

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on April 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
Joshua Tudor

Staff in attendance:

John Moosey, City Manager (by Zoom)
Shelly M. Acteson, CMC, City Clerk
Benji Johnson, Deputy City Clerk
Sarah Heath, City Attorney
Chad Cameron, Palmer Fire 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.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - A. April 2, 2024, Special Meeting
 - B. April 9, 2024, Regular Meeting

Mayor Carrington suggested moving Agenda Item O. Council Comments to take place after Agenda Item M. Audience Participation.

Main Motion: To Approve the Agenda as Amended

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

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

1. Elected Officials in Attendance - None
2. Board/Commission Members in Attendance - None
3. Saroma delegation – Carla Swick

Carla Swick introduced the 2024 Palmer Junior Middle School and Palmer High School Student delegation going to Sister City Seroma Japan.

Each delegate gave a brief introduction in both Japanese and English.

4. Proclamation – Celebrating May 5 through May 11, 2024, as First National Youth Apprenticeship Week
Council Member Alcantra presented and received the proclamation.
5. Proclamation – Recognizing Colony High School Student Hallie Clark
Deputy Mayor Anzilotti presented Hallie Clark with the proclamation.
6. Proclamation – Proclaiming May 2, 2024, as National Day of Prayer
Mayor Carrington presented the proclamation.
7. Introduction of three new Palmer Fire and Rescue full-time firefighters – Colt Graham, Colten Brickel and Lane Reed
Chief Cameron introduced the three new Palmer Fire and Rescue full-time firefighters.

Mayor Carrington called for a recess at 6:35 pm, reconvened at 6:42 pm.

F. REPORTS

1. City Manager's Report (by Zoom)

- Mat-Su Regional Spring Economic Summit, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- On May 2, Energy Watch Action Plan with the Mat-Su Borough DES, includes cities, schools, and hospital, trying to get ahead of the possible gas issues.
- May 4 and 5 is the Great Aviation Gathering at the State Fairgrounds and Palmer Municipal Airport.
- May 6 to 11, Palmer Community Clean-up.

2. Mayor's Report

- Refers to written report.
- There will be a Meeting next Tuesday, City Manager interviews.
- References the May 7 Transit update at the Borough Assembly.
- Potential Joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission June 20.
- He has been attending Mat-Su Valley Planning for Transportation, MPO, minutes are at the end of his written report.
- Asked the Attorney to do an analysis of the relationships between the Friends of the Palmer Public Library and other non-profits and the city.
- Asked Manager Moosey to re-send the parking report that was disbursed to the Council at a meeting earlier this year.

3. City Clerk's Report

4. City Attorney's Report – Overview of Lindke v. Freed regarding new U.S. Supreme Court test for elected public official's social media activity; and the City of Palmer Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected Officials
 - Clarifies current Council directives.
 - Spoke to recent U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on March 16, Lindke v. Freed regarding social media activity.
 - Brief overview and discussion of the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected Officials.
 - Touched on the evolving possible expansion of police powers in Chickaloon.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Group – Friends of the Palmer Library:

- Jacki Goforth, said she is the President of the group the “Friends of the Palmer Library.”
- Discussed what the definition and qualifications of “Friends.”
- Expressed concerns regarding the “Friends of the Palmer Public Library, Inc.”

Frank Bell:

- Spoke in support of the bigger library plan.

Jennifer Williams:

- Expresses support for a larger library and would like to see the City keep up with the growth.

Prudence McKenney:

- President of the “Friends of the Palmer Public Library, Inc.”
- Their group did an informal survey and petitions, less than a week, 293 signatures, and provided a breakdown of where they live.
- Feels that it would be a fiscal irresponsibility to knowingly build a library that is too small.

Bill Folsom:

- Spoke concerning removing the “fluff” in the building plans.

Jackie Cunningham:

- Supports the current/bigger library plan.

Pam Huyck:

- Expressed support for a bigger library.

Heidi Deadman:

- Spoke about the library books.

Elias and Nicholas Abramczyk:

- Both spoke in support of a bigger library.

Mayor Carrington called for a recess at 8:00 pm, reconvened at 8:07 pm.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **Ordinance No. 24-002:** Amending the Palmer Municipal Code, Title 4, Personnel

Mayor Carrington opened the public hearing.

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

Human Resources Manager Kimberly Green gave a summary of the proposed changes.

Main Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 24-002

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

2. **Resolution No. 24-020:** Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement Not to Exceed

\$15,000 with Wolf Architecture for the Schematic Redesign for the Palmer Public Library

Mayor Carrington opened the public hearing.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to Resolution No. 24-020:

Jeannie Trohskinski, Jack Pagel, Christine Adamczak, Carol Montgomery, Markus Collins, Heidi Deadman, John Pagel, Carol Ryan Aube, Ruth Holbert, Riley Pagel, Wes Artz, Lois Liebing, Sharon Powder, Rachel Christensen, Mile Chmielewski, and Dave Rector.

The following individuals spoke in support of Resolution No. 24-020:

Jackie Goforth and Cindy Hudgins

Seeing no one else come forward Mayor Carrington closed the Public Hearing.

Council discussion ensued.

Brad Hanson, Community Development Director addressed Council questions.

Manager Moosey addressed Council questions.

Main Motion: To Adopt Resolution No. 24-020

Moved by:	Melin
Seconded by:	Tudor
Vote:	3/4 (Alcantra, Cooper, Anzilotti, and Mayor Carrington)
Action:	Motion Failed

ACTION MEMORANDA

- Action Memorandum No. 24-023:** Approving a Council Community Grant Request from Palmer Little League in the Staff Recommended Amount of \$1,380 for Scoreboard Replacement

Manger Moosey gave a staff report.

Main Motion: To Approved Action Memorandum No. 24-023

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

- Action Memorandum No. 24-022:** Approving a Council Community Grant Request from Rodeo Alaska in the Staff Recommended Amount of \$1,500 for the 49th State Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Xtreme Bulls Rodeo and Music Fest

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 24-022

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

- Action Memorandum No. 24-019:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute Two Lease Extension Agreements with ES Properties and Nicole Reed to Provide Long-term Storage for

Library Books and the Temporary Library

Manager Moosey addressed Council questions.

Community Development Director Brad Hanson addressed Council questions.

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 24-019

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

- 6. **Action Memorandum No. 24-020:** Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Enter into a Contract with Alaska Sure Seal, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$151,287.50 for Road Striping and Crack Sealing of City Streets and the Palmer Municipal Airport Asphalt Surfaces

Manager Moosey addressed Council questions.

Main Motion: To Adopt Action Memorandum No. 24-020

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

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J. NEW BUSINESS

K. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

- Drug Take Back Flyer
- Great Alaska Aviation Gathering Flyer
- Documents from Jacki Goforth
- Survey/Petition from The Friends of the Palmer Public Library Inc.
- Documents from Heidi Deadmond

L. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Maria Krinock:

- Spoke regarding short term rentals for lots under 20,000 square feet.

Frank Bell:

- Expressed respect to someone who can go against the grain and do their own research and leg work.

Jackie Goforth:

- Expressed continuing concerns regarding book in the Palmer Public Library.

Mary Ravetta:

- Appreciates the struggle regarding the library size, etc.
- Expressed concerns with the roads, standards, addiction, and books.

Wes Artz – Palmer Bar

- Suggested a bullet point of priorities for the library.

Sharon Powder:

- Stated that the gravel roads are sending up big dust cloud and reported that the railroad crossings are getting rough.
- Urged the Council to put something at the intersections from North Valley to South Valley to help pedestrians cross.

Mike Chmielewski:

- Reported that there was a study done at one time regarding “the block” where the old library is located.
- Invited the Council to think bigger, as all Municipal facilities are eventually going to need work done.

Council Comments:

***Clerk’s Note: Agenda Item O. Council Member Comments, took place after Agenda Item L. Record of Items Placed on the Table. ***

Council Member Tudor:

- Even though he voted against the \$20 million library, he supports the Council’s decision.

Council Member Melin:

- Appreciates everyone coming out.
- Encouraged everyone to tone down the rhetoric and get back to healthy debate.
- Not ashamed as what they tried to accomplish and is hopeful that funding comes in for the project.

Council Member Alcantra:

- Thanked everyone for coming and the proclamations that were presented.
- Congratulated the new Palmer full-time fire fighters.
- Report that he will be attending the Chamber Economic Summit in Wasilla.
- Encouraged people to attend the cyber security presentation tomorrow during the Chamber meeting.

Council Member Cooper:

- Stated that Council Member Tudor will be speaking at Chamber meeting.
- Thanks to everyone for coming out and speaking.
- Previously met Carla Swick back and was very impressed by the young people speaking Japanese.

Council Member Best:

- Felt a little disheartened regarding the outcome of the resolution regarding the library.
- The issue was discussed at the dais last meeting, resolution should have been about a possible re-design, and operational costs.

Deputy Mayor Anzilotti:

- Asked for support from Council to send Ms. Krinock short term rental proposal to Planning and Zoning.
- Second – Alcantra
- Mayor: There is an administrative internal process for this type of request and does not want to jump the gun on the administrative hearing. The Code is very clear.

Discussion followed.

Main Motion: To Allow Council Meeting to go Past 11:00 pm

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

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the public entity – negotiations for potential property acquisition (Action may be taken by Council following the Executive Session)

Main Motion: To Enter in Executive Session

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

Mayor Carrington called for a recess at 10:30 pm, reconvened and Council entered Executive Session at 10:34 p.m.

The Council exited Executive Session by unanimous consent at 11:04 p.m.


N. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS


***Clerk's Note: Agenda Item O. Council Member comments, took place after Agenda Item M. Record of Items Placed on the Table. ***

O. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Approved this 28th day of May 2024.



Steve Carrington, Mayor

Shelly M. Arteson, CMC, City Clerk