

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

Terry L. Costenbader, Council President
Kris W. Hoffner, Vice-President
Richard L. Nothstein
Holly F. Hausman Sell
Andrew J. Hollywood
Cory Kepner
William A. Gallagher
Absent: Jenny Y.C. Cheng

Don J. Herrmann, Mayor
Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
Kim Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

VISITORS

Jim Shull, 740 East Princeton Avenue; Marj and Joseph Federanich, 418 Princeton Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Bob Fella, TV-13 Cameraman; Terry Ahner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Brad Rock of Lehigh Engineering presented Council with a background of the subdivision of Parcel #42A-47E-47 located on the 500 block of Lehigh Avenue. He informed them this is a minimal subdivision to divide the lot and place a double prefab home at the location with no slab or basement.

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the Ramsey Subdivision contingent upon meeting the Engineer's review letter and all SALDO requirements in entirety.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the March 23, 2023 and April 13, 2023 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. A resignation of the current Sewage Enforcement Officer was received in the office and as a result we will be working to obtain a new firm.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein had no report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell had no report.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION

Cory Kepner reported:

1. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the following use requests. The approvals are subject to scheduling and availability:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Jim Shull	600 & 700 Block E Princeton	Block Party
Ryan Heller/SS Palmer	Park & water hookup	Water Day
Ryan Heller/SS Palmer	Park	Play day rain dates
LV Childrens Center	Bandstand/surrounding area	Pre-K graduation ceremony
Historical Society	Bandstand	Concert
Historical Society	Bandstand/surrounding area	Presentation before concert

Rec Program	Park	Summer rec program
Rec Program	Gym	Summer rec program
Concourse Club	SW quadrant of Park	Movie in the Park
American Legion	Delaware Avenue/Park	Memorial Day Parade

2. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the Chamber of Commerce to repair and polish the Bandstand floor.
3. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the Palmerton Lighting Committee and Community Festival Committee to install a new lamppost in the Northeast quadrant of the Park near the Fourth and Lafayette intersection.

Holly Sell had concerns about tying in with the remaining electricity, but Joe Federanich explained the underground wiring is already available to connect to in that area.

4. On motion by Cory Kepner, no second, motion not carried for the request to hire one full-time and 2 part-time Borough employees to perform various duties for the Lighting Committee.

Kris Hoffner explained Council was advised by the Borough Solicitor to deny due to union issues and liability.

5. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Kris Hoffner, followed with discussion by Council, motion was rescinded for the Chamber of Commerce to install two permanent outdoor picnic tables in the Park in the Southwest quadrant of the Park near Delaware Avenue.

Terry Costenbader was not in favor of installing tables in the Park explaining they were at one time removed from the Park as the area was continually littered with trash and the Public Works Department spent too much time cleaning up. Marj and Joe Federanich agreed saying this is what is happening now at the Bandstand and feel the tables would re-locate the kids away from the Bandstand. Richard Nothstein disagreed and feels the tables will bring more loitering than the Bandstand. Joe Federanich then suggested turning off the power to the outlets in the Bandstand to prevent loitering, but Autumn Canfield advised this is not cost effective, especially as the season gets busier, as the crew would get called out if the power was not turned on for an event. Discussion on the picnic tables continued and Cory Kepner advised he is hopeful the upcoming ordinance will keep trouble out of the Bandstand.

After additional discussion and several comments, Cory Kepner made a motion, second by Kris Hoffner and Roll Call vote, to install one table with charging station in the Park at a location to be determined.

Roll Call Vote:

William Gallagher	Aye	Richard Nothstein	Nay
Cory Kepner	Aye	Kris Hoffner	Aye
Andrew Hollywood	Aye	Terry Costenbader	Nay
Holly Sell	Aye		

Secretary recorded 5 aye, 2 nay; motion carried.

6. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council authorized the Palmerton Chamber of Commerce to apply for a Downtown Improvement Grant for the purchase of new trash receptacles along Delaware Avenue.
7. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Kris Hoffner, followed with discussion by Council, the original motion authorizing Keystone Consulting Engineers to complete a list of Police Building priority projects was rescinded.

Council continued their discussion on the work needed at the Police Department building, as well as the possibility of an addition and a feasibility study. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved Keystone Consulting Engineers to generate a list, by priority, of items needing attention at the Police Department.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council authorized the Code Officer to attend the County Blight Committee meetings.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Fire Department to attend the Carbon County Awareness event on June 22, 2023 at Mahoning Valley Drive Inn.
3. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the request from Lehighon Borough for Fire Police assistance on June 7 and June 9, 2023.
4. The Public Safety Committee reviewed the March Fire Department incident report and thanked the Fire Department for their commitment to the community.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. The Alley J and Alley H low volume pave grants were awarded and 50% of the funds have been received for purchase of the material upfront. Autumn Canfield explained Railroad Alley is being paved with CDBG funds, and the bid awarded came in slightly above the allocation, but found monies in the budget to cover the difference.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher reported:

1. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council acknowledged the Municipal Authorities purchase of a 2022 GMC Canyon truck to replace the 2008 Chevy Colorado.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council appointed Austin Wilburn as a new member to the Palmerton Municipal Fire Department. Kris Hoffner welcomed the experienced fire fighter to the department.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council entered into an Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss Personnel. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 8:06 p.m.
3. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council offered full-time employment to Trevin Green as a probationary police officer subject to:
 - A. Successful completion of psychological examination.
 - B. Successful completion of physical examination.
 - C. Meeting all state requirements
 - D. Meeting all requirements of the bargaining unit.

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. Thank you to all of our first responders. In the past few weeks, the fire whistle has been going off a lot and I thank our volunteer fire department, their volunteers and our police department for their fast response to these events. Thanks also to our public works department for all the hard work they have done in the borough, especially during the recent storms in the past few weeks.
2. A reminder to all residents to call 911 for all emergencies. Do not call the Palmerton police department directly if there is an emergency. You can also dial 570-325-9111 for non-emergencies.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. Officer Stern and Chief Kromer have completed their ALERT training and are certified to conduct the course. This week 26 police officers and 3 other law enforcement personnel were certified.

2. Six patrolmen from our department are currently Level 1 certified, and Detective Buck will be certified the next round.
3. National Night Out will be held in the Borough Park on August 1, 2023 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Holly Sell asked Council if there was a reason why the Borough Park closure is different from the other parks. Since there was not a clear reason, she advised the park closure times would be made uniform in the new recreation ordinance. Autumn Canfield added the final draft will be available at the next meeting for its first reading.
2. Cory Kepner asked the status of the sidewalk repairs at the Municipal Services building. Autumn Canfield relayed Todd Merkel is actively assessing all Borough owned sidewalks to determine how many needs repair/replacement. She added the Public Works department will take care of any demolition which will save the Borough money. Todd Merkel will also be inspecting the Borough light poles and looking for grants to refurbish/replace deteriorating units.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Andrew Hollywood suggested authorizing Autumn Canfield to explore quotes for additional cameras in the park, but Chief Kromer advised the additional cameras in the Park would be part of the LSA grant already applied for and are awaiting notification.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Borough Manager