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PALMER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, May 11, 2009 @ 7:00 PM
Town Council Meeting Room, Palmer Town Building
Minutes

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1. Called to order at 1905
 2. Roll Call:
 - a. Mr. Dinuovo, Mr. Duguay, Ms. Barry, Mr. Backus, Mr. Burns, Mr. Magiera, and Mr. Hebert
 - b. Absent: Mr. Remillard
 3. Pledge of Allegiance
 4. Consent of the Agenda Order: Mr. Burns moved to accept agenda, Mr. Backus seconded by, vote was unanimous to approve agenda
 5. Visitors' Comments (for items not on the agenda): Robert Haveles-spoke about Palmer events planned and funds disbursed
 - a. Palmer domestic Violence Task Force: \$2,300.00
 - b. Palmer Pick up Day May 16, and cookout for volunteers afterward
 - c. Participation in Palmer Beautification project for Memorial Day
 - d. Palmer Town Wide Tag Sale-no permit day on July 18 to coincide with Brimfield event
 - e. Palmer Events newsletter: Every other Sunday newsletter will be sent out; subscribe at palmerevents@yahoo.com
 - f. Movies in the Park; Jul 17 and Aug 14
 - g. National Night Out first Tuesday of August
 6. Minutes of Preceding Town Council Meetings – None
 7. Old Business: None
 8. New Business:
 - a. Appointment of Clerk of Council-Moved by Mr. Backus, seconded by Mr. Burns to nominate Ms. Barry as Clerk of Council; vote was 6-0-1 to appoint Ms. Barry with Ms. Barry abstaining
 - b. Interview of candidates for vacant seat on Town Council
 - i. 7 Candidates replied with a letter of intent
 - ii. Mr. Dinuovo spoke of using a 14 question list instead of 5-7 minutes of discussion per candidate to save time interviewing the candidates
 - iii. Mr. Duguay spoke of the possibility of appointing a member after reviewing the questionnaire at a later meeting
 - iv. Mr. Burns spoke of the intent of the council to appoint a councilor tonight
 - v. Consensus of the council is to retain normal format and resolve issue tonight
 - vi. Mr. Magiera spoke of requirements and responsibilities of position
 - vii. Kathleen Mailhot spoke of her qualifications
 - viii. Carl Bryant spoke of his qualifications
 - ix. Jason Polonsky spoke of his qualifications
 - x. Joseph (Norm) Lussier spoke of his qualifications
 - xi. Theresa Mursick-Meyer spoke of her qualifications
 - xii. Karl Williams spoke of his qualifications

- 1 xiii. Gerald Charette spoke of his qualifications
- 2 c. Town Council vacancy appointment vote:
- 3 i. Vote requires majority of councilors; majority is 4 tonight
- 4 1. Round 1: No majority
- 5 a. Mr. Hebert for Mr. Charette
- 6 b. Mr. Duguay for Mr. Polonski
- 7 c. Mr. Dinuovo and Ms. Barry for Ms. Mursick-Meyer
- 8 d. Mr. Backus, Mr. Magiera and Mr. Burns for Mr. Williams
- 9 2. Round 2: Majority for Mr. Williams
- 10 a. Mr. Dinuovo and Ms. Barry for Ms. Mursick-Meyer
- 11 b. Mr. Duguay for Mr. Polonski
- 12 c. Mr. Backus, Mr. Burns, Mr. Magiera, and Mr. Hebert for Mr.
- 13 Williams
- 14 d. Mr. Williams is elected by a simple majority
- 15 d. Recessed at 2010 until 2022 to allow the room to clear
- 16 e. Swearing in of Mr. Williams by the Town Clerk Ms. Donovan
- 17 f. First Reading Ordinance 2009-05-Authorizing Borrowing for CSO Phase IV Project
- 18 i. Mr. Streeter reported on the remaking of the CSO Ordinance
- 19 ii. Read by Ms. Barry
- 20 g. Discussion Item-CSO Phase IV Project
- 21 i. Mr. Dick Kaczmarczyk, Dir. Of DPW and Mr. Gerry Skowronek, WWTP
- 22 Superintendent
- 23 ii. We have received a 1 year extension on project completion until 2012
- 24 iii. Appropriation has to be voted by Jun 30 or we lose \$608,000 and 2% loan
- 25 iv. Design plan has to be in by Oct 15 to secure the rest of SRF funding and low interest
- 26 loans
- 27 v. Interest is lower if we meet deadlines
- 28 vi. Town is operating on timeline determined by ACO reviewed in Jan 09
- 29 vii. Funding is not guaranteed year to year
- 30 viii. Bids for work are coming in low
- 31 ix. Cost should be borne by entire town because it benefits everybody, not just sewer
- 32 users
- 33 x. How does the town afford a \$500,000 debt payment under the constraints of Prop
- 34 2&1/2?
- 35 xi. Stimulus funds apply per handout item 3.2
- 36 xii. What do we cut to absorb this payment?
- 37 xiii. Debt exclusion for capital expenditure; the town must support this or debt impacts the
- 38 entire town scope of services
- 39 xiv. Election issue-budget override vs. services cuts
- 40 xv. Monson doesn't figure into this project
- 41 xvi. This is federal mandate; not by our choice
- 42 xvii. When is first debt payment? End of FY 11 or in FY 12, until SRF issues bonds; until
- 43 then short term interest payments
- 44 xviii. How does this dovetail with school debts? Mr. Streeter: School debt is coming off in
- 45 FY 11; Will try to get debt schedule off all town debt
- 46 xix. We need to make impact to town services known to taxpayers prior to debt exclusion
- 47 election; also that we are forced to pay for this project
- 48 xx. Might be able to find second round stimulus funds to help with this project
- 49 xxi. Ms. Barry: would like to see list of 8.8% principal forgiveness
- 50 xxii. Did we look for funding through USDA rural development? Not yet
- 51 xxiii. Can we get senator or congressman at meeting to speak with us?
- 52 xxiv. Plant upgrade for nutrient removal?
- 53 h. Resolution 2009-33 – Transfer \$4,600 from various accounts to DPW Utilities Account
- 54 i. Moved by Mr. Backus, seconded by Mr. Dinuovo
- 55 ii. Discussion: DPW Utilities account is on a pace for being under funded

- 1 iii. Vote is 8-0-0-to approve transfer of accounts
- 2 i. Resolution 2009-34 – Transfer \$150,000 from WWTP Special Revenue account to Phase IV
- 3 CSO Capital account to fund engineering expenses
- 4 i. Moved by Mr. Dinuovo, seconded by Mr. Backus
- 5 ii. Discussion:
- 6 1. Auditor said to move these funds council must approve transfer
- 7 2. Prior decision was to use \$150,000 from special revenue account and fund
- 8 the rest from town; total engineering cost is \$470,000
- 9 iii. Vote: 8-0-0 to approve transfer of funds
- 10 j. Resolution 2009-31 – Adjust FY2009 appropriations by \$243,225
- 11 i. Moved by Mr. Dinuovo, seconded by Mr. Backus
- 12 ii. Discussion: Veteran Services budget should not be short
- 13 iii. Vote is 6-2-0 to adjust budget, Mr. Hebert and Mr. Burns voted against
- 14 k. Resolution 2009-32 – Transfer funds from Group Health Insurance account to General
- 15 Insurance account
- 16 i. Moved by Mr. Dinuovo, Seconded by Mr. Backus
- 17 ii. Discussion: Flood insurance premiums were under budgeted in the current fiscal year;
- 18 Clarification of the resolution
- 19 iii. Vote is 8-0-0 to approve transfer of funds to General Insurance account
- 20 9. Sub-Committee Report: Economic Development:
- 21 a. Public Forum on the pros and cons of slots parlor vs. a resort casino destination on Thursday,
- 22 May 14 night at Palmer High School auditorium
- 23 b. Casino discussion
- 24 10. Town Manager’s Report
- 25 a. Report of Casino Impact Study Committee
- 26 b. Council should have work session to discuss report and decide how to proceed while we’re
- 27 waiting on legislation
- 28 c. Recommend forming a Negotiating team
- 29 d. Need to do due diligence, talk with reps Smola and Brewer, and reps from surrounding towns
- 30 regarding casino issues
- 31 11. Councilor’s Round Table
- 32 a. Mr. Hebert:
- 33 i. Complaints about trash cans left on beltways on Church St.; Don’t pile trash on the
- 34 beltway
- 35 ii. Does casino issue have to come before the townspeople? Depends on legislation
- 36 b. Mr. Williams: pass
- 37 c. Mr. Duguay: Please participate in town cleanup this Saturday
- 38 d. Mr. Backus: Happy Mother’s Day to all the mothers in town
- 39 e. Mr. Dinuovo: Casino issue is 80/20 against casino where I live
- 40 f. Ms. Barry: all set
- 41 g. Mr. Burns: All set
- 42 h. Mr. Magiera:
- 43 i. Read letter from Mr. Avis; Vet agent re Memorial Day parade and events on May 25
- 44 ii. Please review subcommittee document to see where you would like to be
- 45 iii. May 18 postponed for Town Manager review due to budget meeting; please review
- 46 documents he provided
- 47 iv. Reschedule Town Manager review on May 27 (Wed) @ 7 PM with work session after
- 48 meeting; meeting requested to be televised but not working budget meeting
- 49 v. Communication needs to improve a bit; please keep in better touch by e-mail
- 50 12. Moved by Mr. Backus, seconded by Mr. Burns, voted unanimously to adjourn at 2118

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53 Respectfully submitted by:

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55 Ramon M. Dole

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