

1 **Palmer Town Council**

2 **Town Council Meeting Minutes**

3 Monday, April 28, 2014

4  
5 **1. Roll Call**

6  
7 The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, April 28, 2014 was called to order at 6:30 pm.  
8 Present were Town Manager Charles Blanchard, Phil Hebert, Jason Polonsky, Matt Lovell,  
9 Donald Blais, Paul Burns and Mary Salzmann and Andrew Golas recording minutes. Absent was  
10 Barbara Barry.

11  
12 **2. Consent of the Agenda Order**

13  
14 Motion to accept the agenda as amended by P. Burns, seconded by M. Lovell. Motion passed 6-0.

15  
16 **3. Meeting Minutes**

17  
18 None

19  
20 **4. Visitors Comments (for items not on the agenda)**

21  
22 Mark Nutter asked the council how many hours construction is allowed at the race track project  
23 on Whisky Hill. A. Golas stated that hours are operation are outlined in the special permit which  
24 is issued by the Planning Board and is not under the purview of the Town Council. Mr. Nutter  
25 stated that the construction on the track has been an annoyance to the neighborhood. He also  
26 asked for copies of the race track's proposal. Planning Board Chairmen Michael Marciniac stated  
27 that the only amendment to the original approved site plan that was filed with the Planning Board  
28 was a relocation of the access road. He also stated that a copy of the Special Permit and Site Plan  
29 approval had been provided to anyone who requested it. Michael Barbiac of Ware stated that he  
30 does not like the noise coming from the project. He asked if any consideration of the surrounding  
31 towns is taken into account when permitting a project. He also stated that he believes his property  
32 value will drop because of the project. Stan Martowski of Ware also addressed the Council. He  
33 stated his concerns over water quality and asked that a baseline test be conducted regarding the  
34 water quality coming off of Whisky Hill. He also stated his concerns over the insurance liability  
35 of the race track and stated his belief that the town would be liable for any incident which  
36 occurred on the race track.

37  
38 **5. FY15 Budget**

39  
40 **1. Town Clerk**

41  
42 Town Clerk Susan Coache addressed the Council regarding her proposed FY15 budget. She  
43 stated that she had requested funding to bring the registrar's stipend up to previous levels.  
44 She stated that the Registrars will be overseeing three elections in FY15. M. Salzmann asked  
45 when the last time license fees were increased was. S. Coache stated that they were last  
46 reviewed on 2007 and are currently higher than the regional average. The council asked what  
47 expenses were covered under the contracts line item. She stated that the contracts include  
48 maintenance of election equipment. She also stated that starting with the fall primary  
49 elections, all elections for districts two and three would now be held at the St. Thomas Parish  
50 Center on Thorndike Street rather than Converse Middle School.

51 **2. Building Department**

52  
53 Building Inspector Bonita Weeks addressed the Council regarding her proposed FY15  
54 budget. She stated that she had requested an increase in the building expenses line to buy  
55 updated code books and attend trainings. She stated that she is required to attend 45 hours  
56 worth of training per year to maintain certification. The council asked if her department has  
57 implemented GIS into her inspections. She stated that she has been working with GeoTMS to  
58 implement the new permit tracking software.  
59

60 **3. Conservation Commission**

61  
62 Conservation Commission Chairmen Robert Ring and Conservation Agent Angela  
63 Panaccione addressed the council regarding the Commission's proposed FY15 budget. B.  
64 Ring stated that the largest increase was in salary to fund the need for increased office hours.  
65 A. Panaccione stated that she had brought in interns to assist in conducting field studies and  
66 generating reports. She stated that the proposal would bring her hours up to 25 hours per  
67 week. She stated that she has been working on a number of issues related to the open space  
68 and recreation plan including a survey of ADA compliance of all public parks. A. Panaccione  
69 stated that the Conservation Commission hoped to enact new permit fees to fund the extended  
70 hours of Conservation Agent position.  
71

72 **4. Planning Board/Economic Development**

73  
74 Planning and Economic Development Director Linda Leduc and Planning Board Chairmen  
75 Michael Marciniec address the Town Council. L. Leduc stated that the planning office was  
76 looking to fund the Administrative Assistant at 32.5 hours to assist with the expansion of the  
77 office to handle economic development tasks. She and M. Marciniec reiterated that it is  
78 essential to maintain full time assistance in the planning office. L. Leduc stated that there are  
79 currently three or four major developments currently in the works. She has established a  
80 partnership with Lenny Weake from the Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce to connect  
81 with local businesses. She also highlighted the TIF agreement between the Town and  
82 Detector Technologies and the number of grant opportunities in the works. She also stated  
83 that she has been working with GeoTMS to implement the new permit tracking software and  
84 is currently administering the HVAC Phase 2 replacement grant.  
85

86 J. Polonsky asked if there were any applications filed for development on the Triangle  
87 project. M. Marciniec stated that no site plan for that location had been submitted. P. Hebert  
88 asked that the office look into grants for local businesses J. Polonsky also asked that they  
89 look into holding a breakfast with local politicians for local businesses. P. Burns thanked the  
90 planning office for moving the Economic Development office into implementation.  
91

92 **6. Sewer Surplus Fund Transfer**

93  
94 C. Blanchard noted that a transfer of \$4,807.43 would need to be made from the Sewer  
95 Surplus Fund to cover the remaining interest costs on the sewer debt. The council agreed by  
96 consensus to take a formal vote on the transfer at the next posted Town Council meeting.  
97

98 **7. Adjournment**

99  
100 Motion to adjourn by P. Burns, seconded by J. Polonsky. Motion passed 6-0 at 7:25 pm.  
101  
102