

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on April 9, 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 (via Zoom)
- 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
- Greg Wickham, Public Works Superintendent

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
- 2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - A. March 26, 2024, Regular Meeting

Main Motion: To Approve the Agenda

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

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

- 1. Elected Officials in Attendance
- 2. Board/Commission Members in Attendance
- 3. Palmer Museum of History and Art Report – Mary Jo Parks
 - Ms. Parks was unable to attend. The report will be presented at a future meeting.

F. REPORTS

1. City Manager's Report

- The auditors are here.
- Saturday, April 27th, at Fred Meyer is the Drug Take Back
- May 4th and 5th at Alaska State Fairgrounds and Palmer Municipal Airport is the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering.
- May 6th to the 11th is community clean up week.
- Rodeo Bull Riding coming to the Fairgrounds at the end of May.
- Last week participated in the Alaska Infrastructure Symposium.
- Infrastructure money coming for road construction.
- Reminded everyone that Phase two of the Glenn Highway project is starting.

2. Mayor's Report

- References written report regarding the library project.
- Second round of City Manager interview will be April 30 at 3:00pm.
- The deadline for Council Members for questions regarding Title 4, Personnel, is April 16.
- Spoke about the letter of support for the Mat-Su Senior Center.

3. City Clerk's Report

- No formal report at this time.

4. City Attorney's Report

- Spoke to new US Supreme Court ruling creating a new test regarding personal Facebook.
- In the process of researching Chickaloon's possible police powers expansion.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Alison Collins:

- Supports building the biggest library possible.

Marcus Collins:

- Lives in Palmer and uses the library often and supports the larger library.

Mary Robinson:

- City of Wasilla Resident.
- President of the Friends of Wasilla Public Library.
- Encouraged the Council to build a "big" library.

Frank Bell:

- Spoke to some of the arguments opposed to the current library design and urged the Council to fund the current library design and square footage.

Jackie Goforth:

- Loves books and libraries, and objected to the "Civic Space", business loss, view loss regarding the current new library design.

Dave Rector:

- Believes that the library content and building a new library building are separate issues.
- Spoke to NGOs, and funding concerns/objections.

Lois Liebing:

- Supports the size and design of the new library.

Kim Evans:

- Supports the Palmer Public Library size and design.

Travis Friesen:

- Lives in Palmer and advocated for recycling.

Susan Pougher:

- Spoke in support of the current library design and size proposal.

Karen Lewis:

- Supports a larger library, and objects to the obscene books in the library.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **Resolution No. 24-017:** Authorizing the City Manager to the Accept Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Funds Awarded by the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, and Appropriate the Funds to the City of Palmer Fire and Rescue in the Amount of \$7,000 to Purchase Wildland Fire Gear

Mayor Carrington opened the public hearing on Resolution No. 24-017.
Seeing no one come forward, Mayor Carrington closed the public hearing.

Main Motion: To Adopt Resolution No. 24-017

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

2. **Resolution No. 24-019:** Appropriate Funds in the Amount Not to Exceed \$139,949.41 from the Unassigned Net Position of the Water and Sewer Fund to Purchase a New Case 321F Compact Wheel Loader and Attachments from Yukon Equipment, Inc.

Mayor Carrington opened the public hearing on Resolution No. 24-019.

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

Greg Wickham, Public Works Superintendent, addressed Council questions.

Main Motion: To Adopt Resolution No. 24-019

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

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

1. **Action Memorandum No. 24-018:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate a Contract with H5 Construction in the Amount of \$2,014,304.38 for the Bogard Road Booster Station

Manager Moosey and City Attorney Heath addressed Council questions.

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 24-018

Moved by:	Anzilotti
Seconded by:	Tudor
Vote:	Unanimous

Action: Motion Carried

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request to direct the City Manager to get an estimate from Wolf Architecture to provide architectural drawings of a new library building with building costs being no more than \$10 million dollars and utilizing as much of the existing design elements as possible that was based on public input (Council Members Tudor and Melin)
(If the estimate is available by the April 9 meeting, the Council may take action)**

Main Motion: To Direct Manager Moosey to Bring Forward a Resolution to Have Wolf Architecture to Provide Architectural Drawings of a New Library Building with Building Costs Being No More than 10 million dollars and Utilizing as Much of the Existing Design Elements as Possible that was Based on Public Input, Including Possible Increase of Operational Costs with the Existing Plan and New Plan.

Moved by:	Best
Seconded by:	Melin
Vote:	4/3 (Alcantra, Cooper, Carrington)
Action:	Motion Carried

L. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

Memo from Gary Wolf

M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mike Kruse:

- Project Manager for construction projects around the state.
- Spoke about budget constraints regarding the library and design.
- Spoke to grant funding for a project.
- Gave advice to Council from a construction Project Manager point of view.

Helen Woodings:

- Supports the current design, but believes if need to cut costs, go big, but go bare.
- She thinks the money should be put into energy efficiency.
- Believes that the community needs meeting space.

Susanne Hayes:

- Wanted to congratulate the Council on all they have done to make the community whole after the library collapse by scrambling and coming up with an alternative.
- The voters know what they are getting in for.
- Now feels remorseful that it feels as though the Council is stalling and is now going backwards.

Travis Freisen:

- Lives in Palmer.
- The Mat-Su Recycling Center does not have a way to recycle glass.
- Regarding the concern about Library building too tall and will block the view, perhaps use a basement space.
- Do not need to put a coffee shop or any business in the library, use space for a community art gallery.

Andres Jackson:

- Urged the Attorney when talking Facebook dos and don'ts, please include the Police Department when it comes to posting on social media.

Mary Robinson:

- City of Wasilla Resident
- Attended the first Mat-Su Borough Library Board meeting.
- Gave an overview of what was reported at the referenced meeting.

Bill Folsom:

- Not a Palmer City resident but owns 40 acres next to Palmer.
- What is the size and value of the property that the collapsed library sits on?
- Spoke to those concerned about the library books content should not give their kids iPhones or computers.

Dave Rector:

- Cautioned using certain language moving forward in this process, regarding the library project.

Susan Pougher:

- Expressed confusion regarding the concerns for paying the bond with sales tax.
- Also did not like the analogy comparing the library project to buying a car.
- Very disappointed that the Council in kicking the project further down the road.

Frank Bell:

- Express that no design is going to please everyone.
- Believes that most do not care about the coffee shop, etc, just want to build the library.

Ruth Hulbert:

- Believes Palmer needs a library, needs a bigger library, and needs more meeting spaces.
- Concerned about the anti-intellectualism streak that is running through Palmer lately.
- A library is an investment in the community and culture.
- Believes that the design of the library fits with that end of town.

Murdine Collins:

- The library has been on interictal part of their lives.
- Disappointed that things are not going forward.

Kim Evans:

- Very disappointed, Palmer voters voted, overwhelming testimony is to build the bigger library.
- Hoping will go with the first proposal or whatever is the larger square foot plan.

N. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Best:

- Thanked those who speak with passion.
- Disappointed with what he feels is fear mongering regarding the possible funding loss.
- Reminds the public that this is a public process.
- Asked the public to tone down the rhetoric and allow that process to work.

Council Member Melin:

- Always grateful to the constituents, the body that comes out and speaks.
- She is not a proponent of the 30 minutes limit on audience participation that is in the code.
- Called out when there is disinformation, it works both ways, please do not put words in our mouths.
- Expressed care for the community and sorry you are disappointed, but this is how this works.
- Communicated to the public that these decisions are not being taken lightly.

- Continued to convey concerns about costs and those costs being taken on by the residents.

Council Member Tudor:

- Appreciated everyone for coming out to the meeting.
- Spoke to the new library and the process.
- Wants to ensure that Palmer is not going to follow other cities that have run into fiscal problems.
- Would love to have a large library but need to be aware of costs immediate and long term.
- Urged the public to be patient.

Council Member Alcantra:

- Appreciates everyone coming out.
- Believes that rhetoric is leading those to believe that property owners are going to be stuck holding the bag.
- Reappropriation of Capital projections happens all the time.
- Reminded the public of City clean up days in May.

Council Member Cooper:

- Thanked everyone for coming out.
- We are the fastest growing area in the State.
- When the Council passed the Ordinance for the \$10 million there was a statement regarding the \$16 million cost to build a new library.
- No concerns that the city is going to default.
- Feels that the city needs to build a building that is going to last and be proud of it.

Deputy Mayor Anzilotti

- Thinking about car analogy and believing that it is wise not to buy the first car you see, but make sure it is going to fit your family.
- Would like to come up with a more cost-effective design with the best aspects of the library.
- Is not taking this lightly and would like to take the time to find the right fit and cost.

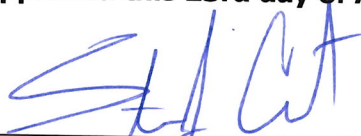
Mayor Carrington:

- Commented on the 30-minute rule for audience participation.

O. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Approved this 23rd day of April 2024.



Steve Carrington, Mayor



Shelly M. Acteson, CMC, City Clerk