

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023, 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 L. Costenbader, Council President | Jenny Y.C. Cheng Esq., Solicitor |
| Kris W. Hoffner, Council Vice-President | Don Herrmann, Mayor |
| Richard L. Nothstein | Timothy Kromer, Police Chief |
| Holly Sell | Autumn Canfield, Manager/Secretary |
| Andrew J. Hollywood | Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary |
| Cory Kepner | |
| William A. Gallagher | |

VISITORS

Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franjlin Avenue; Lisa Snell Kern, 220 Edgemont Avenue; John Woginrich, 330 Columbia Avenue; Raine Neal, Bowmanstown; Marian Hoffner, 456 Edgemont Avenue; Marjorie and Joseph Federanich, 418 Princeton Avenue; Christine DeSousa, 241 Franklin Avenue; Audrey Larvey, 575 Lafayette Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Carolee Boyer, 202 Lafayette Avenue; Terry Arner, Times News reporter; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 Cameraman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Lisa Snell Kern of 220 Edgemont Avenue reminded Council to consider placing microphones near their seats and asked if Executive Sessions could be handled before the meetings instead of at the end. Terry Costenbader relayed Council will discuss, but all visitors have the option of leaving the meeting. Attorney Cheng advised if Executive Session was held prior there would be time constraints.

Jared Cebrosky of 445 Princeton Avenue complained to Council about the number of e-bikes being driven on the sidewalks. He feels because of the speed of the bikes they should be regulated under the Motor Vehicle Code and travel on the streets, not the sidewalks. Chief Kromer informed Mr. Cebrosky that all e-bikes are treated as bicycles and do not fall under the Motor Vehicle Code in PA, but any incidents of concern should be reported to the Police Department.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Cory Kepner and voice vote, Council approved the July 27, 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.

MANAGERS REPORT

Autumn Canfield had no report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the Police Pension Fund 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation - \$273,220.
2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the Non-Uniformed Pension Fund 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation - \$124,457.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. Members from the Palmerton Library spoke to Council about the costly repairs that are needed on the building and asked the Borough to consider sponsoring a grant application made by the Library for LSA funds. They explained the Library will complete all the paperwork, but the municipality is required to apply for the grant. Christine DeSousa and Marian Hoffner explained how the Library is more than just books, it's a community center.

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote (Kris Hoffner abstained), Council agreed to honor the Palmerton Library Associations request for an LSA Grant partnership.

Autumn Canfield advised a resolution will be needed for an LSA Application and she will work on that with Library Director, Christine DeSousa.

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote (Kris Hoffner abstained), Council agreed to support the Palmerton Library Association in their partnership for a Keystone Grant.

2. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved organizing a Quality of Life Board of Appeals. All interested applicants should submit a letter of interest to the Borough Office.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Cory Kepner reported:

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Palmerton PTO	Park	Bomber Fun Run
Palmerton Adult Basketball	Gym	Adult Basketball

3. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adopted Resolution 705-23 for application of an LSA Grant towards new construction of a Police Department or renovations to the existing building.

Holly Sell questioned the Resolution is specific to new construction, but Autumn Canfield relayed one path or another will need to be chosen.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Cory Kepner and voice vote, Council approved the request for Fire Police assistance, pending staff availability, for the Lehighon Halloween Parade on October 21, 2023.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Cory Kepner and voice vote, Council authorized the Borough Manager to work with the Festival Committee to improve crosswalk lighting and repair lights in the Bandstand.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council will accept applications for leaf collection.

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. As we approach a new school season, a reminder to all Borough residents to be cautious when driving. The Police Department will be patrolling around Parkside and SS Palmer during opening and closing, when possible. Please obey posted signs, school crossing guards, and do not double park or block walkways.
2. Thank you to the Chief and the community for a successful National Night Out, it was a great night and fun for all.
3. Trick-or-Treat will be held on Saturday, October 28th, from 6pm to 8pm.
4. Have a safe school year.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. Palmerton Police Department's National Night Out was an enormous success. We had an incredible turnout at the event and even more participation from area first responders and other public service agencies than we did last year. Thank you to everyone who participated and attended. Without the support of the community, this event would not have been a success and we sincerely appreciate their participation. Thank you to Lisa Snell Kern and the Concourse Club for coordinating their Movie in the Park on the same night; the joint effort greatly benefited both events. Thank you to our Public Works Department for helping prepare for the event and also to Colossal Radio for their promotion of the event, as well as providing music and announcements. Please check out Ahner's Aerial Photography for some incredible photos and videos of the event. We are looking forward to next year's National Night Out and hope to continue to build upon the success of this year's event to again host a night where everything is free for all who attend. Next year's National Night Out is Tuesday, August 6, 2024 in the Palmerton Borough Park.

2. Palmerton Police Department will be participating in the 2nd Annual First Responders Awareness Event. It has been re-scheduled for Thursday, September 21st from 5-8:00 PM at the Mahoning Drive In.

OLD BUSINESS

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council entered into executive session at 7:36 PM to discuss land matters. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 8:05 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary