

Palmer Town Council

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 14, 2014

1. Roll Call

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, July 14, 2014 was called to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Town Manager Charles Blanchard, Phil Hebert, Jason Polonsky, Barbara Barry, Matt Lovell, Mary Salzmann, Robert Lavoie, Donald Blais and Andrew Golas recording minutes.

2. Consent of the Agenda Order

Motion to accept the agenda as submitted by J. Polonsky, seconded by D. Blais. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2014 – Motion to accept the minutes of May 27, 2014 as submitted by J. Polonsky, seconded by M. Salzmann. Motion passed 7-0.

June 9, 2014 – Motion to accept the minutes of June 9, 2014 as amended by J. Polonsky, seconded by M. Lovell. Motion passed 7-0.

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

None

5. New Business

1. Medical Marijuana Zoning Ordinance

A letter from the Planning Board recommending the Council refer the proposed Medical Marijuana Zoning back to the planning board for public hearing read by J. Polonsky. Motion to refer the Medical Marijuana Zoning Ordinance back to the Planning Board by J. Polonsky, seconded by B. Lavoie. B. Lavoie asked if the planning board had received any inquiries regarding a possible medical marijuana facility anywhere in Palmer. Economic Development and Planning Director Linda Leduc stated that the Town had not received any inquiries regarding medical marijuana facility sites. She stated that the Planning Board would be holding their hearing on July 21st. M. Lovell asked if more input should be given by the Board of Health regarding the licensing of the medical marijuana facilities. L. Leduc stated that the regulations being proposed were relative to zoning and all departments were consulted during the development of the proposed ordinance. Motion passed 7-0.

2. FY13 Audit Review

C. Blanchard noted that the FY13 Audits had been distributed to the Council. B. Barry requested that Tom Scanlon Address the Council at their August Meeting.

3. Dispatchers Union Contract

C. Blanchard explained that there was no update from the dispatchers union at this time. They are still waiting to clarify some questions within the contract.

4. DPW Director

M. Salzmann stated that she would like to make a motion to strike the qualification language in the Charter requiring the DPW Director to hold a degree in Civil Engineering. That motion was seconded by M. Lovell. M. Salzmann Stated that she would like to see the question placed on the November Election Ballot. C. Blanchard stated that Special Legislation from the State Legislature would be required to place the question on the November Ballot. Discussion continued on the revised language of the Charter educational qualifications continued. Motion to strike the qualification language in the Charter requiring the DPW Director to hold a degree in Civil Engineering passed 7-0.

Motion to petition the state legislature for special legislation to place the question on the November Election Ballot by D. Blais, seconded by M. Lovell. Motion passed 7-0.

6. Subcommittee Reports

D. Blais reported that Police Station is 99% completed and the Town Hall Doors will be installed this week.

7. Town Manager Report

C. Blanchard asked that the Town Council confirm the appointments of Eric Duda to the 300th Anniversary Committee, Kelly Youngberg to the Recreation Committee and Peter Izyk to the Conservation Commission. Motion to confirm the recommended appointments by J. Polonsky, seconded by M. Salzmann. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion to appoint P. Hebert to the Recreation Committee by B. Barry, seconded by M. Salzmann. Motion passed 6-0-1 with P. Hebert abstaining.

C. Blanchard stated that the Economic Development Department's table at the Western Mass Developers Conference on June 26th at the Basketball Hall of Fame went very well. It put the Town and our priority development sites in front of several developers and allowed us to get a better idea of the development activity throughout Western Massachusetts.

He also stated that the town is meeting with Fallon representatives on July 21st to look at wellness programs can be developed that will reduce employees' health risks and ultimately help control our insurance cost. C. Blanchard stated that the installation of the new East and West doors on the Town Hall is scheduled for Friday, July 18th and that the Town has also begun some conceptual work on relocating the Building Inspector and the Board of Health to the space formerly occupied by the Police Department, providing more space for the Conservation agent, relocating the break room to the Police Chief's former office and providing more space for the Town Planner/Economic development Director and the Collector and Treasurer's divisions. He stated that our intent would be to fund this from the Mohegan Sun Host Community Agreement payment. J. Polonsky stated that he would like to see the Mohegan Sun funds used for Street Scape Improvements. B. Barry asked that the

town look at obtaining historical status on the building to petition for historical preservation funds. B. Barry asked, now that the Treasurer and Collector positions had been split, where would the treasurer be located. C. Blanchard stated that the treasurer's office would most likely move to the break room after the break room is moved to the former police department wing. M. Salzmann asked what the status was on the Outreach Coordinator's salary. C. Blanchard stated that he had spent to the individual's supervisor and the issue had been resolved.

8. Councilor Roundtable

D. Blais welcomed B. Lavoie to the council, thanked Mr. Bianca for his time with the Palmer School System, thanked C. Blanchard, Representative Smola and Senator Brewer for their hard work resolving the Net School Spending issue and reminded residents to attend the Polish Picnic on July 27th.

B. Barry stated that she would like a letter drafted thanking Senator Brewer and Representative Smola for their efforts in resolving the Net School Spending issue.

M. Salzmann stated her frustration that no events in Palmer receive any coverage from the local media.

R. Lavoie thanked the voters for their support electing him to office and looked forward to working with everyone over the course of his term.

J. Polonsky welcomed R. Lavoie to the council and thanked Paul Burns for his years of service to the council. He also encouraged residents to go to the Movie in the Park in Three Rivers on July 18th. He also encouraged residents to attend the TRFD Chicken BBQ on Saturday, July 19th.

9. Council Reorganization

P. Hebert thanked everyone for their support over his past two years as president.

Motion to nominate B. Barry as council president by P. Hebert, seconded by B. Lavoie. No other nominations were made. J. Polonsky cast the lone vote for B. Barry as president.

Motion to nominate J. Polonsky as council vice-president by B. Barry, seconded by P. Hebert. No other nominations were made. B. Barry cast the lone vote for J. Polonsky.

Motion to nominate M. Salzmann as council clerk by B. Barry, seconded by P. Hebert. No other nominations were made. J. Polonsky cast the lone vote for M. Salzmann.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by J. Polonsky, seconded by M. Lovell. Motion passed 7-0 at 7:15 PM.