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PALMER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, September 14, 2009 @ 7:00 PM
Town Council Meeting Room, Palmer Town Building
Minutes

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1. Called to order at 1903
 2. Roll Call:
 - a. Present: Mr. Backus, Mr. Burns, Mr. Magiera, Ms. Barry, Mr. Dinuovo, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Williams, Mr. Streeter
 - b. Absent: Mr. Duguay, Mr. Remillard
 3. Pledge of Allegiance
 4. Consent of the agenda order:
 - a. Strike approval of minutes
 - b. Add item F: Brief discussion of leaf and brush removal
 - c. Add item G: Possible date for special meeting later this month
 - d. Mr. Backus moved, Mr. Burns seconded motion to accept agenda as amended; Council voted 7-0-0 to accept agenda
 5. No visitor's comments for items not on the agenda
 6. Old business: None
 7. New business:
 - a. Resolution 2010-05 Placing Debt Exclusion on November Ballot read by Ms. Barry
 - i. Moved by Ms. Barry, seconded by Mr. Dinuovo to enact resolution
 - ii. Discussion:
 1. Mr. Backus: Will this make the tax rate go up?
 2. Mr. Backus would like a notice in the paper to notify people about impact
 3. Mr. Streeter explained necessity of debt exclusion
 4. Ms. Barry proposed that Mr. Streeter write guest column in local papers to explain necessity for the exclusion, and hold meetings at Senior center to further explain council's actions
 5. Mr. Burns recommends that we get the word out about need for this and the difference between this exclusion and an override
 - b. Council voted 7-0-0 to approve resolution
 - c. Resolution 2010-06 Accepting 10 year Cable License Contract Read by Ms. Barry
 - i. Moved by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Hebert for discussion only
 - ii. Discussion:
 1. Mr. Burns: How do we approve a contract that we don't have in hand?

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2. Mr. Burns and Mr. Backus discussed problems with contract and with Comcast service; Comcast broke last contract and moved out of town in violation of contract. Mr. Barnes, Tech Director for Palmer Public Schools commented on prior Comcast contract's impact on the schools:
 - a. Free internet and cable for schools and Library
 - b. Students are being trained by Comcast and M-Pact
 - c. Services are provided free to schools by Comcast, and the bandwidth required for that service
 - d. Installation of service in the Council on Aging and good faith effort
 3. Council does not accept that office in Palmer is overly expensive; until Palmer gets big enough there is no competition available for Comcast; Comcast is preparing to acquire Charter Cable. Verizon would be competition for Comcast if casino comes to town. Council can vote contract down or hold the current contract for three years. DESC (Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education) requires source and secondary source for Internet in schools to support educational and testing programs. Schools get free service provided and we pay for extra speed bandwidth as a secondary connection, but we won't under new contract. Town can save thousands per year by going with Comcast for phone service also.
 4. Ms. Barry: Will postponing vote until October be detrimental? Mr. Streeter: Short answer is no.
 - iii. Ms. Barry tabled motion; discussion will be held later in the meeting to plan date certain
- d. Resolution 2010-07 Accepting property for Conservation read by Ms. Barry
 - i. Moved by Ms. Barry, Seconded by Mr. Dinuovo to accept property
 - ii. Council discussed pending liabilities, the need to maintain this property and its location; the Conservation Commission did not address those questions
 1. Same group gave the town other land before; Mr. Streeter believes that Commission desires to keep this land in as natural state as possible
 2. The Council would prefer to have someone from Conservation Commission here to answer questions about land to make sure we have bases covered and don't incur liability.
 3. Mr. Burns tabled item until next meeting
 - e. Resolution 2010-08 Authorizing prior year school expenditures read by Ms. Barry
 - i. Mr. Hebert moved to discuss motion only, Mr. Dinuovo seconded motion
 - ii. Discussion:
 1. Ms. Barry asked for rep from school department to explain these bills and requested motion to be tabled until next meeting
 2. Mr. Burns: looks like 7 items were paid already, without approval by council
 3. Mr. Streeter explained process involved in erroneous payments
 4. Mr. Streeter was given information in error from school board
 5. Mr. Burns spoke of the need to implement policy immediately to deal with this ongoing problem
 6. Ms. Barry requested copies of these invoices for the whole council
 7. Ms. Barry tabled resolution until next meeting
 - f. Discussion: Letter to Rep. Smola and Sen. Brewer Re: Casino Legislation
 - i. Letter discusses what was discussed at last special meeting of council
 - ii. Police chief submitted additional concerns to Mr. Streeter this morning; the Manager will submit an additional letter addressing those concerns with his own
 - iii. An additional letter will be sent to our representatives from the Water Commission to express their concerns

- 1 iv. Mr. Dinuovo discussed possible compensation for loss of value of the properties abutting
2 casino property; he is leery about making policy that appears to be pro-casino before
3 holding a town referendum on casinos
- 4 v. Mr. Magiera: letter is not pro or con on casino; it only addresses regional requirements
5 and needs
- 6 vi. Mr. Ammann spoke at length of concerns that the water district has pertaining to a casino
7 being located in Palmer or in a surrounding community
- 8 vii. Mr. Magiera spoke of the advisability of three separate letters to our legislators to address
9 concerns
- 10 g. Five minute recess called at 1955; reconvened at 2003 to resume discussion: We will remove Mr.
11 Streeter's name and send letter, approved by Council consensus
- 12 h. Mr. Burns moved to instruct the Town Manager to provide either:
 - 13 i. A method and location for residents of the 4 villages of Palmer to dispose of their leaves
14 and brush at convenient times between 10/1 and 12/15/2009, or
 - 15 ii. Curbside pickup for leaves and brush for the residents of the 4 villages of Palmer
16 between 10/1 and 12/15/2009
 - 17 iii. Mr. Backus seconded motion
 - 18 iv. Council discussed possible costs; Mr. Streeter will research costs
 - 19 v. Council voted 7-0-0 to approve motion
- 20 i. Council discussed scheduling availability for special meeting to discuss Conservation
21 Commission acquisition, School Board prior year expenditures, and 10 year cable contract; Mr.
22 Magiera would like meeting televised and a meeting was scheduled on the 28th at 7 PM by
23 consensus and Mr. Streeter will contact Dr. Fournier and board members to ask them to the
24 meeting
- 25 8. Subcommittee reports: none
- 26 9. Town Manager's report:
 - 27 a. Expressed thanks to councilors that came to 9/11 event
 - 28 b. Discussed the estimated cost of special election to replace Sen. Kennedy; Mr. Burns asked if we
29 could find an alternative polling place so we would not have to cancel school that day? There
30 might be additional cost in a move; a move needs to be approved by state; we are already past
31 official closure date to move polling place for this election. Ms. Barry discussed the possibility of
32 a permanent move of the polling place out of the school.
 - 33 c. We have received Green Communities Technical Assistance grant
 - 34 d. September events:
 - 35 i. Auction at Palmer Town Building this Saturday, also Shredding Day
 - 36 ii. Next Saturday will be Bulky Day at DPW garage; go to website for fees
- 37 10. Councilor's round table:
 - 38 a. Mr. Backus: NC
 - 39 b. Mr. Burns: Thank you to Bob Havelas, Palmer Events Planning, Julie Manning, Kathy (Riberty)
40 and the Palmer Business Partnership and all those who helped to put on Nostalgia Day
 - 41 c. Mr. Magiera: Congratulations to Palmer merchants and their J-6 Team; thanks for presenting us
42 with a plaque and flag
 - 43 d. Ms. Barry: NC
 - 44 e. Mr. Dinuovo: Thank you to those who put on nostalgia Day
 - 45 f. Mr. Hebert: Thank you to his wife on 18th anniversary
 - 46 g. Mr. Williams: Thank people who helped me clean up Depot Park, Boy Scouts, and a landscaping
47 company who assisted
- 48 11. Mr. Burns moved, Mr. Backus seconded motion to adjourn formal session; vote was unanimous to
49 adjourn formal session at 2018
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- 1 Respectfully submitted by
- 2 Ramon Dole
- 3 Recording Secretary