

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025, 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:

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

Absent: Holly Hausman Sell
Autumn Canfield

VISITORS

Barry Scherer, 863 Lafayette Avenue; Raberta & Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Kim Clark, 74 Avenue A; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Drew Snowbereger, TV-13 Cameraman; Terry Ahner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Barry Scherer of 863 Lafayette Avenue addressed Council as a citizen of the Borough as well as a representative of the Palmerton Historical Society. He questioned why there isn't a "no turn on red" sign from Delaware Avenue, turning onto Third Street. William Gallagher added there should be postings heading West and East as well. Terry Costenbader advised an ordinance was recently approved adding no turn on red signage at that intersection, and Council will look into it.
2. Raberta Hans of 435 Franklin Avenue asked Council to expand on the first reading of the burning ordinance in the Public Safety report.
3. Kim Clark of 72 Avenue A presented Council with photographs of a tree on Borough property that needs attention, fearing it may fall on her house. She also reported there is a no parking sign in the area where a car continues to park. She notified the police, but nothing was done. Andrew Hollywood questioned who she spoke with and when she did not know he told her to note that in the future. She then recommended placing yield signs at the intersection near her home, noting no one slows down or stops before turning and someone will get hurt. Chief Kromer will investigate her concerns and report back to Borough Manager Canfield. Terry Costenbader will have the tree checked out by the Public Works Supervisor.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the July 24, 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

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 Resolution 739-25, authorizing signature to accept the PennDOT Winter Agreement for 5 years.
2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 740-25, adopting a 457(b) Government Retirement Plan.
3. Richard Nothstein informed Council clarification is needed in the Little White Church parking lot project pertaining to the CDBG funds. The Historical Society is asking the Borough to consider covering the \$18,000 to \$20,000 engineering costs for the project that were not included in the \$90,000 CDBG grant funds. Barry Scherer elaborated on the project to clarify the request relaying the Historical Society was under the impression there would be no cost to them, as they are in no position to financially pay for the engineering fees. Terry Costenbader felt the Borough Manager should be part of this conversation to discuss the budget.

On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council tabled the request for additional funds for the Little White Church parking lot project.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

William Gallagher reported:

- 1. A proclamation for Joseph Plechavy’s career of showcasing music in the community was read by William Gallagher. This proclamation will be presented to Mr. Plechavy at the 2025 Community Festival.
- 2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Princeton Pines subdivision project escrow release contingent upon completion of backfill and a Borough Engineer inspection.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION

Andrew Hollywood reported:

- 1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein 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 McMahon	Gym	Adult Basketball
Christmas in the Park	Park	Tree Decorating Event

- 2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the request from Michael Judkins for use of the Council Chambers and Hallway areas for filming a biopic movie about Steve Brosky. The approval is subject to scheduling and availability.
- 3. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved a 5-year lease with Carbon County for Municipal Services Building floors two and three.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

- 1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved, retroactively, Kevin Buck as Officer in Charge from July 29 through July 31, 2025, in the absence of Chief Timothy Kromer.
- 2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the County P25 Digital Radio Agreement. Chief Kromer explained the radios are being installed in all first responder vehicles for operations and maintenance. The County retains ownership of the equipment and covers all maintenance.
- 3. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Ordinance 784, amending Chapter 118, vehicles and traffic.
- 5. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the first reading and advertisement of Ordinance 785, amending Chapter 64, outdoor burning. Kris Hoffner explained this amendment is an effort to curtail residents from burning without using approved firepits.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky reported:

- 1. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Pay Request #6 based on KCE recommendation to TELCO, Inc. in the amount of \$43,974.95.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher reported:

- 1. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the recommendation of Entech Engineers for CoStars Vendor Mr. Rehab to perform the work for sanitary sewer lining in the amount of \$167,507.25.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

- 1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and roll call vote, Council approved a three-year Public Works contract with Teamsters Local 773.

Roll Call Vote:

Terry Costebader	Nay	Andrew Hollywood	Aye
Kris Hoffner	Aye	William Gallagher	Aye
Richard Nothstein	Aye	Randolph Gursky	Aye
Secretary recorded 5 aye, 1 nay; motion carried.			

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

William Gallagher reported:

- 1. Thank you to the Palmerton Police, Palmerton Fire Dept and all other businesses and organizations that contributed to a very successful National Night Out on August 5th. It was a very nice, community-based event.
- 2. With school starting, please be mindful of increased foot traffic, people in the crosswalks and of buses picking up and dropping off. Reminder....Do Not Pass a school bus with flashing lights and stop sign engaged. This is not only for the safety of the children, but also illegal.
- 3. Please come out to the Palmerton Festival on September 5, 6, and 7th. This is a great opportunity to see old friends, hear good music, play bingo, do craft shopping and grab some great food to help support our local organizations. Let’s hope for great, sunny weather.

4. Trick or Treat Night will be held on Friday, October 31st. Please remember to use the crosswalks.
5. I would like to wish all the students, teachers, and athletes a very successful school year and sports seasons. Good luck everyone. Go Bombers!!

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. A reminder that school is back in session. Please watch out for kids and obey our 15 MPH speed limit in school zones. Also, watch out for crossing guards and obey all their signals. They work hard to keep our community's children safe.
2. Parents, talk to your kids about bike safety. There are many issues with e-bikes and regular bikes. Bikes must yield to pedestrians on sidewalks and obey all traffic laws when riding on the street. All children under the age of 12 must wear a bike helmet. My Officers have spoken to several children in the past week about bike safety, so parents please do the same. The last thing our PD wants is to have to respond to an accident involving a child on a bike.
3. Palmerton Police Department's National Night Out was successful beyond our wildest imagination. The weather was absolutely perfect and 46 different groups participated this year. We had an incredible turnout at the event, and 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, our Public Works Department, and our Fire Department for helping us with the event. We have the best coordination between those three Departments in the County. If you haven't already, check out the incredible photos and videos of the event at Ahner's Aerial Photography. We will see you next year on Tuesday, August 4th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary