

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024, 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:

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| Terry Costenbader, President | Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor |
| Kris W. Hoffner, Vice-President | Don J. Herrmann, Mayor |
| Richard L. Nothstein | Timothy Kromer, Police Detective |
| Andrew J. Hollywood | Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager |
| William A. Gallagher | Kim Rodrigues, Recording Secretary |
| Randolph Gursky | |

Absent: Holly Hausman Sell

VISITORS

Jesse Ziegler, 7960 Mauch Chunk Road; Judy Borger, 834 East Princeton Avenue; Carl Bush, 827 Delaware Avenue; Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Austin Wilburn, 440 Lehigh Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Charlie Kistler, 390 Forest Inn Road, Palmerton; Jayson Thomas, 365 Lehigh Avenue; Jason Behler, 727 Franklin Avenue; Franklin Haas, 893 Edgemont Avenue; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 Cameramen; Terry Ahner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATIONS

Kris Hoffner read and presented Fire Company Proclamations to Frank Haas, Charles Kistler and Autin Wilburn, for their commitment and swift actions during the August 6, 2024 fire on Lafayette Avenue. He also expressed his gratitude to the entire department for their efforts. Chief Jason Behler informed Council the fire was extinguished in two minutes and 30 seconds from time of arrival and he is extremely proud of the volunteers.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council appointed Jason Beers as a new member to the Palmerton Municipal Fire Company.

2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council appointed Jayson Thomas to the Palmerton Municipal Fire Company Fire Police.

SWEARING IN OF FIRE COMPANY MEMBER

Mayor Herrmann performed the swearing-in of newly appointed Fire Company member Jayson Thomas.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Raberta Hans of 435 Franklin Avenue questioned Council about the police department, asking if it has been over budget in the past five years. Andrew Hollywood explained this is hard to answer without prior notice and she is welcome to contact the Borough office with these questions. She also asked what the Borough plans to do about the Police Department overtime issue. Recognizing there was an advertisement placed for part-time officers, she questioned whether it would be enough to cover the hours or if another full-time officer would be a better solution. Following additional comments from Ms. Hans regarding the Borough's lack of planning for overtime hours and filling shifts at the Police Department, Andrew Hollywood relayed there are always options that can be considered, such as changes in staffing or State Police coverage. Raberta Hans feels the dedication of the Police Department is the reason Palmerton is such a great community.

Jared Cebrosky of 445 Princeton Avenue, questioned the status of the car wash located on Mauch Chunk Road, stating many of the bays have been vandalized. He would like to see it open again as a car wash. Randolph Gursky informed him there is a new owner of the property and, as they are working on cleaning it up, he is not sure of their intentions.

Jesse Ziegler of 760 Mauch Chunk Road advised Council he would like to hold a Bike Fest event on August 9, 2025. Council directed him to the Borough office for a Park use request form to apply for the event.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the July 25, 2024 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 these are on file in the Borough Office for public inspection during regular business hours.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Autumn Canfield reported:

- 1. Reminder to residents of the government forum held the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30-6:30 at the Palmerton Library. This is an open place to ask questions of local government, and all are invited.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

- 1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved signing the Cooperation Agreement for the 2023 CDBG Program Administration.
- 2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved application to the 2024 CDBG program.
- 3. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 719-24 allowing for application to the CDBG Program. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.
- 4. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 720-24 stating emergency procurement of elevator equipment and installation. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

Autumn Canfield advised Council if the permit required for the elevator repair requires expediting, the quote may be a few thousand dollars higher.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Andrew Hollywood reported:

- 1. A reminder to all residents the Borough is accepting letters of interest for the Property Maintenance Appeal Board. Please send them or drop them off at the Borough office.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION

Andrew Hollywood reported:

- 1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner 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>
Richard McMahan	Gym	Adult Basketball League

- 2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council authorized the Concourse Club to add permanent seating around Rose Garden as requested.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved Lehighon Borough's request for Fire Police assistance at the Lehighon Fire Department Parade on September 28, 2024.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky had no report.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher reported:

1. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council authorized the advertisement for bids for Collection of Municipal Waste.
2. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council awarded the sanitary sewer lining project to Mr. Rehab, LLC, a CoStars vendor, at a cost of \$150,350.70 as recommended by Entech Engineering.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

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

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Don Herrmann reported:

1. Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday October 26th from 6pm-8pm. Please have your porch light on if you handing out candy and be extra cautious while driving around town.
2. The 35th Annual Palmerton Community Festival will be held in the Borough Park from Sept 6th through the 8th, rain or shine. Come out to support the local community businesses and organizations and enjoy the rides, music and food.
3. On Friday September 20th, I will be teaming up with the Mayor of Slatington and promoting a canned good drive before the football game between Northern Lehigh and Palmerton. The donations will help local food pantries in Palmerton and Slatington areas restock their shelves for the holidays.
4. With school starting shortly, please slow down while driving and obey the crossing guards. Parents, please drop children in designated areas and do not double park/park in crosswalks.

5. Thank you to Marj and Joe Federanich for all their work and contributions to the Palmerton community. They will be moving and starting the next phase of their lives in South Carolina. Thank you for all your help and contributions over the years.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. A reminder to everyone that school will be starting soon. Please be alert for pedestrians, observe speed limits in school zones, and obey all crossing guard directions. Parents, please be aware of other children and buses during drop off and pick up. Only use designated areas and ensure you and your children use crosswalks to cross the street.
2. Our new duty weapons have been received and all officers have been qualified on them. It is important for law enforcement to remain well equipped and our new duty weapons with optics will allow us to do so. Our firearms instructors, Patrolman Stern and Patrolman Green, did an amazing job introducing everyone to a new platform and ensuring our proficiency.
3. The Carbon County Commissioners have approved the Board of Directors for the Carbon County Emergency Operations and Training Center. In July, I began my four-year term on the Board of Directors. Sheriff Dan Zeigler is the other law enforcement representative on the Board.
4. A huge thank you to all of the agencies that tried to stick it out with us at this year's National Night Out. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans for us. The weather was great until about ten minutes before our event started, and all of our agencies were set up and ready to go. We will be back next year, bigger and better! A special thanks to the Carbon County Sheriff's Office, Leighton Ambulance Association, and our Public Works Department for all their help breaking everything down and cleaning up. I especially want to recognize our Public Works employees, Ronnie George and Frank Haas. We would not have been able to do it without them. Also thank you to our sponsors, Allstate agent Lisa Tupper, Blue Ridge Communications, and Cheng Law Offices.

On that same subject, it is never too soon to mention next year's National Night Out on August 5th, 2025 in the Borough Park. Anyone interested in participating in or sponsoring the event can contact the Palmerton Police Department.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council entered into an Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. to discuss land matters. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 8:06 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Borough Manager