REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

Terry Costenbader, President
Kris Hoffner, Council Vice-President
Richard Nothstein
Holly Sell
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher

Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor
John "Bo" Rodrigues, Mayor
Timothy Kromer, Chief of Police
Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent:
Timothy "T.J." Gursky, Jr.

VISITORS

Jonathan Siller, 1033 Fourth Street; Londa Ritchey, Save Carbon County; Cathy Mueller, Save Carbon County; Kathy Fallow, 365 Edgemont Avenue, Save Carbon County; Ron Valish, 901 Delaware Avenue; Bill and Jennifer Strauch, 77 Princeton Avenue; Elzbieta McDonald, 681 Franklin Avenue; Kristen Ybanna; Jared Cebrosky, 104 Kaysea Lane, Lehighton; Gina Rodrigues, 523 Franklin Avenue; Drew Snowberger, TV-13; Terry Arner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Londa Ritchey of Save Carbon County provided an update on the Northface project. Their goal is to minimize the impact to the community by holding Northface to timelines and stop any further extensions for fill. They are also concerned with the self-sampling that is taking place on site and would like DEP to control the testing from this point forward. Andrew Hollywood asked what would happen to the site if they succeeded in stopping the toxic fill from coming in. Ms. Ritchey explained clean fill would replace the toxic fill and force them to a tighter timeline. Save Carbon County will host a public meeting to discuss the project once they tour the site. Holly Sell advised that Council requested Northface to hold a public meeting for the same reason but have not heard from them at this point. Kris Hoffner thanked Save Carbon County for the pressure they have kept on Northface/Impact Environmental and feels that was the reason a walk through was given.

Elzbieta McDonald of 681 Franklin Avenue asked Council if residents will be responsible for paying the penalty as the utility bills were due on July 30th instead of July 31st. Andrew Hollywood informed her the penalties stand.

Kathy Fallow of 365 Edgemont Avenue asked Council for an update on the PFOS remediation. Autumn Canfield explained the bids are being reviewed by EPA but have not yet been awarded.

William Strauch of 77 Princeton Avenue asked Council to consider allowing a time capsule to be placed in the park or at the Welcome to Palmerton sign. A suggestion was made to place it at the Elmer Valo field, but Mr. Strauch doesn't feel that is the best place for it to be seen. William Gallagher read a statement on why it should not be placed at the Welcome to Palmerton sign, stating the flag and placard were erected for Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel A. Dailey and would not like anything to shadow that dedication. Richard Nothstein added he spoke with other Veterans that were not in favor of placing the capsule there for the same reason. William Strauch, being a Veteran himself, does not want to take any recognition away from Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel A. Dailey, but doesn't feel like hiding the capsule at the Elmer Valo field is the right thing to do either.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the July 23, 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

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Zoning Officer Report
3. Police Department Report
4. Fire Chief Report
5. Moving Permit Report
6. Code Compliance Agent Report
7. Street Supervisor 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 Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the Palmerton Library renovation bid from Masonry Preservation Services in the amount of $292,000 as recommended by KCE.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council accepted the resignation of Carlene Andress from Zoning Hearing Board. Holly Sell thanked her for her service.

2. Letters of interest for the Zoning Hearing Board will be accepted at Borough Hall until September 14th.

3. Letters of interest are still being accepted for vacancies on the Shade Tree Commission and the Property Maintenance appeals board.

4. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved, at no cost to the Borough, the request by Lower Towamensing Township to access select Borough properties for their sanitary sewer project.

5. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and roll call vote, Council is requiring that the Peach Alley extension, behind five to six lots, be improved to full Borough standards for the entire length disturbed by the contractor to control stormwater.

Roll Call Vote:

Terry Costebader	Aye	Holly Sell	Aye
Kris Hoffner	Nay	Andrew Hollywood	Aye
Richard Nothstein	Aye	William Gallagher	Aye

Secretary recorded 5 aye, 1 nay; motion carried.

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.

Applicant	Facility	Purpose
Cub Pack 209	Park (SW Quadrant)	Meeting/recruitment (retroactive)
Rick McMahon	Gym	Adult Basketball
Holiday Lighting Committee	Park	Christmas in the Park

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the request to hold the annual Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 18, 2026 with a rain date of Monday, October 19, 2026.

3. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Airing of the Quilts date change for the 2027 event.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the request for the Palmerton Municipal Fire Department to participate in the Coaldale parade on September 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

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 authorized advertisement for seasonal leaf collectors at a rate of $15 per hour.

2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved membership for Thomas Brown to the Palmerton Municipal Fire Company.

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. I successfully completed the 65-mile bicycle ride on July 26th in just over 4 hours. During most of the ride I was able to think about why I was riding and self-reflect, however, there were other hidden dangers, including several bicyclists crashing and requiring medical assistance. Overall, it was a great ride and the weather was amazing! It was an honor to ride in memory of Chief George and in support of Palmerton's First Responders, and I look forward to next year's ride.

2. Our police department has been helping Parkside and SS Palmer with morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. Parents and drivers in the community are reminded to please use extreme caution while driving within the Borough, especially in school zones. The same should be done if using secondary streets to bypass traffic on main streets. Be patient and keep Palmerton a safe community.

3. The Palmerton Festival will be held September 11th, 12th, and 13th. I believe this to be our signature event each year with many local organizations relying on its success to help with their fundraising efforts. Community support is critical, and patience with parking and travel is appreciated.

4. The Halloween Parade will be Sunday, October 18th at 4PM with a rain date of Monday, October 19th at 6PM. Trick or Treat Night will be Saturday, October 31st, from 6-8pm.

5. I want to wish Palmerton students success in their academics and activities and best of luck to all the fall sports teams this year!

6. As our community approaches the solemn milestone of the 25th anniversary of September 11th, we pause to reflect on a day that forever changed our nation. We remember the innocent lives lost, the families who carry enduring grief, and the profound sacrifices made by our first responders. In our darkest hour, we also witnessed the best of humanity through an outpouring of bravery, unity, and neighborly love. In the days leading up to this anniversary, I encourage all residents to honor this legacy by participating in local acts of service, kindness, and reflection. Let us reaffirm our commitment to standing together as a strong, united community. We will never forget.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

1. A reminder that school is back in session. Be aware of kids and obey our 15 MPH speed limit in school zones. Also, watch out for crossing guards and obey their signals. They work hard to keep our community's children safe.

2. Speaking of school, our Department has been conducting foot patrol at both elementary school locations this week at arrival and dismissal time to assist with traffic and pedestrian control. We have not had any issues so far and I want to thank both the parents and the school district for their assistance with a safe start to the school year.

3. Our Fifth National Night Out was bigger and better than ever. The weather was beautiful and the turnout was incredible. I had several people who were at multiple events tell me that ours was by far the biggest and best of them all. We had 10 law enforcement agencies and over 50 organizations participated in total this year and we continue to grow. I want to thank everyone who participated and attended. A big thank you to the Concourse Club for coordinating their Movie in the Park on the same night. A huge thanks to my Officers and our Public Works Department for making it all happen. And thank you to Tastefully Twisted for providing ice cream to our guests. If you haven't already, check out AhnAir Drone Services for some amazing photos and videos of the event. A big thank you to Jan for his drone expertise. He has been with us from the start and we appreciate his support.

4. Speaking of National Night Out, it is only 341 short days until next year's National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3, 2027.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned their regular meeting at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Borough Manager