

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 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:

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

Raberta & Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Jonathan Siller, 1033 Fourth Street; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Kyle Behler, 512 Lafayette Avenue; Franklin Haas, 893 Edgemont Avenue; Stephanie Borger, 501 White Street; Jeremy Henry, 4766 South Cypress Drive, Walnutport; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 cameraman; Terry Arner, Times News reporter.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Don Herrmann held a moment of silence for William Milkv.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN RECOGNITIONS

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adopted and presented Resolution 727-24, recognizing Papa Al's Restaurant for their investment in decorations for the holiday season turning their location into a winter wonderland. A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes.
2. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council adopted Resolution 728-24, recognizing Pamela Andrews for her commitment to the Palmerton community. A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Raberta Hans questioned the 2.5 mill increase and asked for an outline of the costs. Autumn Canfield relayed most of the increase is due to services becoming more expensive. Other reasons include the maintenance of buildings, unknown increases in electric prices, and she is moving the budget away from outside transfers from other funds towards the funds working independently.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the November 21 and December 5, 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 that these are on file in the Borough Office for public inspection during regular business hours.

MANAGERS REPORT

Autumn Canfield reported:

1. The new trash haulers, Whitetail Disposal, will be collecting trash in the entire town 1 day per week, every Monday. They will be conducting a direct mailing of their flyer and collection calendar to all residents.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adopted Ordinance 780 which sets the 2025 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 781 which sets the Act 511 taxes for 2025. 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 726-24 establishing the 2025 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 2025 Budget.
5. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council adopted the 2025 Salary Schedule.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the following appointments to Boards and commissions:
 - a. Joseph Slovick – 1 year term as Zoning Hearing Board alternate
 - b. Carlene Andress – 3 year term on Zoning Hearing Board
 - c. William Stribany – 3-year term on Shade Tree Commission
 - d. Joseph Lower – 5 year term on Municipal Authority
 - e. James Christman – 4 year term on Palmerton Planning Commission
 - f. Steve Elton – 5 year term as UCC Board of Appeals alternate
 - g. John Woginrich – 1 year term as Library Board representative
 - h. Autumn Canfield – 1 year term as representative to Carbon County Tax Collection Committee
 - i. Kris Hoffner – 1 year term as representative to Carbon County Council of Governments
 - j. Autumn Canfield – 1 year term as alternate representative to Carbon County Council of Governments
2. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the 2025 meeting schedule.
3. Holly Sell recognized the following employees for their years of service:

Joel George	15 years	David Washburn	10 years
Ronnie George	10 years	Brian White	10 years
Thomas Smith	10 years	Frank Haas	5 years

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>
PMPA	Council Chambers	Monthly meetings

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council authorized advertisement of police vehicle 51 for sale on Municibid.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved purchase of a new KME Custom Rescue Engine at a cost of \$1,347,339.65. The truck is scheduled to be completed in late 2027 or early 2028 and will replace the 2002 American LaFrance engine.

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 accepted DEP 902 Grant funds in the amount of \$200,000 to be used towards a tub grinder for the leaf and yard waste program.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the following appointments to Borough Offices:
 - a. Manager, Secretary, Treasurer, Streets Commissioner – Autumn Canfield
 - b. Assistant Secretary – Kimberly Rodrigues
 - c. Solicitor – Jenny Cheng, Esquire
 - d. Alternate Solicitor – Nanovic Law Offices
 - e. General Engineer – Keystone Consulting Engineers
 - f. Sewer Engineer – Entech Engineering
 - g. Water Engineer - Keystone Consulting Engineers
 - h. Zoning and Building Code Officer – Duane Dellecker
 - i. Code Enforcement Agent – Carolee Boyer
 - j. Sewer Enforcement Officer – Keystone Consulting Engineers
 - k. Health Officer – Duane Dellecker
 - l. Open Records Officer – Kimberly Rodrigues

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. Thank you to the organizers of the Christmas Tree Lighting in the park that was held on December 7th and to all the volunteers and businesses that helped with the day. Also, a special thanks to the Palmerton High School Football Team, Palmerton UVO and Pencor Services for all their help.
2. With the colder weather and snow season approaching, all residents are reminded to move their vehicles to allow for borough crews to plow the streets when there is a snowstorm. Plowing is necessary for drainage and above all, to allow for emergency vehicles in case of an emergency.
3. A reminder to residents from the Palmerton Fire department to make sure to add water to any live Christmas trees this holiday season and ensure they are at a safe distance from any heat source.
4. Thank you to Council for all your work this past year; it has been a difficult year, in my opinion, with trying to get a hold on expenses; increased garbage, water, and property taxes are hard to accept and will be a challenge for some. Here is to a better 2025.
5. I encourage all residents to volunteer more in the community and attend monthly council meetings to express your opinion and understand where your money is being spent.
6. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. Last week, in culmination of our No Shave November event, Officer Green, Officer Shimer, and I presented a check to Ralph Andrews, principal of the SS Palmer Elementary and Parkside Education Center. This year 7 officers participated and donated \$600 to the school, which is used for helping Palmerton families in need for the holidays. I want to thank all of my officers who participated, as well as Mr. Andrews for his assistance with coordinating the donation.
2. Our new Body Worn Cameras and MVRs have been ordered and we are hoping for delivery in February 2025. Thank you to Autumn, Officer Leadbetter, and Officer Green for helping me secure the funding for their purchase and implementation.

3. As I previously reported, I was selected for the PA Chiefs Association’s newly created Mental Health Committee. I have been designated as the coordinator of the sub-committee focused on the mental well-being of officers. It is a topic I feel very strongly about, and I look forward to working on improving the mental health of our state’s 30,000 Police Officers.
4. National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 in the Borough Park. Anyone interested in participating in or sponsoring the event can contact the Palmerton Police Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary