

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on March 26, 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
- Joshua Tudor

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
- Brad Hanson, Community Development Director
- Gina Davis, Finance Director
- Kimberly Green, Human Resources Manager

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Mayor Carrington presented the Proclamation Recognizing Education and Sharing Day to Rabbi Mendy Greenberg.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
(All items appearing under the Consent Agenda are approved by a single motion and one vote. A Council Member may request to move an item to further down on the agenda.)
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - A. March 12, 2024, Regular Meeting

Main Motion: To Approve the Agenda

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

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

1. Elected Officials in Attendance - None
2. Board/Commission Members in Attendance - None
3. A Proclamation Recognizing Education and Sharing Day on April 19, 2024 – Rabbi Mendy Greenberg

****Clerk's Note: Mayor Carrington presented the proclamation after agenda item C. Pledge of Allegiance*

F. REPORTS

1. City Manager's Report
 - Presented the Mayor with a gift from the Arctic Winter Games International Committee.
 - Next week he will be with the State of Alaska, AML for sessions regarding infrastructure, grants, and will be meeting with other agencies.
 - There was testing at the current Library, trying to get numbers for the insurance company.
 - Spoke to the Council Committee grants and specifically Emily Gieger's event "That Thing That Going On."
2. Mayor's Report
 - Written report in the packet.
 - Long time supporter of the library, Verna Ewer recently passed away.
3. City Clerk's Report
 - Written report in the packet.
4. City Attorney's Report
 - Museum Contract and Letter to the Attorney General, which are both on tonight's agenda.
 - Also worked on PMC Title 4.
 - Will miss the May 14 Meeting, daughter is graduating from High School.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION- (3 minutes per person)

Bruce Craft:

- Has been a user of the Palmer Library since 1984 and believes that a bigger library is needed.

Brooke Koenig:

- Spoke to the size and content of public libraries.
- Today's libraries are information cafes, they are not just books anymore, and believes that the 20,000 square feet is necessary.

Seina Bell:

- Library Services Coordinator at the Palmer Public library, provided an overview of programs and story times.
- Attendance is on the rise, even the "old" library would not have had enough space for all the attendees.

Frank Bell:

- Advocated for a bigger library, and said library programs are important for socialization, internet access, and the learning/reading gap.

Prudence McKinney:

- President of Friends of the Palmer Public Library.
- Encouraged Council to vote to approve the larger library, understands that budget needs to be considered, but the space is needed.
- There was a study done in 2004, that already found the library size inadequate and that was 20 years ago.

Heidi Deadman:

- Administrative Assistant at the Palmer Public Library.
- One of her duties is to book the meeting spaces at the library.
- The meeting space at the "old" library was consistently booked causing her to have to send people to other spaces outside of Palmer.
- Spoke with Wasilla Library's staff and their rooms are rarely empty, open 40 hours a week and the three rooms are consistently full.

Travis Freisen:

- Read recently about Friday Flings possibly being cancelled.
- Would like guidance on how to start an Ordinance regarding promoting recycling.

Sierra Dorman:

- Encouraged the Council to approve the plan by Wolf Architecture for the full square footage.
- Has lived here a long time and believes that the library is important to the community.

Kora Dorman:

- Is a Sophomore at Colony High School.
- Here to vouch for the youth of Palmer when it comes to full funding of the library being rebuilt.
- Has spent her whole life at the library, remembers story times and participating in the summer programs.
- Was at the library a few days before the collapse and implores the Council not to put off construction.

Bre Hunter:

- The library is a safe space in America that we do not have anymore.
- The library is in the center of town, you can park there, and go to other places in town.
- The way you treat the library affects the community.

Cindy Hudgins:

- Questions if 20,000 square feet and 18 million dollars are needed for the library project.
- Questioned if the building will be a library or civic center.

Ellen Vande Visse:

- Loves the library and loves the librarians.
- Believes that the 20,000 is "still make do" with all that is needed.
- Do not get skimpy, not the place to get skimpy, the library should be Palmer's pride and joy.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

- 1. Action Memorandum No. ~~24-015~~ 24-021:** Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase and Outfit Three New Patrol Vehicles in the Amount of \$228,273.39 and to Purchase Vehicles Under the Governmental and Proprietary Procurements Section of Palmer Municipal Code 3.21.230 by Attaching to the State of Alaska Contract

Palmer Police Chief Shelton addressed Council questions.

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. ~~24-015~~ 24-021

Moved by:	Alcantra
Seconded by:	Anzilotti
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

2. Action Memorandum No. 24-017: Authorizing the City Manager to Spend up to \$50,000 on Grant Writing and Architectural Services from The Capital Projects Funds in the Approved 2024 Budget for the New Public Safety Building Project

Manager Moosey gave a staff report.

Palmer Police Chief Shelton addressed Council questions.

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 24-017 as Amended

Moved by:	Tudor
Seconded by:	Melin
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Passed

Amendment #1: Authorizing the City Manager to Spend up to \$12,000

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Tudor
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Passed

Mayor Carrington called for a recess at 7:27 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 7:36 p.m.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Action Memorandum No. 24-016: Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Three-Year Contract with the Palmer Museum of History and Art for the Custodial Care and Curation of the City of Palmer’s Museum Artifacts in the Amount of \$55,400 to Reflect 2024 Payment

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 24-016 as Amended

Moved by:	Cooper
Seconded by:	Alcantra
Vote:	6/1 (Cooper)
Action:	Motion Carried

Motion to Amend #2: Amend to a One-Year contract, Adding in 2.5 percent increase

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Melin
Vote:	5/2 (Alcantra and Cooper)
Action:	Motion Carried

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Letter to the Attorney General from the City of Palmer

City Attorney Heath addressed the Council.

Main Motion: To Approve Letter to the Attorney General from the City of Palmer as Presented

Moved by:	Melin
Seconded by:	Alcantra
Vote:	Unanimous
Action:	Motion Carried

L. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (3 minutes per person)

Janel Gagnon:

- Here to support the 20,000 feet for the new library.
- Loves libraries, was married in a library.
- Data shows that even with the Wasilla Library being built the Palmer Library use continued to grow.
- Stressed the importance of connection to mitigating some of vulnerable populations issues and libraries do a good job of that.

Maggie Aube:

- Supports the Wolf plan for a 20,000 square foot library.
- Prior to the roof collapse, the space was too small.
- Expressed her displeasure at the suggestion to go to the Wasilla Library.

Jackie Goforth:

- Thanked the Council for their vote on the museum contract.
- Loves books and libraries but feels the new design is not aesthetically pleasing and causes a large carbon footprint.
- Expressed concern about the homeless taking it over.

Karen Lewis:

- Likes the idea of a beautiful new library, believes libraries are great.
- Would like to see some more conservative books in the Palmer Library.

Jackie Cunningham:

- The community is growing, build the new library that will grow with the needs of the community.
- People coming here, spend money hon the library project, and please move forward.

Dave Rector:

- Feels the 20,000 square foot library is important to the community.
- Believes that the success of home-schooling needs good libraries.

Lee Hendrickson:

- Attended two or three meetings at the depot regarding the library, and listened to Gary Wolf and his people balance between the size of the library and the cost of the library and what the people need.

Herb Bischoff:

- Lives in Palmer
- Thanked the Council for the support of the Arctic Winter Games
- Thanked the City and Council Members for addressing the various issues that come before them.
- Please focus on infrastructure, roads, and railroad crossings.
- Please continue active leadership to move Palmer forward.

Helen Woodings:

- Has lived here since 1953.
- Expressed support of the new library, go big, the meeting rooms are needed.
- Encouraged Council to go big, not fancy, please continue with Gary Wolf as the architect.

Maureen Campbell:

- Here to advocate for a fully funded, 20,000-foot library.
- When she was a child, she could not wait to be able to write her name, so that she could get a library card, and then grew up to become a librarian.
- Palmer deserves a new, big, and beautiful library.

Mayor Carrington called for a recess at 8:23 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

N. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – To discuss Ordinance No. 24-002: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Title 4, Personnel (Action may be taken by the Council following Committee of the Whole) (A Public Hearing will be scheduled in April 2024)

Main Motion: To Enter into Committee of the Whole

Moved by:	Melin
Seconded by:	Alcantra
Vote:	No objection
Action:	Motion Carried

The Council entered the Committee of the Whole at 8:31 p.m.

Mayor Carrington invited Human Resource Manager, Kimberly Green to participate in the Committee of the Whole regarding Ordinance No. 24-002: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Title 4, Personnel

The Council exited Committee of the Whole at 8:40 p.m.

Main Motion: To Postpone Ordinance No. 24-002 to April 23, 2024

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

O. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Melin:

- Thanked everyone for coming out, believes that public process, and listening is very important.
- Stressed the importance of being fiscally responsible, and noted this will be a tough decision.

Council Member Tudor:

- Appreciates the Mayor’s reports.
- Thanked everyone who came out, it is important to have the viewpoints because it is a difficult decision.
- Had an excellent Chamber of Commerce dinner the other night, Council Member Best attended as well, raised a lot of money for the food bank.
- Looking forward to seeing what happens with the letter to the State Attorney General.

Council Member Alcantra:

- Believes that the larger library is what the community wants.
- Let Palmer do something spectacular, not play 2nd fiddle to Wasilla.

Council Member Best:

- Would like to encourage those that are in the audience to investigate a library service area with the Borough.
- Maybe the City should demolish the existing library and offer property for the Borough to build a Borough Library in that spot.
- Liked the new design, the old one was a pill box and very industrial.
- Asked for Council support to have the City Attorney research intergovernmental agreements and responsibilities pertaining to policing authorities and MOUs and bring the information to a future meeting. Council Member Melin offered support.
- Commented on the Arctic Winter Games.

Deputy Mayor Anzilotti:

- No one wants the library to take two more years to be built, but it is a critical and weighty issue.
- Loves libraries and has gone to libraries since she was a kid and would like to have a large library to build for the future.
- Feels that the current design for the new library is not inviting or warm.
- Wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Mayor Carrington:

- Expressed thanks for the kudos on the Mayor's Reports.
- Reported that he invited the Museum to come to the next Council meeting and give a report.
- Has spoken with 4 organizations about getting funding for the new library,

P. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Approved this 9th day of April 2024.



Steve Carrington, Mayor



Shelly M. Acteson, CMC, City Clerk