

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on January 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. Mayor Carrington called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Comprising a quorum of the Council, the following were present:

Mayor Steve Carrington  
Deputy Mayor Carolina Anzilotti  
John Alcantra  
Richard W. Best  
Jim Cooper  
Pam Melin

Absent:

Joshua Tudor was absent and excused.

Staff in attendance:

John Moosey, City Manager  
Shelly M. Acteson, CMC, City Clerk  
Benji Johnson, Deputy City Clerk  
Sarah Heath, City Attorney  
Dwayne Shelton, Palmer Police Chief  
Chad Cameron, Palmer Fire Chief  
Brad Hanson, Community Development Director

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
  - A. **Action Memorandum No. 24-009:** Confirmation of the Mayoral Appointment of Joyce Momarts to the Airport Advisory Commission
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
  - A. January 9, 2024, Regular Meeting

**Main Motion: To Approve the Agenda as Presented**

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Alcantra
Vote:	Unanimous Consent
Action:	Motion Carried

## **E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS**

1. Elected Officials in Attendance
2. Board/Commission Members in Attendance
3. Promotion of Trey Lindstrom from Captain to Assistant Chief of Palmer Fire and Rescue  
Fire Chief Cameron presented Captain Trey Lindstrom with an Assistant Chief badge.
4. Promotion of John Prevost from Assistant Chief to Deputy Chief of Palmer Fire and Rescue  
Fire Chief Cameron presented Assistant Chief Prevost with Deputy Chief badge.
5. Proclamation Recognizing Kaelan Vesel's Success at the ASAA/First National Bank Division I State Championships in Wrestling  
Deputy Mayor Anzilotti presented Kaelen Vesel with the proclamation and read it into the record.
6. Proclamation Recognizing Cody Vansiegman's Success at the ASAA/First National Bank Division I State Championship in Wrestling  
Deputy Mayor Anzilotti presented Cody Vansiegman with the proclamation and read it into the record.

Mayor Carrington called for a recess at 6:13 p.m., the meeting reconvened at 6:17 p.m.

7. Polly-Beth Odom, Daybreak, Inc. – Palmer Navigation Center Update  
Polly-Beth Odom, Executive Director, Daybreak, Inc presented an update on the Palmer Navigation Center
8. Final Schematic Presentation, Palmer Library Project, by Wolf Architecture  
Wolf Architecture gave an update regarding progress on the Palmer Public Library Project

## **F. REPORTS**

1. City Manager's Report
  - Working on Title 4 Rewrite and review with staff, will be coming before City Council
  - Will be meeting with the Borough regarding funding.
  - Gave an update on the liability property insurance, which had a 25% increase from last year, the City went out to bid, will keep the Council posted.
2. Mayor's Report
  - Written report in packet.
3. City Clerk's Report
  - Written report in packet.
4. City Attorney's Report
  - Provided a follow-up on airport lease updates.
  - Library process report will be available during an upcoming meeting.

## **G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Cris Tyree:

- Expressed concern regarding the placement of the books at the library.

Travis Friesen:

- Spoke to the library concept design and requested recycling in the new library.

Lori Koppenberg:

- Spoke against a City provided coffee stand competing with free-market business in town in the library.
- Commented on issues with Daybreak's Navigation Center next to Purple Moose coffee stand, and issues with vagrants at Vagabond Blues.

Jackie Goforth:

- Expressed concerns regarding the books in the young adult section of the library.

Mike Coons:

- Spoke to the books at the Palmer Library and would like the local governments to create their own ordinances for Libraries.

Mary Pavetta:

- Spoke to concerns with the books at the Palmer Public Library

Linda Page:

- Read from a book.

Linda Swan:

- Read from a book.

Michelle Kincaid:

- Spoke about the design of the new library, the deck, the proposed coffee shop area, and books.
- Spoke to continuing issues with the homeless in Palmer regarding the local businesses.

Mark Sloan:

- Expressed concern regarding the books at the Palmer Library and read an excerpt from a book.

Jean Holt:

- Likes the new library building but would like to see some changes and commented with concerns about the books at the library.

Mike Alexander:

- Spoke to concerns regarding the books at the library.

Karen Lewis:

- Spoke to her continuing concern about the books at the library.

Dee McKee:

- Expressed concerns regarding the books in the library.

Jennifer Williams:

- Thinks the new library looks modern and urban but not sure she likes that for Palmer and expressed concern that there was a possibility that the money was not going to be spent for the purpose the voters had approved.

Mike Chmielewski:

- Spoke to those reading and expressing concerns about the books in the library.
- Feels that the younger generation does not read books but spends most of their time on the internet.

Karen Crandall:

- Spoke to the Borough Library meeting.

Mayor Carrington called for a recess at 8:09 p.m., the meeting reconvened at 8:21 p.m.

## **H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. **Ordinance No. 24-001:** Amending Palmer Municipal Code Chapters 17.08 Definitions, 17.20 R-1 Single Family Residential, 17.24 R-2 Low Density Residential, 17.26 R-3 Medium Density Multifamily Residential, 17.27 R-4 High Density Residential, 17.52 R-1E Single Family Residential Estate, 17.54

RR Rural Residential, Adding Homeless Shelter, Emergency, amending Commercial Land Use Matrix Chapter 17.28.020, and Enacting Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 17.18.020 Residential Land Use Matrix

Mayor Carrington opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 24-001.

Travis Friesen:

- Hoped this will help with the housing shortage and homeless people.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Carrington closed the public hearing.

Brand Hanson, Community Development Director, addressed the Council.

**Main Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 24-001**

Moved by:	Cooper
Seconded by:	Melin
Vote:	Unanimous
Absent:	Tudor
Action:	Motion Carried

**I. ACTION MEMORANDA**

1. **Action Memorandum No. 24-007:** Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Portable Radios and Accessories in an Amount Not to Exceed \$104,514.24, Under the Awarded Grant EMW-2023-SS-S01 from the State Homeland Security Grant Program

Chief Shelton provided a staff report.

**Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 24-007**

Moved by:	Anzilotti
Seconded by:	Melin
Vote:	Unanimous
Absent:	Tudor
Action:	Motion Carried

2. **Action Memorandum No. 24-008:** Authorizing the City Manager to Sign a Three-Year Contract with the Palmer Museum of History and Art for a Management Service Contract Agreement for Operation of the Visitor Center in the Amount of \$75,115 to Reflect 2024 Payments and Adjusted 2.5% Thereafter Annually to Reflect Inflation

**Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 24-008**

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Alcantra
Vote:	5/1 (Melin)
Absent:	Tudor
Action:	Motion Carried

**J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. City Manager Recruitment Process

Discussion ensued and the Human Resources Manager will be posting the job on February 1, 2024.

**K. NEW BUSINESS**

## **L. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE**

Documents from Wolf Architecture

Documents from Cris Tyree

Document from Lori Koppenberg

## **M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mike Coons:

- Believed that access to the internet is not the same issue as the books at the public library issue.

Linda Small:

- Spoke to library book concerns.

Jackie Goforth:

- Spoke to concerns regarding books in the young adult section of the library.

Linda Page:

- Read from a book.

Mary Ravetta:

- Read from a book.

Mark Sloan:

- Expressed objection to books at the library.

## **N. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

## **O. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Council Member Alcantra:

- Thanked everyone who came out to testify tonight.
- Thanked Wolf Architecture for their update.
- Thanked Polly-Beth Odom for her update.
- Congratulated the Fire Personnel on their promotions.
- AML is next month, he will not be attending, but encourage those attending to keep an eye and ear out for potential City Managers.

Council Member Cooper:

- Reminded everyone that there is a banquet to recognize the firefighters on Saturday Evening.
- Thanked Council Member Anzilotti's fiancé for coming.

Council Member Anzilotti:

- Congratulated the Fire Department personnel on their promotions.
- Thanked Polly-Beth and Wolf Architecture for their updates.
- Feels the book issue needs to be investigated.
- Expressed that she also likes the look of the new library but would like it to be a little warmer and more inviting.

Council Member Melin:

- Congratulated the Fire personnel on their promotions and appreciation as to what they do.
- Expressed her frustration with the continuing library issues and the Attorney's response timeline.



Mayor Carrington:

- Reported that the Attorney will provide a library process report during the February 27 council meeting.

**P. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

**Approved this 13th day of February 2024.**

  
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Steve Carrington, Mayor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelly M. Acteson, CMC, City Clerk