

**Palmer Town Council  
Meeting Minutes  
May 7, 2018**

**1. Call to Order**

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, May 7, 2018 was called to order at 6:30PM by Town Council President Barbara Barry. Councilors Lori4da Baker, Mary Salzmann, Karl Williams, Matthew Lemieux, Michelle Sikes and Robert Lavoie were present. Also present was Town Manager, Charles Blanchard and executive assistant, Nicole Parker.

**2. Visitors Comments**

**3 Meeting Minutes**

March 12, 2018

Motion was made to approve as amended by L.Baker. Seconded by M. Lemieux. Motion passed (7:0)

April 9, 2018

Motion was made to approve by L.Baker. Seconded by M. Lemieux. Motion passed (7:0)

**4. Old Business**

Update on Eager Wading Pool

A spreadsheet had been submitted detailing the repair cost of the wading pool and bringing it up to ADA compliance resulting in the amount of \$ 21,000.00. \$8,500.00 was the cost for the pool to become ADA compliant. G.Skowronek, DPW Director, stated that other costs associated such as showers, electrical work and other associated costs were not included, and would still need to get estimates on that. The cost of putting an additional spray park in this area was approximately \$185,000.00. There was clarification that wading pools and swimming pools require the same guidelines, such as four times per day water testing and recording, and a certified lifeguard on duty at all times. There was also question as to the cost of filling in the pool. G.Skowronek stated that it would cost approximately \$500 to fill it in. Due to the age of the pool and the condition of it, coupled with the cost of renovations, the recommendation was to fill it in and look at other alternatives in the future.

Public Hearing Fiscal Year 2019 Budget

The public hearing was opened at 6:45PM. There was nobody present from the public. The public hearing was then closed at 6:45PM. B.Barry stated that the subcommittee, B.Barry, M.Lemieux and L.Baker, met with the Finance Director, John Kuzmiski, Town Manager Charlie Blanchard and Assistant Nicole Parker on April 30 to review the budget thus far, and will be meeting again on May 21. She again reiterated that if a Councilor has questions or comments on the budget to get them to the subcommittee before May 21, 2018.

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1 Veteran Emergency Fund update

2 The Public Hearing will be scheduled for June 11, 2018. C.Blanchard stated that the second hearing,  
3 public hearing and vote could be done all in the same night under the Charter and regulations for tax  
4 measures.

5 Laviolette Bathroom update

6 The roof will be replaced by Pathfinder starting on May 21, 2018. Brant Stahelski, of EWS Plumbing's  
7 offer to donate and do the installation of fixtures free of charge is still valid.

8 There is research being done right now as far as costs for a metal door and locks.

9 It was also stated that automatic hand dryers will be put in. There was also discussion regarding cleaning  
10 the facilities and making it safer with motion lights. There will also be signs put up that the facility is  
11 monitored by video surveillance.

12 B.Barry asked G.Skowronek to let the Council know when renovations are complete.

13 Security Cameras update

14 Police Chief Janulewicz has the two cameras on order. M.Lemieux stated that the Chamber of  
15 Commerce said they will purchase more when the town is ready to purchase more as well.

16 Palmer Public School Budget

17 L.Baker inquired as to whether the Palmer Public School received the budget they had requested.  
18 C.Blanchard stated that they had received what they requested. L.Baker stated that several people  
19 inquired as to why six teachers were let go. C.Blanchard stated that he will look into it and get back to  
20 them at the next meeting.

21

22 **5. New Business**

23 Annual Town Election Warrant

24 The Town Warrant was signed by the Town Councilors. B.Barry indicated the positions that were up for  
25 election. The election will be held Tuesday, June 12, 2018 from 10:00AM-8:00PM.

26 Free cash transfer for streetlights for LED conversion

27 C.Blanchard went over the request. Linda Leduc, Town Planner, had secured a grant to purchase all  
28 streetlights and have them converted to LED for a substantial annual savings of approximately  
29 \$42,000.00. Of the cost, the Town is responsible for purchasing the streetlights so a request of  
30 \$70,000.00 from free cash was submitted.

31 Motion was made to transfer \$70,000.00 from free cash for the purchase of street lights by M. Lemieux.  
32 Seconded by M.Salzman . Motion passed (7:0)

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1 First Reading: Revolving Fund Ordinance

2 B.Barry stated that the law has changed under the Municipal Modernization Act regarding  
3 revolving funds. In the past an annual vote would pass the reestablishment of the funds. There  
4 now needs to be an ordinance created. Once the ordinance is approved, the only requirement the  
5 Councilors take in the process is to approve spending limits.

6 The next meeting will be the Public Hearing and the vote for the Ordinance for Revolving Funds.

7 Planning Board request for Moratorium on large scale Photovoltaic Solar installations

8 A letter was submitted from the Planning Board dated April 30, 2018 requesting the matter be  
9 referred back to the Planning Board for their public hearing.

10 Motion was made to refer the request back to the Planning Board by M.Salzmann. Seconded by  
11 L.Baker. Motion passed (7:0)

12 Co-Sponsoring the Building Rail Access for Customers and the Economy Act (S 407) Letter in  
13 support of rail freight regulations

14 A representative that covers Northeast area for “GoRail” which is a group that supports freight  
15 rail legislation all around the country, indicated that some regulations being proposed that may  
16 hurt the freight rail business. It was relayed that it is very important to Palmer to support our rail  
17 business.

18 Motion was made to send letters of support by M.Lemieux. Seconded by K. Williams. Motion  
19 passed (7:0)

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21 M.Lemieux- Overnight Parking Ordinance.

22 M.Lemieux was approached by several people concerned over all of the overnight parking in  
23 Three Rivers and inquired as to whether an Ordinance can be passed to prevent overnight  
24 parking.

25 There are signs up that say no overnight parking. It was also stated that there may be an  
26 agreement that allows cars to park near Palmer Historical Cultural Center in the Town parking  
27 due to the fact that there are not enough spots for each apartment building on Main Street.

28 C.Blanchard will talk with the Chief of Police and get his opinion and get back to everyone for  
29 the June meeting.

30 B.Barry stated that she has been trying to coordinate a meeting with the state regarding rail. She  
31 stated she had been in contact with Senator Gobi’s office and the meeting was scheduled for last  
32 Friday, May 4, 2018. In attendance with B.Barry was Senator Anne Gobi, Astrid Glen, the Rail  
33 and Transit Administrator, Charlie Blanchard, Town Manager, Al Lasota from the Palmer  
34 Redevelopment Authority, Ben Hood representing Palmer for Passenger Rail Station, Linda  
35 Leduc, Town Planner and Economic Development Director, and State Representative Todd  
36 Smola. B.Barry stated that Rep. Smola had been working with Astrid Glen regarding Palmer

1 being moved to Tier 2 on the state rail plan. During the meeting it was indicated that this will  
2 happen. The state will be putting out an RFP to study east west rail. Palmer needs to conduct  
3 research and be prepared to put together a secure plan to bring passenger rail to Palmer.

#### 4 **6. Subcommittee reports**

5 B.Barry inquired as to what the ordinance subcommittee was planning regarding tag sale  
6 ordinance or leaving items on the tree belt for an extended period of time. The ordinance the  
7 subcommittee put together was more of a junk ordinance and altogether an ordinance in and of  
8 itself. Town Counsel reviewed the ordinance and stated that the ordinance needs to be modified  
9 as it is very restrictive. The Council agreed that a junk ordinance is not really necessary  
10 considering the Board of Health has jurisdiction over junk. B.Barry stated that there should be  
11 more focus on expanding the tag sale ordinance as well, to specifically emphasize the fact that  
12 after a certain period of limited time the items should be removed.

#### 13 **7. Town Manager's Report**

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15 C.Blanchard went over his report dated May 3, 2018. He stated the junk ordinance needed  
16 considerable work. The manager office intern, Jessica Sizer, gathered several towns' junk  
17 ordinances for their review. A Junk Ordinance was not the intent of the subcommittee and the  
18 will be resubmitted after further review.  
19 The court ordered sound study for Palmer Motorsports Park is scheduled to take place May 5,  
20 2018 and May 6, 2018. He stated he will get the results to the Council when they are available.  
21 C. Blanchard also stated that the Town will be switching to bi-weekly payroll the first week in  
22 August.

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#### 24 **8. Councilor's Roundtable**

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26 B.Lavoie stated that there is a new Veteran source around the region. The VA has mobile buses  
27 going around to different Big Y's assisting Veterans'.

28 B.Barry reminded everyone of the Memorial Day parade coming up on May 28.

29 M.Salzman stated that it was evident that nobody was present for any of the budget meetings,  
30 and there are no races for local elections. She stated that it is disconcerting that people are not in  
31 attendance.

32 L.Baker stated that the TRACK artisan fair was this past weekend. It was very successful, with  
33 over 70 vendors. She also stated that the boys track team has their best season ever. Over 15 have  
34 qualified for states.

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36 Next meeting was set for June 11, 2018.

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#### 38 **8. Adjournment of Formal Session**

39 8:00PM

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Motion to adjourn was made by K.Williams. Seconded by R.Lavoie. Motion passed (7:0)