

Palmer Town Council

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 12, 2014

1. Roll Call

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, May 12, 2014 was called to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Town Manager Charles Blanchard, Phil Hebert, Jason Polonsky, Barbara Barry, Matt Lovell, Donald Blais, Paul Burns and Andrew Golas recording minutes. M. Salzmann was not present for roll call but joined the meeting at 6:35 pm.

2. Consent of the Agenda Order

Motion to accept the agenda as submitted by M. Lovell, seconded by J. Polonsky. Motion to amend motion by adding an executive session as per Chapter 39, Section 23B (3) for Litigation by P. Burns, seconded by D. Blais. Motion failed 2-4 with P. Hebert, J. Polonsky, B. Barry and M. Lovell opposed. Motion to approve agenda as submitted passed 6-0.

3. Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2014 – Motion to approve the minutes of April 14, 2014 as amended by P. Burns, seconded by B. Barry. Motion passed 6-0.

M. Salzmann joined meeting.

March 24, 2014 – Motion to approve the minutes of March 24, 2014 as amended by P. Burns, seconded by B. Barry. Motion passed 7-0.

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

None

5. New Business

1. Warrant for June 10, 2014 Town Election

Motion to accept the warrant for the June 10, 2014 Town Election as presented by P. Burns, seconded by B. Barry. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Proclamation – Noah Lis

Proclamation congratulating Noah Lis on his appearance on the TV show “The Voice” read by J. Polonsky. Proclamation presented by P. Hebert.

6. Old Business

1. 300th Anniversary Celebration

C. Blanchard stated that three people have submitted their letter of interest to volunteer for the 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee. P. Hebert stated that he has reached out to the Recreation Director for assistance and would like to reach out to the PHCC as well. M. Salzman stated that she would like to get the Yellow House involved in the planning as well. She also noted that the Historical Commission had not received a budget from the Town in 6 years. B. Barry asked that a timeline be established as to when letters of interest should be received by the Town Manager. A story on the 300th Anniversary celebration should also run in the paper. C. Blanchard questioned how large of a celebration the council was looking to have since they were going to need a number of volunteers. J. Polonsky stated that he felt there should be events held monthly during the 300th Anniversary and that a timeline to completion should be established. P. Burns stated that the council should let the celebration committee form and let that committee do the ground work as the committee expands. C. Blanchard stated that he will accept letters of interest via email.

Motion to appoint Lorinda Baker, Margaret Ferry and Alexander LaMarche to the 300th Founder's Day Celebration Committee by J. Polonsky, seconded by P. Burns. Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion continued on the past funding of the Historical Commission. C. Blanchard stated that he would reach out to the Historical Commission to see what role they would be willing to take in the organization of the 300th Founders Day.

2. FY15 Budget

C. Blanchard stated that the next budget meeting would be held Monday, May 19, 2014 at 6:30 pm

7. Subcommittee Reports

Police Station Building Committee - D. Blais reported that the Police Station is at 97% completion and thanked everyone who attended the dedication and open house on May 3rd.

Energy Committee - M. Salzman reported that the Energy Subcommittee was working with Guardian Energy and National Grid to perform an audit of all town building including the fire and water district complexes and Pathfinder School. The energy audit will help improve the town's ability to apply for funding to fix ongoing deficiencies.

P. Hebert mentioned the drainage issue behind the new police station which was described in the Palmer Journal. C. Blanchard stated that the stormwater retention area was designed to drain in 72 hours and will function as so before being turned over to the town.

8. Town Manager's Report

C. Blanchard stated that although the floor selection had not been finalized, a debt service schedule had been provided with the highest cost estimate. The committee is looking to host public forums on the floor replacement on May 22nd and June 3rd. C. Blanchard also reported that trash pickers would be provided to the DPW to handle needle clean ups which have become an issue in the parks. He stated that Darcy Fortune of MPACT is making progress on video segments on Palmer businesses. C. Blanchard outlined ongoing issues of the council.

C. Blanchard presented a letter from Leon Dragone of Northeast Realty addressing the Council's request for a status update on the Triangle Project. J. Polonsky stated that he does not think Northeast Realty plans to do anything in the near future with the property.

C. Blanchard stated that he would be meeting with Bartholomew and Co. on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 to discuss the details of adopting the OPEB trust fund. There will be a presentation regarding the adoption of the OPEB trust at the next Town Council Meeting. The funds for the OPEB trust will be taken from Free Cash. He will also be requesting a free cash transfer to cover \$176,000 for the amount expended for Snow and Ice and \$105,000 for the Town Hall HVAC Phase II project.

9. Misc. Correspondence

P. Hebert stated that the 4 Rivers Watershed Council would be meeting Thursday, May 15th at the PHCC to discuss preservation efforts of the watershed area.

10. Roundtable

D. Blais thanked everyone who attended the Police Station Open House. He also thanked the Board of Health for conducting the Drug Take-Back Day.

J. Polonsky thanked the volunteers of town including all those that donated time to rehab the Palmer Baseball Fields and Janice Lovell for leading the effort to restore the Depot Park area.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by P. Burns, seconded by J. Polonsky. Motion passed 7-0 at 7:25 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Andrew M. Golas