



SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, December 02, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Palmer Lake Town Hall – 28 Valley Crescent, Palmer Lake, Colorado

MINUTES

Call to Order / Roll Call

- Meeting Called to Order at 6:00PM
- Mayor Dennis Stern called the meeting to order at 6:00PM, Beth Harris, Dennis Stern, Roger Moseley, Atis Jurka, Tim Caves, and Michael Boyett all present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Kurt Ehrhardt – Stated an appeal to the board to overcome current disagreements and dysfunction, specifically related to the Bucc-ee's situation and the potential loss of associated revenue to El Paso County. The speaker requested that at least two board members call him to schedule an hour-long meeting to discuss community problems and find mutually agreeable solutions, urging the board to "bend a little" and pull together.

Kevin Dreher – Addressed the board concerning the proceedings of the last meeting (viewed via video), focusing on perceived lack of transparency and unbiased conduct among board members. Mr. Dreher stated that board members were not acting with an open mind, citing a comment about "previous concerns" regarding a candidate. He continued about the board asking specific questions to only one candidate instead of all, which was deemed a lack of transparency; and the endorsement of private conversations between trustees and candidates. Mr. Dreher asserted that all questions must be asked publicly to all candidates to ensure transparency, emphasizing that transparency was a major issue during the recall and holding the current board accountable for upholding it.

Catherine McGuire – Commented that in a previous meeting one of the candidates stated that he had not read the Palmer Lake Master Plan and that she would think twice about having him as a trustee.

Angela Fike – Commented on the qualities and suitability of a candidate referenced in a previous meeting, Mr. Bass, who was suggested by Trustee Cave as the "best candidate." Ms. Fike disagreed, citing that Mr. Bass lacked prior experience before becoming mayor and demonstrated a lack of unbiased judgment by signing a letter supporting three Trustees (Stern, Ball, and Dreer) against recall. Ms. Fike also criticized the candidate's character, noting he told disagreeing individuals on the Next Door app to "get a life," which was deemed unfit for a decision-making town representative.

Ms. Fike then briefly addressed the prior commenter's point regarding Bucc-ee's and El Paso County revenue, suggesting the revenue from Bucc-ee's would not be significant and advocating the town prioritize conservation and avoid large, non-appropriately zoned developments that could "dry the town up." Ms. Fike concluded by reiterating their personal discomfort with Mr. Bass as a potential appointee but could not speak to the qualifications of the other three candidates.

Bill Bass - Provided clarification regarding an answer given in a previous meeting about not having read the Master Plan. Mr. Bass stated that during their time as Mayor, significant work was done on the Master Plan, including reviewing the final document, and they had also read the prior Master Plan, indicating deep familiarity. The reason for the previous answer was attributed partly to the fact that the plan has undergone two additions/changes since their review. Mr. Bass emphasized that the Master Plan is a reference guide reflecting the community's desires, not a manual to be memorized, and confirmed their familiarity with it.

Kellie Currie - Addressed the board, outlining expectations for a functional governing body. Stated that she desires a board that works effectively, answers citizens' questions and emails, and invites/hosts Town Halls, noting the lack of Town Halls was a significant recent mistake. Ms. Currie also requested less drama. Furthermore, Ms. Currie voiced opposition to one of the current candidates for the trustee appointment, citing a history with present board members that they believe prevents the candidate from serving. She concluded by urging the board to select a candidate who is willing to read and report to the community, and Ms. Currie personally offered to serve as a volunteer researcher for the town's benefit.

Herbet Preslier - Asserted that the primary underlying issue driving the current board deadlock (the appointment process) is the Bucc-ee's development. The speaker claimed the board is split three members for Bucc-ee's and three members against Bucc-ee's. The speaker stated that if Bucc-ee's were not an issue, the board would have already made an appointment. Though acknowledging that Bucc-ee's cannot be formally discussed, the speaker identified it as the, "elephant in the room."

Dino Salvatori – Stated that less than half a dozen Board members have visited his business in the past. Continued that if it wasn't for the efforts of Mr. Bass when he was Mayor, his business would not be in Palmer Lake. He said that Mr. Bass lost his position of Mayor for voting for that, and since then there has been zero legal issues with his business.

Business Items

1. Resolution xx-2025 to Appoint Citizen Member to Trustee Vacancy Remaining Term (2024-2028)
 - **Motion to approve 69-2025 approving the appointment to fill the vacancy on the town Board of Trustees to appoint Tony Beltran to fulfill the role until the next regular municipal election in 2026.** (Stern, Harris) Roll Call vote
 - **Approve:** Stern, Harris, Moseley, Jurka, Boyett, Caves
 - **Deny:**
 - **Motion Passes**
 - Town Clerk Erica Romero issued the oath of office to Tony Beltran

Public Comment - Public comments are encouraged to be emailed to the Town office at info@palmer-lake.org with subject line of Public Comment (24 hours prior to meeting) and shall be distributed and

read at the meeting. Otherwise, please be recognized to speak, sign in, and address the Board on matters not on the agenda. Thank you!

Daren Fike – Stated that there were issues with the appointment process for Mayor Stern’s appointment back in June. Continued that since the procedures were not followed Mayor Stern is not the mayor, he is still a trustee and that it also means that Trustee Boyett is not a trustee either. Called upon Attorney Krob to admit that there were mistakes made. Called upon Mayor Stern admit that he is not the mayor. Called upon Trustee Boyett to step away from the board as he is not a trustee. Stated that this problem will not go away and that any votes made are invalid.

Adjourn

- **Motion to Adjourn.** (Stern, Boyett) aye vote, motion passed unanimously.
- Adjourned at 7:07PM



Town Clerk- Erica N. Romero



Mayor Dennis Stern