

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 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:

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 Gallagher	
Randolph Gursky	

VISITORS

Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Carl Bush, 827 Delaware Avenue; Andy Neff, 2795 Little Gap Road; Jade Ruzicka, Dave Ruzicka and Anette Cortese, 783 Lafayette Avenue; Jason Behler, 727 Franklin Avenue; Balazs Toth; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Carolee Boyer, 22 Lafayette Avenue.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held to pay respects to Tom Davies, a lifelong volunteer and resident of Palmerton.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the November 16 and December 7, 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 Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adopted Ordinance 776 which sets the 2024 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 777 which sets the Act 511 taxes for 2024. A copy of the Ordinance is attached to these minutes.
3. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adopted the 2024 Budget.
4. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adopted the 2024 Salary Schedule.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported had no report.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Randolph Gursky had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Police Department computer use policy.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved a working firefighter policy.
3. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council appointed Garret Broadfield and Jade Ruzicka to members of the Municipal Fire Department, Carl Bush as Chaplain to the Fire Department and Andrew Neff to Fire Police.
4. Mayor Herrmann swore in the newly appointed members of the Fire Department and Fire Police and Kris Hoffner thanked them for volunteering.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Airing of the Quilts request for no parking areas around the Park and use of Coal Bowl parking lot on May 11, 2024.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. Terry Costenbader recognized Duane Dellecker for his 25 years of service.

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

Don Herrmann reported:

1. Don Herrmann wished Council and residents a safe and happy holiday and thanked Randolph Gursky for stepping up to serve on Council.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. A joint Defensive Tactics training with Jim Thorpe Police Department was held at the Carbon County Emergency Operations Training Center. Patrolman Leadbetter conducted the training, which is now required annually by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission.
2. The Department participated in No Shave November, where officers donated to be exempt from the facial hair policy. Six officers participated and the \$550 of proceeds went to the Parkside and S.S. Palmer Elementary Christmas Funds to help Palmerton families in need for Christmas. A big thank you to Principal Ralph Andrews for coordinating this donation with us.
3. Our new patrol vehicles have arrived at the dealership and are going through final checks and PA state inspection and. The dealership will be contacting me next week to set up a delivery date.
4. I have been selected by the Carbon County Chiefs of Police as our representative on the Board of Directors for the Carbon County Emergency Operations Training Center for a four-year term. I have been on the Training Center's construction and development committee since March of 2022.
5. A reminder to residents that all solicitors must obtain a solicitation permit from the Palmerton Police Department. Once a permit is obtained, all personnel participating in the solicitation must clearly display a soliciting permit. All solicitation permits are yellow in color, numbered, signed by the Chief of Police, and stamped with the seal of the Mayor of Palmerton. If a citizen observes solicitation without a permit, they should contact the Carbon County Communications Center via 911 or the non-emergency number at (570) 325-9111. If any solicitors display aggressive or inappropriate behavior, regardless of whether they have a permit, please call 911 so that an officer can respond to address the situation. This information is also displayed on the Department's Facebook page.
6. The next National Night Out will be held on August 6, 2024 and will be sponsored by Blue Ridge Communications. Please contact the Palmerton Police Department if interested in participating in or sponsoring the event.
7. Thank you to Borough Manager Autumn Canfield for all her hard work on the budget. There were many things I did not understand about the budget, and she educated me on them. I appreciate the assistance and her hard work in making the budget work.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Terry Costenbader wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and expressed his pleasure in working with Council this past year.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary