

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025, 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	Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor
Kris W. Hoffner, Council Vice-President	Don Herrmann, Mayor
Richard L. Nothstein	Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Holly F. Hausman Sell	Autumn Canfield, Manager/Secretary
Andrew J. Hollywood	Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary
Randolph M. Gursky	

Absent: William A. Gallagher

VISITORS

Don Heiney, 218 Lafayette Avenue; Richard Kost, 220 Lafayette Avenue; Janis Sylstra, 568 Mauch Chunk Road; Kathy Bollinger, 203 Lehigh Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 cameraman; Terry Arner, Times News reporter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Janice Sylstra of 568 Mauch Chunk Road questioned Council about several issues relating to the area in and around the 500 block of Mauch Chunk Road. She began with the collapsing wall along Railroad Alley, asking about the status of repair. Autumn Canfield relayed there is a problem determining the ownership of the property and she will continue working on it with the Borough Engineer. Ms. Sylstra also complained about the deteriorating alley access's and asked that Council consider paving. She is also concerned with the lack of drainage in this area when it rains, stating the water cannot find its way to the drains. Lastly, Janice Sylstra would like the Police Department to patrol the area as there is an abundance of speeding cars and ATVs.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the March 27, 2025 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.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Autumn Canfield reported:

1. Another PFAS notification was recently sent through the Borough emergency notification system to residents. Please sign up for Code Red notifications if you have not already done so.
2. At the recent COG meeting the Carbon County Commissioners reported 165 firefighters were present at the Jim Thorpe wildfire. Thank you to the Palmerton Fire Department for your help.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein had no report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Borough Manager as voting delegate for the PSAB conference.
2. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the engineer's recommendation for final escrow release to Wildcreek Holdings contingent upon full payment of engineering and attorney fees.
3. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 731-25 commemorating America250PA. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.
4. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Historical Society request for use of CDBG funds for ADA Parking at 911 Third Street.
5. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the Mauch Chunk Road car wash subdivision and land development plan as recommended by the Planning Commission, contingent upon meeting all requirements in the engineer's report dated April 1, 2025.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
LV Children’s Center	Bandstand/surrounding area	Pre-K Graduation Ceremony
SHINE Program	Courtyard next to Parkside	End of Year Carnival
Tammy Recker	Park/pathways	Prom In the Park
American Legion	Delaware Ave/Park	Memorial Day Parade

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved Ordinance 783-25 amending the vehicles and traffic ordinance. A copy of this ordinance is attached to these minutes.

Holly Sell clarified this change handles obstructing sidewalks anywhere in town.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky reported:

1. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved Pay Request #3 based on the KCE recommendation to TELCO, Inc. in the amount of \$148,821.12.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader had no report.

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

Don Herrmann reported:

1. A reminder to all residents that dogs need to be leashed. No matter how trained you believe your animal is, they can be a danger to other animals and residents. Please keep your dogs leashed at all times when not home within a fenced area.
2. To all owners of electric bicycles: please be aware these bikes should follow the same rules while operating on the streets. I have witnessed numerous cyclists disregarding stop signs, red lights and driving over the speed limit on the road. Please have front and rear lights on your bikes when operating them at night and be considerate of other vehicles and residents.

3. A reminder to residents to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks. To the pedestrians using the crosswalk, make sure drivers can see you and have time to react. Remember the speed limit for the majority of Delaware Avenue is 25MPH.
4. A reminder to residents there is NO burning allowed in the Borough. Please call 911 or 570-325-9111 to report any issues with burning.
5. A reminder to residents to stop parking on sidewalks. Have respect for other people's property. If your vehicle is too long for a diagonal space, find a parallel spot, park in a public parking lot or around the borough park where there is plenty of room for vehicles to get through.
6. Thank you to our local and state first responders for all their work with the fires in Jim Thorpe and West Penn Townships this past week. Also a big thanks to the Palmerton Lions for their generous donation to the Palmerton Police Benevolent Association as well as many other local nonprofits.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. The new MVR/Car Cameras have arrived, and Axon has scheduled installation for the third week of May. Officer Green and I will be conducting training on the MVRs and Body Cameras immediately following the installation. All the new cameras will be deployed and in use by the end of May.
2. National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 5th in the Borough Park. Anyone interested in participating in or sponsoring the event can contact the Palmerton Police Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Holly Sell reminded residents to not drive around cars stopped at crosswalks.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary