

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

1 **1. Roll Call**

2 The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, July 11, 2016 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, Philip Hebert, Barbara Barry, Mary Salzmann and
5 Matthew Lemieux. Councilor Lorinda Baker was absent.

6
7 **2. Visitors Comments**

8 No Visitor's Comments

9 B. Barry congratulated M. Lemieux on his election to the Town Council and M. Salzmann on her
10 re-election.

11 **3. Meeting Minutes**

12 a. April 25, 2016

13 None

14 b. May 9, 2016

15 None

16 c. May 23, 2016

17 None

18 **4. Old Business**

19 a. **2nd Reading – Community Preservation Act Adoption (2017-01)**

20 The Community Preservation Act Ordinance was read by R. Lavoie.

21 b. **6:30 pm – Public Hearing – Community Preservation Act Adoption (2017-01)**

22 The public notice on the Community Preservation Act Ordinance was read by R. Lavoie.

23 The public hearing was opened at 6:35pm by B. Barry

24 M. Salzmann asked what the process is to adopt the CPA. C. Blanchard stated that the
25 Town Council needs to pass the CPA by ordinance then vote to place it on the ballot.

26 P. Hebert asked where the CPA fees are generated from. Conservation Agent Angela
27 Panaccione stated that the CPA is funded by a 1.5% surcharge on property taxes with a
28 \$100,000 valuation exemption. A. Panaccione noted that the funds that support the
29 State's contribution of the CPA are collected at Hampden County Registry of Deeds
30 whenever a deed is recorded. She stated that Palmer residents have contributed
31 \$600,000 toward the CPA fund over its existence which has been distributed to other
32 towns. P. Hebert stated that he would rather see a voluntary recreation fund
33 established than a mandatory surcharge.

1 B. Barry asked what the parameters are for the low income exemption in the CPA
2 proposal. C. Blanchard noted that the qualifications for low income status are set by the
3 State, however, the exact figures were not known at this time. B. Barry requested
4 clarification of how the low income abatement would work.

5 M. Lemieux asked if the town adopted the CPA if it would help the town obtain grants.
6 A. Panaccione stated that the town would get extra points on grants. She also noted
7 that standards for construction are not regulated under CPA.

8 Discussion continued over the need for CPA in the Town of Palmer.

9 M. Salzmann noted that the town needs to communicate what the CPA is to the
10 residents of town. K. Williams asked if funds could be used on projects which would
11 require funding over multiple years. B. Barry noted that the funding could be used for
12 debt service, although annual debt service could be more than the town collects locally
13 in a given year. A. Panaccione noted that they will conduct an outreach campaign to
14 inform residents of the impacts of CPA.

15 B. Barry asked why they the Open Space and Recreation Committee recommended
16 adopting the low/moderate senior income exemption. A. Panaccione stated that the
17 recommendation to adopt the low/moderate senior income exemption was to make the
18 CPA more appealing to senior homeowners.

19 The public hearing was closed at 7:02pm.

20 **5. New Business**

21 **a. Police and Dispatcher Union Contract Adoption**

22 C. Blanchard noted that he provided copies of the Police and Dispatcher Collective
23 Bargaining Agreements to the Town Council. He stated that he is looking for motion to
24 accept the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the dispatchers union.

25 *Motion to accept the Union Contract Agreement between the Town of Palmer and UFCW*
26 *1459 Emergency Telecommunicators by M. Salzmann, seconded by P. Hebert. Motion*
27 *passed 6-0.*

28 C. Blanchard stated that he is looking for a motion to adopt the Police Officer's Union
29 Contract. He noted changes in the health insurance to offset PPO costs with Select Care
30 options.

31 *Motion to accept the Union Contract Agreement between the Town of Palmer and the*
32 *New England Police Benevolent Association, Local #071 by R. Lavoie, seconded by M.*
33 *Lemieux. Motion passed 6-0.*

34 **b. M.G.L. 58 8c Application – 27 Fox Street**

35 C. Blanchard noted that the application to proceed with placing 27 Fox Street into a low
36 income housing property tax forgiveness program under M.G.L. Chapter 58 Section 8c
37 had been withdrawn.

1 **c. Town Council Subcommittee Appointments**
2 B. Barry requested that a list of current subcommittees be sent to the council members.
3 Subcommittee appointments would be made at the next meeting.

4 **d. Town Council Rules**
5 The Town Council reviewed the current Town Council Rules. B. Barry proposed changes
6 to the televising requirements of the Town Council. The decision was made change the
7 televising rules to state Special Meetings shall be recorded at discretion of the
8 Chairperson.

9 B. Barry proposed eliminating Roll Call on the agenda. Consensus of the Town Council
10 was to eliminate Roll Call. Roll Call will be replaced with Call to Order.

11 B. Barry stated that Miscellaneous Correspondences should be moved after the Town
12 Manager’s Report.

13 The Town Council held a discussion on the Old Business agenda item. B. Barry stated
14 that the agenda should be amended to include business from a previous meeting to be
15 discussed under Old Business.

16 The Town Council deliberated over the rules of Visitor’s Comments and the role of the
17 presiding officer.

18 B. Barry stated that the posting of Town Council Vacancies should be amended to
19 include posting vacancies to the Journal Register and Town Website.

20 It was noted that areas that refer to a City Council should be changed to Town Council.

21 B. Barry stated that the Passage of Ordinance section should be rewritten to include
22 language outlining what the current practice of the Town Council is.

23 B. Barry stated that when Town Council members attend meetings and seek
24 reimbursement for expenses, actual receipts should be turned into the Town Manager’s
25 Office. B. Barry stated that preapproval for attendance to a seminar should go through
26 the Town Manager or Town Council.

27 Prior to the acceptance of the revised Council Rules, clarification will be provided on the
28 numbering of ordinances by Legal Counsel.

29 **6. Subcommittee Reports**

30 None

31 **7. Town Manager’s Report**

32 C. Blanchard stated that the OMP Sidewalk project is moving forward and concrete will be
33 poured soon.

34

1 **8. Misc. Correspondence**

2 R. Lavoie stated that the Divine Mercy Polish Picnic will be Sunday, July 24th

3 **9. Councilor's Roundtable**

4 M. Salzmann stated her frustration with the lack of volunteers in the community. B. Barry stated
5 that she would like to hold a town meeting sometime in September to discuss what the
6 community would like to see from the Town Council. Discussion continued on citizen
7 involvement. M. Salzmann stated that Thursday, July 14th is 300th Anniversary Committee's Ice
8 Cream Social and Children's Concert.

9 M. Lemieux stated that there are a lot of people that want to volunteer but need direction.

10 B. Barry stated that the Town Council would be meeting on Wednesday, July 13th to review the
11 proposed location of the John King Marker.

12 **10. Reorganization**

13 **a. Town Council President**

14 Motion to nominate B. Barry to the position of President of the Town Council by M.
15 Salzmann, seconded by P. Hebert. No other nominations were made. The single vote for
16 Town Council President was cast by R. Lavoie.

17 **b. Town Council Vice President**

18 Motion to nominate M. Salzmann to the position of Vice President of the Town Council
19 by B. Barry, seconded by R. Lavoie. No other nominations were made. The single vote
20 for Town Council Vice President was cast by R. Lavoie.

21 **c. Town Council Clerk**

22 Motion to nominate R. Lavoie to the position of Clerk of the Town Council by B. Barry,
23 seconded by M. Salzmann. No other nominations were made. The single vote for Town
24 Council Clerk was cast by B. Barry.

25 **11. Adjournment of Formal Session**

26 Motion to adjourn made by R. Lavoie, seconded by P. Hebert. Motion passed 6-0 at 7:52 PM.