

CITY OF POCATELLO, IDAHO
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL
TOWN HALL MEETING
MARCH 28, 2023

AGENDA ITEM ROLL CALL 1: A Special City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Brian Blad at 6:31 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Council members in attendance were Rich Cheatum, Linda Leeuwrik, Corey Mangum, Josh Mansfield, Scott Marchand and Brent Nichols.

AGENDA ITEM MARSHALL PUBLIC LIBRARY 2: Council discussed items regarding the Marshall Public Library.

Eric Suess, Library Director, gave an overview of the library policy regarding addition or removal of material to the library collection. He stated that consideration is given to patron requests and placement in the various sections of the library (children's section, young adult section, adult section, reference, etc.) is dependent upon the material. Mr. Suess stated the selection criteria includes content, accuracy, artistic merit, sustainability, and reputation of the author. He clarified that there is a challenge policy process in place and that if a patron feels material is inappropriately placed, they can ask for the material to be reconsidered for alternate placement. Mr. Suess stated that the reconsideration form comes to a committee of library employees and can be appealed to the Library Director and to the Library Board, if due process is necessary. In response to a question from Council, Mr. Suess stated that two books had been challenged this year. He explained that following the reconsideration process, one book in question was moved from the Young Adult section to the Adult section. A second book challenge was still in the evaluation process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Mayor Blad articulated that speakers are asked to be courteous while sharing their comments. Audience members were asked to refrain from applause and comments and to show respect for those who are speaking.

Vickie Christensen, Pocatello resident, shared that she feels there are books at the library which are sexually graphic and she has submitted a request for a book challenge at the library. She read a passage from a book available at the library. In response to a question from Council, Ms. Christensen stated that she submitted a request for a book challenge at the library and was notified that the material would be kept at the library in the adult section.

Brandon Piper, Pocatello resident, stated that children do not always have the ability to discern appropriate material and asked for consideration of children.

Paul Guisande, Pocatello resident, shared his opposition to material with adult content at the library.

Mel Bussard, Pocatello resident, stated that individuals must make decisions based upon multiple perspectives and feels that banning books is not the answer to understanding.

Dorothy Guisande, Pocatello residents, shared her opposition to material with adult content at the library and feels such materials are considered child abuse and pornography.

Mary Ann McGrory, Chubbuck resident, stated that her children have been patrons of the library and they found material for all maturity levels in the library. She feels that it is a matter of perspective.

Edward Kammerer, Pocatello resident, shared that he appreciates that books are available at the library for members of the LGBTQ community and feels the information is beneficial for children to see representation. He stated that having material available at the library allows individuals to choose to read it or not read it.

Grant Thomas, Pocatello resident, shared his support for library services and the process used for placement within the library and the process for challenges. He feels the process gives the patron the option to decide for themselves.

Misty Lloyd, Pocatello resident, shared her support for the library and encouraged parents to accompany their children to the library to select materials. She added that prohibiting materials is not the answer.

Tim Rice, Pocatello resident, shared that he frequented the library in his youth and did not encounter pornographic material.

Mike Riley, Pocatello resident, shared that he feels that Pocatello Regional Transit (PRT) needs to have the proper equipment and vehicles for the services which are offered.

Bob Marcino, Pocatello resident, shared his support of the library, their processes and staff members who are doing a good job screening books and placing them appropriately in the library. He emphasized that his children did not visit the library on their own and were accompanied by a parent to help decide what material was appropriate for them.

Caroline Wight, Pocatello resident, thanked the library staff for the services provided and stated that she appreciates the opportunity as a parent to have discussions with her own children to help them develop critical thinking skills. She feels the library services offered are appropriate and strongly feels that it is her job to be the parent, not the library staff.

Pat Harris, Pocatello resident, shared that they are not in favor of banning books and feels it is important for parents to have conversations with their children regarding materials at the library.

Paul France, Pocatello resident, strongly feels that material in the library is inappropriate and that inappropriate behavior is caused by the material.

Ember Marsh, Pocatello resident, feels the library provides free access for all to explore cultural identities and engage opinions and identities and that material should reflect diversity.

Krystal Chanda, Pocatello resident, feels that books should not be banned due to a group's request. She feels it is up to the parents to teach children values and that the library is an important asset. She encouraged citizens to be involved in community measures for children.

Craig Yadon, Pocatello resident, shared a letter written by Stephen Yadon, pastor at Christ Church. He stated he was appalled at the graphic materials available at the library and has appealed to the library for removal of the material.

Marjanna Hulet, Pocatello resident, stated she looks forward to seeing progress and tolerance in the city.

Nick Taylor, Chubbuck resident, shared his concern regarding accountability for children.

Ausha Carnell, Pocatello resident, shared her concern regarding material at the library and feels it is pornographic and should not be available in the public library. She feels parents should be responsible for their children.

Liz Redd, Pocatello resident, shared her support for the public library and believes that access to information and free speech are important principles in America. She feels it is her right to parent her own child and that banning books is not the answer.

Mary Shay, Pocatello resident, thanked the Council for the opportunity to share her feelings regarding library materials. She stated that she feels the material does not meet the definition of pornography and that the library board is aware of the definition. Ms. Shay stated that children under the age of 12 are not allowed to have their own library card or visiting the library without a parent. She feels that adult material is in the adult section and may make a difference to an individual's life.

Mayor Blad thanked citizens for attending and shared that library forms were available, if desired. He thanked those in attendance for being courteous to others.

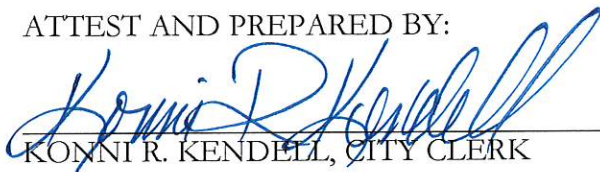
AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Mayor Blad adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.
ADJOURN

APPROVED:



BRIAN C. BLAD, MAYOR

ATTEST AND PREPARED BY:



KONNI R. KENDELL, CITY CLERK