

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on February 27, 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
- John Alcantra
- Richard W. Best
- Jim Cooper
- Pam Melin
- Joshua Tudor

Absent:

Deputy Mayor Carolina Anzilotti 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
- Brad Hanson, Community Development Director
- Dwayne Shelton, Palmer Police Chief

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Main Motion: To Approve the Agenda as Presented

Moved by:	N/A
Seconded by:	N/A
Vote:	Unanimous Consent
Action:	Motion Carried

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

1. Elected Officials in Attendance
2. Board/Commission Members in Attendance
3. Saroma Sister City Update – Carla Swick
Carla Swick and McKenzie Moore gave a Saroma Sister City update.
4. A Proclamation Recognizing Matthew Mitchell
Council Member Tudor presented Matthew Mitchell with the proclamation.
5. A Proclamation Recognizing Amelia Fawcett
Manager Moosey presented Amelia Fawcett with the proclamation.
6. A Proclamation Recognizing Noah Justice
Council Member Alcantra presented Noah Justice with the proclamation.

Mayor Carrington called for a recess at 6:17 p.m.
The meeting was reconvened at 6:23 p.m.

F. REPORTS

1. City Manager's Report:

- Booster Station bid is coming up, it will bring water to the Colony Middle and High Schools.
- Reported he and Public Works Director Jude Bilafer met with the new Mat-Su College Director, regarding possible additional water service.
- Those on City water received a survey regarding their pipes, please fill it out and perhaps the City can help replace the old water pipes.
- Arctic Winter Games coming up, expecting 1850 athletes coming with over 2000 volunteers working on taking care of everyone.

2. Mayor's Report:

- Written report in packet.
- Reported that he was recently in Juneau for the AML Conference.

3. City Clerk's Report:

- No formal report at this time.

4. City Attorney's Report – Libraries and Law: How the Law Relates to Library Materials in the Palmer Public Library

- Gave report regarding public libraries, the law, and the first amendment.

Mayor Carrington called for a recess at 7:44 p.m.
The meeting was reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Jackie Goforth:

- Expressed concerns regarding influences over today's youth and the freedom to read act.

Karen Lewis:

- Expressed concern regarding books and the freedom to read act.

Linda Swan:

- Thanked the attorney for her report.
- Expressed that pornography is an addiction.
- Does not want to ban books but does not want taxpayers to pay for certain books in the libraries.

Mary Robinson:

- Pointed out that taxpayers are also paying for banning books.
- Was willing to defend the first amendment.
- Believes that there is a manufacturing of a moral crisis for political postering.
- Expressed compliments to the Palmer Public Library staff.

Mike Chmielewski:

- Commented on interview with City employee Matt Midgett.
- Encouraged people to go to Big Cabbage Radio and listen to the interview regarding City Utilities.

Mark Swan:

- Urged the Council to build the library debt free.
- Advised doubling the engineers snow load recommendations.
- Also expressed concern regarding how books are marketed and by whom.

Susan Pougher:

- Gave a library update.
- Reminder to file for PFD.
- Tax forms 1040 and 1040SR have been shipped and will be available soon at the library.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

I. ACTION MEMORANDA - None

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

K. NEW BUSINESS - None

L. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Document from the City Attorney

Document from Jackie Goforth

M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Linda Swan:

- Expressed concern regarding membership with the American Library Association.
- Criticized the librarians giving library activity updates.

Jacki Goforth

- Commented on the Library Association.
- Continued to express concerns while grandstanding.

Karen Lewis:

- Expressed concern regarding books in the library and the librarians.

Mary Robinson:

- Complimented Ms. Heath on her report and concentration on the legal aspects.
- Referenced the State of Alaska Attorney General's letter of November 16.
- Complimented the Palmer Public Library and their staff.

N. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Melin:

- Expressed appreciation to those who came out to speak during audience participation.

Council Member Tudor:

- Thanked everyone for coming out and speaking tonight.
- Stated this is a difficult situation, he understands the concerns about the library, but wants to operate within the legal framework.
- Recently in Juneau for AML, it was a great learning experience.
- Praised Delena Johnson and Shelly Hughes for giving the City funds toward the Palmer Public Library Project.

Council Member Alcantra:

- Appreciated the passion of the people who come out and testify.
- Also spoke to his appreciation of what the library does regarding services such as providing forms for

the PFD, taxes, etc.

Council Member Cooper:

- Thanked Carla Swick for coming tonight to talk about Saroma Sister City.
- Expressed that he was very impressed by the wrestlers and their victories.
- Also recently attended AML in Juneau.

Council Member Best:

- Recently attended AML in Juneau with Council Members Cooper.
- Felt Delena Johanson and Shelly Hughes were very gracious with their time.
- Stated he is a member of the AML Board, along with Council Member Cooper.
- Spoke to the Public Safety building and Courthouse and that this region is growing.

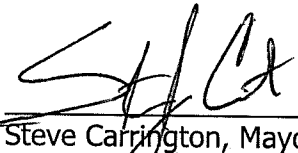
Mayor Carrington:

- Reported that he was asked and will be providing to write a letter of support for the Palmer Food Bank.

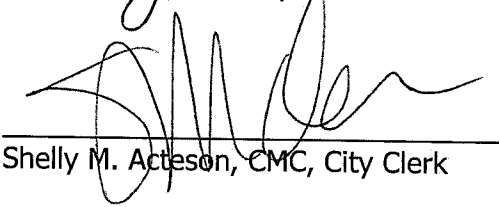
O. ADJOURNMENT

Approved this 12th day of March 2024.

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.



Steve Carrington, Mayor



Shelly M. Acteson, CMC, City Clerk