

**Palmer Town Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2017**

1 **1. Call to Order**

2 The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, January 9, 2017 was called to order at 6:30 pm by  
3 Town Council President Barbara Barry. Present were Town Manager Charles Blanchard,  
4 Councilors Robert Lavoie, Karl Williams, Lorinda Baker, Barbara Barry, Philip Hebert, Mary  
5 Salzman and Matthew Lemieux.

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7 **2. Visitors Comments**

8 None

9 **3. Meeting Minutes**

10 None

11 **4. Old Business**

12 **a) Vote – Collective Bargaining Agreement – UFCW 1459 – Administration/DPW/Van Drivers**

13 C. Blanchard stated that he had provided a copy of the Collective Bargaining Agreement which  
14 had been ratified by the Admin/DPW/Van Drivers Union to the Town Council.

15 *Motion to adopt and fund the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Admin/DPW/ Van*  
16 *Drivers union by B. Barry, seconded by P. Hebert. Motion passed 7-0.*

17 **b) Town Manager Evaluation**

18 The Town Manager evaluation scores were distributed to the Town Council by B. Barry. B. Barry  
19 outlined the score in each category by the Council.<sup>1</sup>

20 B. Barry stated that C. Blanchard earned an overall evaluation score of 4.21 out of 5.

21 C. Blanchard stated that he would like to address any concerns that each councilor has  
22 individually, but thanked the Town Council for the overall good evaluation.

23 B. Barry noted that the Town Manager’s bonus will be discussed at the next meeting. She stated  
24 that bonus is based on the Town Manager’s overall performance. B Barry stated that the Goals  
25 Committee will meet to discuss the Town Manager goals for next year. She stated that the Town  
26 Manager Goals should be brought forward for consideration by January 18<sup>th</sup>. C. Blanchard stated  
27 that he had provided a copy of the status of his current goal attainment to the Town Council.

28 **c) Any Other Old Business**

29 None

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<sup>1</sup> Town Manager Evaluation Attached (Attachment A)

1 **5. New Business**

2 **a) Councilor Lavoie – Thin Blue Line Proposal**

3 R. Lavoie stated that he had proposed painting a thin blue line between the double solid yellow  
4 lines in front of the Town Hall and the Police Department as a show of support for local law  
5 enforcement. He stated that other communities have sold lawn signs proclaiming support for  
6 local law enforcement.

7 B. Barry stated that MassDOT provided information to the town that painting a solid blue line  
8 between solid yellow lines is not allowed on state roadways and discouraged the town from  
9 painting on own roads since it is not a standardized use of traffic signals. P. Hebert suggested  
10 that a sign between the posts of the Police Department sign be made to show support for the  
11 police. M. Salzmann stated that support for all first responders should be included in any  
12 recognition that the town decides to display.

13 B. Barry suggested discussing the Thin Blue Line topic at a subsequent meeting.

14 **b) Any Other New Business**

15 None

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17 **6. Subcommittee Reports**

18 None

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20 **7. Town Manager’s Report**

21 C. Blanchard stated that the Three Rivers Main Street bridge repair work began today. When the  
22 project is completed, the bridge will be reopened to two lanes. He stated that the work is  
23 scheduled to be completed this week.

24 C. Blanchard stated that the Town Hall Renovation Project began today. He stated that the  
25 phasing of the project will be condensed in order to complete the project sooner.

26 C. Blanchard acknowledged a note he received from the Ware Police Department recognizing  
27 Sergeant Sullivan for his assistance in apprehending an individual wanted by the Ware Police  
28 Department.

29 **8. Misc. Correspondence**

30 B. Barry stated that on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30, there would be a Roundtable Meeting for the Three  
31 Rivers Revitalization initiative to present the revitalization master plan developed by Union  
32 Studio.

33 B. Barry stated that there would be a MassPike Toll Demolition Meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> in  
34 Northampton at 6:30pm.

35 **9. Councilor’s Roundtable**

36 B. Barry stated that there would be an Open Meeting for residents on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in  
37 the Police Station Meeting Room. The meeting would not be televised. B. Barry suggested using  
38 the town’s phone messaging system to advertise the meeting.

1 **10. Adjournment of Formal Session**

2 Motion to adjourn from formal session by P. Hebert, seconded by R. Lavoie. Motion passed 7-0  
3 at 7:15pm.