

**Palmer Town Council
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2016**

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1. Roll Call

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, April 11, 2016 was called to order at 6:30 pm by Barbara Barry. Present were Town Manager Charles Blanchard, Councilors Robert Lavoie, Karl Williams, Philip Hebert, Barbara Barry, Lorinda Baker, Mary Salzmann and Donald Blais.

2. Visitors Comments

None

3. Meeting Minutes

- a) March 14, 2016 - Motion to approve as amended by D. Blais, seconded by L. Baker. Motion passed 7-0.
- b) March 28, 2016 – Not considered at this meeting

4. Old Business

- a) **Vote - Adoption of MGL Chapter 58 §8C**
Overview of the proposed Ordinance regarding regulations providing tax relief on affordable housing renovations by court appointed receivers under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 58 Section 8C given by B. Barry. Motion to approve the adoption of the ordinance by M. Salzmann, seconded by R. Lavoie. Motion passed 6-1-0 with B Barry voting against.
- b) **Vote – 1524 Park Street Zone Change**
Overview of the proposed zone change at 1524 Park Street from Rural Residential to Highway Business given by B. Barry. Motion to approve the zone change by P. Hebert, seconded by D. Blais. Motion passed 7-0.

5. New Business

- a) **Vote - Town Manager Contract**
B. Barry noted that the Town Council voted to extend the Town Manager’s contract in Executive Session. The only significant change to his contract is related to goal attainment. Additionally the Town Manager will receive a 2% per year increase in salary. Motion to approve the Town Manager’s Contract by D. Blais, seconded by L. Baker. Motion passed 7-0.
- b) **Town Manager Goals**
B. Barry stated that the Town Manager Goals Subcommittee voted to approve new Town Manager Goals for 2016. D. Blais stated that he feels they are strong goals. The proposed Town Manager Goals were read by B. Barry. (Goals attached to these minutes)

1 Motion to approve the Town Manager’s 2016 Goals by M. Salzmann, seconded by D.
2 Blais. Motion passed 7-0.
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5 **c) Mosquito Control District**
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7 An overview of Mosquito Control District proposal was provided by C. Blanchard. He
8 stated that joining the Regional Mosquito Control District would cost approximately
9 \$35,000 and would be deducted from the town’s FY17 Cherry Sheet assessment. C.
10 Blanchard recommended approval of the Town joining the Regional Mosquito Control
11 District. He is currently unsure of the interest level of other communities, however, the
12 assessment is based on those communities who have shown serious interest in
13 establishing the district. M. Salzmann asked what other options would be available if
14 other communities didn’t adopt the Regional Mosquito Control District. C. Blanchard
15 noted that there are other more costly options the town could pursue. Motion to
16 authorize the Town Manager to sign the Mosquito Control District Memorandum of
17 Agreement by D. Blais, seconded by R. Lavoie. Motion passed 7-0.
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19 **6. Subcommittee Reports**

- 20 a. Recodification Committee – M. Salzmann stated that the committee needs to bring the
21 proposed code changes forward in May for adoption by Town Council.
22 b. 300th Anniversary Committee – L. Baker stated that there will be a Historical Lecture
23 April 12th by Donald Duffy on the Nipmunk Indians. She also stated that there is a
24 Pancake Breakfast April 23rd at Amvets, as well as a Historical Tour of Palmer by Eric
25 Raymond at the PHCC. She stated that May 7th there will be Armchair Races at St.
26 Mary’s. And May 22nd there will be a Concert at Pulaski Park featuring Noah Lis.
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28 **7. Town Manager’s Report**
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30 C. Blanchard stated that the New Telephone System at Town Hall is currently up and running.
31 He stated that he is in the process of reaching out to businesses who were noted to have false
32 alarms in the last year to reduce the police response call volume at those locations. He stated
33 that many false alarm issues have been addressed by property owners. Discussion continued on
34 the alarm system at the Town Hall. C. Blanchard noted that he is almost done with addressing
35 budget questions posed at the previous Town Council Meeting.
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37 C. Blanchard requested that Francis Nowak be appointed to Historical Commission. Motion to
38 approve of the appointment of Frances Nowak to the Historical Commission by P. Hebert,
39 seconded by L. Baker. Motion passed 7-0.
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41 **8. Misc. Correspondence**
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43 B. Barry noted the receipt of the monthly DPW Report. B. Barry asked about the progress of
44 investigating the cost of a new street sweeper. DPW Director Gerry Skowronek stated that the

1 DPW is demo testing new sweeper units and trying different types of sweepers to find the right
2 fit for the town's needs. C. Blanchard noted that they are still weighing whether if they should
3 retain the older sweeper. Discussion continued on the need for a new sweeper and whether or
4 not to invest in a vacuum or brush sweeper.

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6 **9. Councilor's Roundtable**

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8 P. Hebert stated that he would like to see what the town receives in meal tax. He would like to
9 eliminate meals tax because he feels that it is an unnecessary burden on residents and
10 businesses.

11 D. Blais thanked the Palmer Public Library for hosting his presentation on Eleanor Roosevelt. He
12 also stated that he was glad to vote to extend the Town Manager's Contract

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14 **10. Executive Session as per Chapter 39, Sec. 23B (3) Contract Negotiations**

15 *Motion to enter Executive Session as per Chapter 39, Sec. 23B (3) Contract Negotiations and*
16 *adjourn therefrom by D. Blais, seconded by L. Baker. Motion Passed by Roll Call vote 7-0 at 7:30*
17 *pm.*

18 *D. Blais – Yes, K. Williams – Yes, L. Baker – Yes, P. Hebert – Yes, R. Lavoie – Yes, M. Salzmann –*
19 *Yes and B. Barry – Yes.*