

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025, 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, Council President | Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor |
| Kris W. Hoffner, Council Vice-President | Don Herrmann, Mayor |
| Richard L. Nothstein | Timothy Kromer, Police Chief |
| Holly F. Hausman Sell | Autumn Canfield, Manager/Secretary |
| Andrew J. Hollywood | Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary |
| William A. Gallagher | |
| Randolph M. Gursky | |

VISITORS

T.J. Gursky, 812 Edgemont Avenue; Jim Miller, 336 Lehigh Avenue; Jonathan Siller, 1033 Fourth Street; Jared Cebrosky, 816 Princeton Avenue; Christal and Callie Benninger, Michael Faraldo, 246 Delaware Avenue 3A; Debra Whitemaine, 111 Digger Drive, Kunkletown; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 cameraman; Terry Arner, Times News reporter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

1. Terry Costenbader recognized the following employees for their years of service and thanked them for their hard work and dedication:

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|--------------------|----------|
| Kevin Buck | 20 years |
| William Strauch | 20 years |
| Christal Benninger | 5 years |
| Debra Whitemaine | 5 years |

HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the November 20 and December 4, 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.

MANAGERS REPORT

Autumn Canfield reported:

1. The Palmerton Library was awarded \$468,000 from DCED for renovations.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council adopted Ordinance 786 which sets the 2026 real estate tax rate. A copy of the Ordinance is attached to these minutes.
2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council adopted Ordinance 787 which sets the Act 511 taxes for 2026. A copy of the Ordinance is attached to these minutes.
3. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council adopted Resolution 748-25 establishing the 2026 fee schedule. A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes.
4. On motion by Richard Nothstein second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council adopted the 2026 Budget.
5. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adopted the 2026 Salary Schedule.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell had no report.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved, the following use request:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Raquel Lutton-Tax Collector	Council Chambers	In-person Tax Collection

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner had no report.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky had no report.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher reported:

1. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved payment to Mr. Rehab for the 2025 sewer lining project in the amount of \$137,048.75. Kris Hoffner asked if the project was complete and Autumn Canfield explained there is a part of the sewer line that remains to be televised, which is the reason for this approved partial payment.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council accepted the 2026 Police Chief employment agreement.

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. Tonight, as I sit before you for the final time as Mayor of Palmerton Borough, I do so with a full heart and deep gratitude. Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Palmerton is more than a place on a map. It is a town built on hard work, resilience, and a strong sense of looking out for one another. From our neighborhoods and schools to our businesses, churches, and civic organizations, this borough is defined by people who care — and that have inspired me every single day I have served. I want to thank the Borough Council, past and present, for your partnership, your thoughtful debate, and your commitment to doing what's best for Palmerton. Good government is never about one person, and I am proud of what we've accomplished together through cooperation and respect. To our borough employees — public works, police, fire, administration, and all who quietly keep this town running — thank you. Your dedication often goes unseen, but it never goes unfelt. Palmerton is stronger and safer because of you. I also want to thank my family and loved ones for their patience and support. Public service asks a great deal not just of those who serve, but of those who stand beside them. I could not have done this without you.

As I step away from this role, I do so with confidence in Palmerton's future. New leadership will bring new ideas, and new ways to face the tough challenges that lie ahead. I encourage everyone here to continue being engaged, informed, and involved. The strength of this borough has always come from its people. Though my time as mayor is coming to an end, my commitment to Palmerton does not. This will always be my home, and I will always be proud to say I served this community. Thank you for the trust you placed in me. Thank you for the friendships, the challenges, and the memories. And thank you, Palmerton, for allowing me the privilege of serving you.

May this borough continue to grow, to care for one another, and to move forward together. God bless you all, and God bless the Borough of Palmerton.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. In November, we hosted a joint Defensive Tactics training and Taser Recertification with the Jim Thorpe Police Department at the Emergency Operations Training Center. Patrolman Leadbetter conducted the DT training, and I conducted the Taser training. Interdepartmental training builds camaraderie between Departments and significantly increases the training value for everyone involved.
2. Last week, in culmination of our No Shave November event, Officer Green, Officer Shimer, and I presented a check to Josh Nenscel, Dean of Students at the SS Palmer Elementary and Parkside Education Center. This year we donated \$500 to the school, which is used for helping Palmerton families in need for Christmas. I want to thank all my officers who participated, as well as Mr. Nenscel for coordinating the donation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Terry Costenbader and Holly Sell thanked Don Herrmann and Randy Gursky for their service and expressed how nice it was to work with them. Richard Nothstein reflected on Palmerton as a whole and what a wonderful community it has.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary