

**Palmer Town Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 14, 2015**

1 **1. Roll Call**

2 The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, December 14, 2015 was called to order at 6:30 pm By
3 Town Council President Barbara Barry. Present were Town Manager Charles Blanchard, Councilors
4 Robert Lavoie, Philip Hebert, Barbara Barry, Lorinda Baker, Mary Salzmann, Karl Williams and Donald
5 Blais.

6 **2. Visitors Comments**

7 Henry and Helena Naglack of 50 Elizabeth Street, Palmer addressed the Town Council regarding their
8 concern about door to door solicitors. Ms. Naglack stated that door to door solicitors pose a threat to
9 senior citizens. She asked that an ordinance be passed to prevent the practice of door to door sales in
10 town. Ms. Naglack also requested that the town consider removing the ages of individuals in the Town's
11 Street List and allow people to opt out of having their names on the street list. Ms. Naglack stated that
12 the street list could be used by solicitors to target the elderly.

13 C. Blanchard stated that door to door solicitors are required to register with the Palmer Police
14 Department. Mr. Naglack noted that even if they are registered, they are not required to carry any
15 identification that they have registered. B. Barry requested that C. Blanchard look into the current
16 practice of registering door to door solicitors and report back to the Town Council. Ms. Naglack
17 requested that the town offer space in the Town Hall Meeting Room to allow solicitors to set up rather
18 than allow them to go door to door.

19 **4. Meeting Minutes**

20 a) **October 13, 2015**

21 *Motion to approve the minutes of October 13, 2015 as amended by D. Blais, seconded by K.*
22 *Williams. Motion passed 7-0.*

23 b) **November 9, 2015**

24 *Motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2015 as amended by L. Baker, seconded by D.*
25 *Blais. Motion passed 7-0.*

26 **5. Old Business**

27 a) **Bergeron Land Donation**

28 C. Blanchard noted that due to a cloud that was still over the deed, the town attorney would still
29 need to work on addressing the issues on the deed before the town council can take any action
30 toward accepting the land donation.

31 **6. New Business**

32 a) **1st Reading – Park Street Zone Change – Parcels west of East Palmer Park Drive**

1 Ordinance 2016-03 which petitioned to change nine contiguous parcels west of East Palmer Park
2 Drive on Park Street from General Business to Highway Business was read by R. Lavoie. B. Barry
3 set the public hearing for the zone change request for 6:30 pm on January 11, 2016.

4 **b) 1st Reading - Adoption of MGL Chapter 58 §8C**

5 Ordinance 2016-04 which proposed to adopt Massachusetts General Law Chapter 58, Section 8C
6 was read by R. Lavoie. This section of law would be an affordable housing tax abatement
7 ordinance which, if enacted, would be to encourage the development of affordable housing as
8 defined in M.G. L c. 60, §1. C. Blanchard stated that the ordinance was drafted pursuant to
9 guidelines provided by the Department of Revenue and reviewed by the Town Attorney.

10 B. Barry asked for additional language to ensure that receivers do not currently owe taxes in the
11 Town of Palmer. B. Barry also asked for clarification that District Taxes were also included in the
12 tax forgiveness agreement. B. Barry also asked who would be responsible for tracking the
13 abated taxes due if the receiver violates the tax agreement. Discussion continued on how to
14 track the abated taxes on the property. C. Blanchard stated that he would look into these issues
15 before the council went forward with adopting the proposed ordinance. B. Barry noted that she
16 felt the statute provided by the DOR regarding the affordable housing abatement program
17 needed clarification. The consensus of the council was to bring it back to the full council as
18 revised and hold a new first hearing.

19 **c) Adoption of Dog Pound Inter-Municipal Agreement**

20 C. Blanchard outlined that the only change to the agreement from its original version was to add
21 indemnification to the Town of Palmer's employees. C. Blanchard noted that he is seeking the
22 Town Council's approval to sign the agreement. C. Blanchard outlined the methodology behind
23 the assessment to each town. B. Barry asked why the 2010 Census was used as a baseline for
24 the assessment. C. Blanchard stated that since the numbers will stay consistent, it will be
25 simpler to budget during the ten year period. Discussion continued on the assessment of fees
26 under the IMA. C. Blanchard noted that it would be the duty of the Department of Public Safety
27 to enforce the terms of the agreement. B. Barry questioned what expenses over and above the
28 annual assessment could be expended under the IMA. C. Blanchard stated that the ultimate goal
29 of the IMA would be to construct a new regional dog facility. The IMA would be the vehicle to
30 ultimately construct the new regional facility. B. Barry stated that she did not see how the ability
31 to expend over and above the assessment would be applicable to the operation of the IMA.
32 Discussion continued over who would be considered a Town of Palmer employee under the
33 agreement.

34 **7. Subcommittee Reports**

35 - Ordinance Review and Recodification Committee – M. Salzman noted that there are still open
36 positions for residents on the committee and encouraged people to apply.

37 - 300th Anniversary Committee – L. Baker stated that the 300th Anniversary Committee is planning to
38 have a Christmas Tree Bonfire on Sunday, January 3rd at 5:00 pm to begin the 300th Anniversary Events.
39 She also stated that the committee has been brainstorming how to pair with other community
40 organizations and events.

1 - Ordinance Subcommittee – B. Barry asked D. Blais if there is any update on the request to modify the
2 snow removal ordinance to allow for exemptions. D. Blais stated that he would be scheduling a meeting
3 to discuss the matter in January.

4 **8. Town Manager’s Report**

5 C. Blanchard stated that the Town Manager’s Office plans to solicit quotes for a town-wide Municipal
6 Solid Waste and Recycling Service to be evaluated during the FY17 Budget process. Proposals are due to
7 be submitted February 17, 2016. C. Blanchard stated that Bob Haveles will be reviewing the renovation
8 plans and specifications for Town Hall. The plans will be reviewed by the Town Council before the Town
9 goes out to bid. C. Blanchard also gave an update on the Sergeant’s Assessment Exam and stated the
10 results are with the State’s Human Resources Division for review. Interviews and appointments should
11 be made soon. B. Barry requested that a timeline for filling the permanent chief position be presented at
12 the next meeting.

13 **9. Misc. Correspondence**

14 None

15 **10. Councilor’s Roundtable**

16 - M. Salzmann asked for clarification on the use of berm for the Hot Patch Machine. Gerry Skowronek
17 Stated that chunks of berm are melted down in the winter to provide a solid patch for pot holes.

18 - L. Baker thanked the DPW for delivering the 300th Anniversary Birthday Cake to the town from the
19 Town of Paxton.

20 - D. Blais thanked all those that came out for Veteran’s Day. He also thanked the Palmer Schools for
21 putting on the presentation on Opiate addiction. D. Blais thanked Lt. Governor Polito for signing the
22 Community Compact with the Town of Palmer.

23 - R. Lavoie thanked Library Director Ben Hood for holding a Christmas festival at the Library.

24 **11. Adjournment of Formal Session**

25 Motion to Adjourn by P. Hebert, seconded by D. Blais. Motion passed 7-0 at 7:45 pm.