

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

Terry L. Costenbader, Council President	Jenny Y. C. Cheng, Esq., Solicitor
Kris W. Hoffner, Council Vice-President	Don Herrmann, Mayor
Richard L. Nothstein	Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Andrew J. Hollywood	Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
William A. Gallagher	Kimberly Rodrigues, Recording Secretary
Randolph M. Gursky	

Absent: Holly Sell

VISITORS

Tracie and Cooper Henry, 45 Manor Drive; Christine and Colson Ruzicka, 434 Lehigh Avenue; Nathan Garis, 8559 Interchange Road, Lehighon; Chris Walkowiak, 1435 Summer Mountain Road; Brody Kester, 457 Lehigh Avenue; Clayton Christman, 2735 Stagecoach Road West; Emilio Gonzalez, 450 Lafayette Avenue; Mason Heilman, 585 Forest Inn Road; Stephen Jones, 332 Lehigh Avenue; Alex Keiper, 749 Lafayette Avenue; Jeremy and Raberta Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Mary Fronheiser, 641 E Princeton Avenue; Joe Federanich, 418 Princeton Avenue; Diane and Ty Sander, 3290 Stagecoach Road West; Conner Lawley; TV-13 Cameraman; Terry Ahner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATIONS

On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council presented a proclamation to St. John's Towamensing Lutheran Church in honor of its 225-year anniversary.

On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council presented the Palmerton High School Football Team with a proclamation honoring their record setting season.

On motion by William Gallagher, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council recognized the Palmerton Football Booster Club varsity team for their season championship.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Joe Federanich of 418 Princeton Avenue questioned Council about the increase in water rates and the justification behind it. Autumn Canfield advised there was a 25% increase in water rates which results in a three dollar per month addition to the base rate and is due to increased expenses. Mr. Federanich is not happy about the increase and feels the Borough is not performing adequate maintenance to the system, which includes several lines in question located under a portion of his

property. Kris Hoffner feels the residents are benefitting from the Borough's purchase of the water system, otherwise it would be owned by American Water and the rates would be significantly higher.

Jeremy Hans of 435 Franklin Avenue asked Council to consider posting soliciting permits on Facebook to alert residents. Autumn Canfield doesn't feel this would be a safe practice as scammers would be aware of legitimate groups in town. Tim Kromer explained when a soliciting permit is issued the group is given highly visible badges to display and if residents do not observe this, they should contact the police department.

Raberta Hans of 435 Franklin Avenue asked Council what percentage of the budget is allotted for property maintenance and referenced the condition of the roof at the Municipal Service building and the age of the water lines. Autumn Canfield advised the roof referred to is not in disrepair, and added there are numerous projects planned for next year. She also informed Ms. Hans the types of maintenance regularly performed on the water/sewer systems include leak detection, televising of lines and valve replacements. William Gallagher suggested Raberta Hans attend the next Municipal Authority meeting to receive the most accurate information on the water system.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved Alexis Cooper to participate in the Police Department Internship Program.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council authorized advertisement of the Smeal Pumper for sale.
3. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the request by Palmerton Pharmacy for a vaccine clinic at the Palmerton Municipal Fire Department on a date to be determined.
4. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved Kevin Buck as Officer in Charge in the absence of Timothy Kromer from December 12, 2023 through December 15, 2023.

### FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council authorized the Manager to advertise Ordinance 776 which sets the 2024 real estate tax rate.
2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council authorized the Manager to advertise Ordinance 777 which sets the 2024 Act 511 taxes.
3. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council authorized the Manager to advertise Resolution 612-23 which sets the 2024 fee schedule.
4. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council authorized the advertising of the 2024 Budget.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Kris Hoffner reported:

- 1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council granted conditional approval of the DRAXOS, LLC subdivision contingent upon the comments and recommendations of the engineer’s review dated December 6, 2023.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION

Randolph Gursky reported:

- 1. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the following use requests subject to scheduling and availability:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Bobbie Jo Schleicher	Bandstand	Wedding
Roxana Shupp	Bandstand/Benches	Wedding

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

- 1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council tabled the Airing of the Quilts parking request to follow up with the committee.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher reported:

- 1. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council authorized the sale of shoring equipment to Slatington Borough in the amount of \$5,600.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

- 1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council entered into an Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss personnel. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 7:47 p.m.
- 2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and Roll Call vote, Council approved the 2024-2026 Police Contract.

Roll Call Vote:

Randolph Gursky	Aye	Kris Hoffner	Aye
William Gallagher	Aye	Richard Nothstein	Aye
Terry Costenbader	Nay	Andrew Hollywood	Aye

Secretary recorded 5 aye, 1 nay; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Autumn Canfield announced the Borough is looking to fill a vacant seat on the Planning Commission. The position will be posted on the Borough's website and Facebook page instructing letters of interest be submitted to the Borough office.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues  
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield  
Manager/Secretary