

**Palmer Town Council  
Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2017**

**1. Call to Order**

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, September 18, 2017 was called to order at 6:30 pm by Town Council President Barbara Barry. Councilors Lorinda Baker, Mary Salzmann, Karl Williams, Matthew Lemieux, Michele Sikes and Robert Lavoie were present. Also present was Town Manager, Charles Blanchard and executive assistant, Nicole Parker.

**2. Visitors Comments**

Manager of Right Choice Health Group Maria Silva and founder/Medical Director, Dr. Omar Faruq introduced themselves and stated that they will be opening a clinic on North Main Street for substance abuse treatment. They stated that they will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays and invited the Council to their open house the following Wednesday.

**3. Minutes August 14, 2017**

Motion was made to approve minutes as amended by L.Baker. Seconded by K.Williams. Motion passed (6:0:1) R.Lavoie

**4. Old Business**

Vote: False Alarm Ordinance

“The purpose of this chapter is to encourage alarm users to maintain the operational reliability of their alarm systems, to reduce or eliminate false alarm dispatch requests, to establish a system of regulations and fees with respect to alarm systems, and to provide for penalties for violations of this chapter.”

M.Salzmann started discussion over none of the public present for any reading or public hearing. B.Barry stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to address the issues of multiple false alarms that are not repaired. It was stated that public buildings tend to be the biggest offenders but are exempt. The Council stated that the public buildings will be monitored and if they continue to be an issue they will revisit the issue.

Motion was made to approve ordinance by M.Salzmann. Seconded by R.Lavoie. Motion passed (6:0:1) Sikes

First Reading on the Recreational Marijuana Moratorium

R.Lavoie read a letter that was referred from the Planning Board dated July 19,2017 recommending the Council adopt the one year moratorium for recreational marijuana.

The second reading and the public hearing was set for October 16, 2017 at 6:35PM.

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1 Discussion: Laviolette Field Bathroom renovations

2 There was discussion regarding Pathfinder carpentry team replacing the roof, shingles and weather  
3 permitting, siding up near the gable. There was also discussion regarding a plumber that had offered to  
4 do the work years ago and the DPW Director is looking into whether that option still stands. C.Blanchard  
5 reminded the Council that they allocated \$28,000.00 in to the stabilization Fund and hopes cover all  
6 materials. M.Sikes stated that she would be able to get G. Skowronek in touch with the Plumber. He  
7 stated that as he receives more information he will relay it to the Council.

8 Discussion: Converse Middle School Reuse

9 B.Barry relayed to the Council that that the subcommittee, which includes her, B.Lavoie and L.Baker met  
10 with the consultant to discuss the reuse of Converse Middle School. C.Blanchard was also present. The  
11 Consultant, Housing Partnership, was very excited about the opportunities the project presented as far  
12 as a mixed use. The sub- committee felt that they made it clear that senior housing was the best fit and  
13 how the community facets need to also still be available for Town use. B.Barry stated that the sub-  
14 committee felt it was time to move forward and prepare bid documents. One of the components was  
15 selling only part of the building and retaining basketball courts and that area of the school for Town and  
16 community use.

17 Discussion: Town Hall Renovation Project

18 C. Blanchard stated the project is near completion. MPact hooked the meeting room up recently and is  
19 very modernized. The Town Council desk was built by Dan Roy. Everyone agrees the building looks great  
20 and is almost finished. B.Barry stated that she will be keeping it on the agenda list for updates until it is  
21 complete and closed out.

22 Citizen Leadership Academy

23 C.Blanchard stated that 6 people were signed up. B.Barry spoke to listeners regarding the academy and  
24 the details. It was also stated that it is on the website and Facebook for interest.

25 Council Rules

26 B.Barry went over the Rules that her and M.Salzman completed for typographical errors. M. Salzman  
27 went over the final changes with the Council. N.Parker will make all changes and send to the Council.  
28 Motion was made to approve Council Rules as amended by R. Lavoie. Seconded by M.Lemieux. Motion  
29 passed (7:0)

30 **5. New Business**

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32 Surplus Vehicle Declaration

33 DPW Director G.Skowronek stated that he would be putting a legal ad in the paper for bids for the sale  
34 of 10 inoperable vehicles to be sold as one lot, as opposed to selling each one individually.

35 Motion was made to declare all surplus vehicles and to sell to bidder as one lot by M.Lemieux. Seconded  
36 by L.Baker. Motion passed (7:0)

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Discussion: Town Council Community Forum

B.Barry reminded everyone of the Community Forum on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 6:30. It is advertised on the website, on Facebook and on the marquee outside Town Hall. She requested it go out through the Connect CTY Massachusetts notification system to get it out to all residents.

Town Manager's Report

A grant in the amount of \$36,670.00 has been received for Complete Streets for preparation of a prioritization plan. The work is scheduled to be complete by June 30, 2018.

Board Of Health conducted site visits with the Attorney General office. Seven properties were reviewed. All owners and parties of interest will receive demand letters. If the owners are uncooperative, the AG's office will file with the court for the appointment of a receiver. The goal is to bring all blighted properties up to the State sanitary code. A chart was provided to the Council explaining the process.

A- frame signs were submitted to the Council for their review to have the ability to put notices around Town to notify residents of important upcoming events. The Council stated that they should be put at strategic locations where they would be most visible. It is an effort to get notifications out to our residents. It was also recommended they be attached to something to prevent theft and vandalism.

Summary of some preliminary costs for surveillance cameras and some options were distributed to the Council. The DPW Director had early discussions with outside vendors regarding types of camera and whether the use Wi-Fi will be feasible or if cable will need to be utilized. Other options will be explored.

Brian Sullivan of Sullivan Custom Pools has been contacted to look at the Eager Park wading pool to determine the cost of repairs. G.Skowronek will get back to the Council when there is more information.

Tax title property sale will be conducted Wednesday September 20, 2017.

Lt. Governor Polito will be in Palmer on September 19, 2017 for DCR recreational; grant program grant award ceremony to announce the grant Palmer received for universal access trails.

**6. Councilor's Roundtable**

M.Salzmann thanked everyone for their attendance at the 9/11 memorial. It was a terrific event. She gave a special thank you to the children from the school groups that come out and donate their time and talent.

B.Lavoie wanted to remind everyone about the Community Forum coming up Wednesday, September 20, 2017.

Next meeting was set for October 16, 2017.

**7. Adjournment of Formal Session**

7:45PM

Motion to adjourn from formal session by M.Salzmann. Seconded by R.Lavoie. Motion passed (7:0)