teacher at high school regarding Recycling program's return to
- 41 high school in September
- 42 iv. Thank you, Mr. Whitney, for your service to the council; you will be missed
- 43 f. Mr. Whitney: Thanked the people who supported me and thank the Council for support and
- 44 friendship
- 45 g. Mr. Burns: Thank you, Mr. Whitney, for your service to the council, the Charter Commission and
- 46 the Casino Committee
- 47 i. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Palmer Poetry Pageant at 7 PM Thursday at Palmer Public Library
- 48 ii. Palmer Charter Commission has two public forums coming up: April 28 @ 7 PM at
- 49 Pathfinder Library, and May 9 at 10 AM at the Pathfinder Cafeteria.
- 50 h. Mr. Magiera: I commend you, Mr. Whitney, on the work you have done on council
- 51 i. Start to work on replacing Mr. Whitney on council
- 52 1. Start accepting letters of interest through May 1; discussion of dates and time
- 53 frames for notice
- 54 2. Make appointment on May 11<sup>th</sup>
- 55 ii. Working session on budget and subcommittee reorganization on April 27<sup>th</sup>
- 56 1. Ms. Barry: No year to date expenditure information

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2. No actuals for FY 2008, both revenue and expenditure
  3. Salaries of people breakdowns with hours worked, part time and full time
  4. Money in budget: using estimated hotel and meals taxes; also free cash use rationale
13. Adjournment of Formal Session moved by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Backus at 2026; Council voted unanimously to adjourn
- Respectfully Submitted;  
Ramon M. Dole  
Recording Secretary