

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.

Terry Costenbader, President of Council, called the duly advertised meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Terry Costenbader, Council President
Kris W. Hoffner
Richard L. Nothstein
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher
Timothy “T.J.” Gursky, Jr.

Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor
John “Bo” Rodrigues, Mayor
Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent: Holly F. Hausman Sell
Autumn Canfield

VISITORS

Jesse Ziegler, 760 Mauch Chunk Road; Christopher Weiss and Kylie Adams-Weiss, 240 Edgemont Avenue; Ron Valish, 901 Delaware Avenue; Brandon Bell, Palmerton Shooting Team; Walter Haas, 494 Franklin Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 104 Kaysea Lane, Lehigh; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 cameraman; Terry Arner, Times News reporter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Jared Soto, an economic development specialist from Carbon Chamber and Economic Development provided handouts to Council and spoke about how their organization can help support businesses by assisting with tools like marketing and event networking. They focus on community goals and bringing better awareness to the changes in business.

Jesse Ziegler of 756 Mack Chunk Road spoke to Council about a handicap parking space. He has been using a space for years that was installed for an individual who is no longer living in the area and didn't understand the application process. Andrew Hollywood will follow up with him after the meeting.

Walter Haas Sr. of 494 Franklin Avenue expressed his concern with the appointment of the Assistant Fire Chief and feels he does not meet the SOP requirements. Terry Costenbader advised this is a personnel matter and cannot be discussed.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the March 26, 2026, regular meeting minutes.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

President Costenbader announced that a summary of the petitions and communications is available for public inspection in the Borough Office in the form of a weekly mail log.

REPORTS OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND OFFICES

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| 1. Treasurer's Report | 5. Moving Permit Report |
| 2. Zoning Officer Report | 6. Code Compliance Agent Report |
| 3. Police Department Report | 7. Street Supervisor Report |
| 4. Fire Chief Report | |

President Costenbader announced that these are on file in the Borough Office for public inspection during regular business hours.

MANAGERS REPORT

Autumn Canfield had no report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein had no report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council accepted the resignation of Chris Olivia from the Zoning Hearing Board and Council Vacancy Board.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council accepted the resignation of Jared Cebrosky from the Shade Tree Commission.
3. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council announced they will be accepting letters of interest until May 7, 2026 for vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board, the Council Vacancy Board, the Shade Tree Commission and the IPMC Board of Appeals.
4. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council authorized release of the letter of credit for Princeton Pines and required a maintenance escrow.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved, the following use requests subject to scheduling and availability:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Palmerton Area Rec Com	Gym	Rec Program
Palmerton Area Rec Com	Park	Rec Program
Concourse Club	Bandstand	Concerts
Tammy Recker	Park/Pathways	Prom In the Park (retroactive)
American Legion	Delaware Ave/Park	Memorial Day Parade
LV Children's Center	Bandstand/Park	Pre-K Graduation Ceremony
Keith House	Bandstand	Worship Service

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved application of a grant request from the Palmerton Shooting Team for firing range updates.
3. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council entered into an executive session to discuss land matters at 7:23 PM. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council resumed their regular meeting at 7:39 PM.
4. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 753–25 accepting a DCNR feasibility study. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.
5. Andrew Hollywood made a motion to consider appraisal of 401 Delaware Avenue. The motion died for lack of a second.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council authorized advertisement of Police Car # 56, a 2016 Ford SUV, on Municibid.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

T.J. Gursky had no report.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council appointed Christopher Weiss as Assistant Fire Chief.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council hired Michael Stasko to the Public Works department contingent upon a physical examination and drug screen.
3. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council authorized the Borough Manager to hire two employees for summer employment at a rate of \$15 an hour.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved payment of the invoices and the check register as presented.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Bo Rodrigues reported:

1. Last month, I represented Palmerton at the Mayors' and Municipal Officials' Reception hosted by the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. All the attending mayors were given an opportunity to talk about their communities. It was a great opportunity to discuss some of the challenges being faced but also hear about the positive ways the surrounding municipalities are moving forward. I would have loved to tell them about this great story. It's a situation no one ever wants to experience, but the outcome was positive. Last week, an elementary school student saved his classmate's life by giving him the Heimlich maneuver, which he had recently learned about from his sister. I have reached out to the family, and we are working to have him at next month's meeting to hear his story and recognize his bravery and quick thinking.
2. The America 250 committee has been active and meeting regularly to coordinate the event being held Sunday, June 14th in the Palmerton Park. Our next meeting will be held Monday, May 4th at 6:30pm at the Heritage Center. Follow along on Facebook at Palmerton Proud-America 250. Posters advertising the event are continuing to be distributed to businesses in Palmerton and surrounding communities. In addition to our celebration, residents are encouraged to decorate their homes in red, white and blue, and businesses are challenged to hold patriotic events and specials. Show off your patriotism, and be creative!
3. Palmerton will be very busy this month. It is great to see the community thriving. Upcoming Events include:
 - April 24 - Neff's Bank is hosting their Grand Opening at 11am.
 - May 2 - Airing of the Quilts at 9am. Over 500 quilts to be displayed throughout Palmerton.

- May 4 - International Firefighter's Day honoring the dedication, sacrifices, and bravery of firefighters worldwide who protect communities, often commemorating those lost in the line of duty.

- May 8 - Palmerton Youth Night from 6-9pm in the Palmerton Park with games, activities, food, and live music by STILL. Open to all youth.

- May 9 - Raising the House will host its annual 5K. Its mission is to provide financial assistance to students and families within the Palmerton Area School District while honoring the memory of Blaine House.

National Police Week begins Sunday May 10. Each May, our nation comes together to honor the courage, sacrifice and dedication of law enforcement officers. Originally established by presidential proclamation President John F. Kennedy in 1962, National Police Week includes Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15th and a week of observances recognizing officers who have given their lives in the line of duty, as well as those who continue to serve and protect our communities with dedication and courage. National Police week is both a time of solemn remembrance and a celebration of the men and women who serve with integrity and bravery every day. It reminds us that behind every badge is a story of service, sacrifice and family. In honor of our own Palmerton Police Department and community first responders, I will be participating in the 39th Annual "The Ben To Shore Bike Tour" on Sunday, July 26, 2026, which is a 65 mile bicycle ride from Philadelphia to Atlantic City. It is hosted by **Families Behind the Badge Children's Foundation**, which is a charity bike ride that raises money to provide necessary financial relief to the families of fallen or critically injured first responders; to cultivate positive interactions and relationships between first responders and the communities they serve; and to provide mental and emotional wellbeing resources to first responders and their families.

- May 11 - An America 250 event, The story of Martha and George Washington will be held at the Aquashicola Fire Company

- May 12 - The Palmerton Area Historical Society will be having a Sound Bowl Meditation Fundraiser at the Little White Church at 7pm. Its \$15, and lasts about an hour. Wear comfortable clothing, bring a pillow or 2, and a blanket.

- May 14 through May 17 - Crusaders for a Cause celebrates their 20th anniversary for the carnival in the Palmerton Park!

- May 23 - Heroes Day, hosted by Kids for the Community, will be held at the Grove Pavillion at the Palmerton Memorial Park at 12pm to honor our community heroes.

- May 25 - The Palmerton American Legion Post 269 will hold its annual Memorial Day Parade to honor fallen U.S. service members. The parade will proceed down Delaware Ave to Fifth St, then to Franklin Ave, then to the Borough Park. In case of rain, the ceremony will be held in the SS Palmer Gym at 11am.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. William Gallagher thanked the police department for their advanced consideration of the street sweeper parking.

2. William Gallagher commended the contractors performing the sewer lining videos for their consideration of the pedestrians and traffic.
3. William Gallagher announced the Palmerton United Veterans Organization will be placing flags on Veterans graves in the cemeteries along with military honors.
4. Richard Nothstein announced that the Palmerton High School football team, veterans and volunteers will be placing 1400 flags around the perimeter of the park on May 22, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary