

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026, 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
Holly F. Hausman Sell
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher
Timothy “T.J.” Gursky, Jr.

John “Bo” Rodrigues, Mayor
Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Autumn Canfield, Manager/Secretary
Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Kris W. Hoffner
Richard L. Nothstein
Jenny Y.C. Cheng

VISITORS

Joshua Rake, PHS Girls Wrestling Coach; PHS Girls Wrestling Team members; Gina Rodrigues, 523 Franklin Avenue; Walter Haas Jr., 494 Franklin Avenue, 1R; Jessee Ziegler, 760 Mauch Chunk Road; Ron Valish, 901 Delaware Avenue; Lynn Shupp, Palmerton Chamber of Commerce; Jared Cebrosky, 104 Kaysea Lane, Lehighton; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 cameraman; Terry Arner, Times News reporter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Bo Rodrigues presented the Palmerton High School Girl’s Wrestling Team with a proclamation honoring their winning season. He congratulated them, along with their Coach, and thanked them for attending the meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT RECOGNITION

Chief Timothy Kromer presented Detective Kevin Buck with a Letter of Recognition for the successful prosecution of a complex, 2 year investigation, acknowledging his hard work, perseverance and dedication.

HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the January 22, 2026, and February 12, 2026, 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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 750-26 pertaining to emergency procurement of snow hauling for Banko Excavating in the amount of \$11,080.00 and Costenbader Excavating in the amount of \$17,400.00.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell had no report.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved, the following use requests subject to scheduling and availability:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Palmerton Community Band	Gym	Band rehearsal
Palmerton Community Band	Bandstand	Band rehearsal
Palmerton Concourse Club	Bandstand	Summer concerts

2. A motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Holly Sell, but lacking a voice vote, was tabled for further discussion of a location regarding the Palmerton Chamber of Commerce request for fireworks.
3. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council entered into an executive session at 7:30 PM to discuss potential land acquisition. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 7:45 PM.

PUBLIC SAFETY

William Gallagher reported:

1. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council authorized advertisement of Ordinance 788 amending fire prevention.
2. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved a handicapped parking space request at 266 Avenue A.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

T.J. Gursky reported:

1. On motion by T.J. Gursky, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved renewal of the snowplow cooperation agreement with Lower Towamensing Township.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader had no report.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved payment of the invoices and the check register as presented.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Bo Rodrigues reported:

1. January's snowstorm tested the community, but our will was not broken. We had an incredible amount of snow. An emergency declaration was made, and no parking was allowed on our emergency routes, Delaware Avenue and Mauch Chunk Road. Streets and sidewalks were narrower than usual. Vehicles were buried and driveways were plowed in, even mine. It wasn't easy, and frustrating at times. Our crew put forth an amazing effort over many hours. A reminder to residents, the primary focus is to clear roadways in case of emergency. Though difficult, our responsibility as residents remains the same and we are expected to maintain our property and move our vehicles accordingly. Nobody was alone or singled out as we all faced these challenges together. I was happy to hear the many stories of our community coming together, helping our neighbors dig out vehicles and help clear sidewalks. Those values are what defines Palmerton.
2. Earlier this week, snow expectancy was up to 24 inches, so the emergency declaration was needed again. A last-minute shift caused most of it to miss us, and the emergency declaration was called off. Thank you to the residents for your patience and understanding.
3. I look forward to meeting with our borough crew and emergency teams to review these last snowstorms and our procedures. Residents' and business owners' concerns and questions will be raised, as well.
4. I've met individually with all but one councilman. We've had some great discussions, and I will continue working with them.
5. Chief Kromer and I continue to meet and talk regularly to discuss concerns that come up, future for the department, and ways to improve the relationship with the community.
6. I recently completed a 2-day training course for newly elected officials in Wilkes Barre.
7. Congratulations to the new businesses in Palmerton:

The Palmerton Public Market held its ribbon cutting ceremony on January 23rd, which I was very happy to attend. It has been operating out of the previous Shea's Hardware building. It's impossible not to find a vendor that interests you. Meats, produce, soups, coffee, sweet treats, a winery, distillery, flower shop, and more.

Baker Ben's Bakery opened on February 7th. Their variety of baked goods was amazing and equally delicious! I hope everyone was able to enjoy Fasnacht Day. The store takes me back to my youth when it used to be Family Bakery.

Neff's Bank opened their Palmerton Branch on February 23. Their branch manager gave me a tour of the building and explained some of the renovations that took place. I met some of the other staff, board members, and the general contractor. It's great to see that historic building revitalized and operating as a bank again!

Local businesses are the backbone of our community. I wish them all success!

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. I just want to take a moment to talk about Detective Buck and the award he received tonight. I know it may be a bit cliché, but there are a handful of cases in your career that you go all in on. This was one of those cases. The number of hours he spent on this investigation is staggering. I am very thankful to have him in my Department, and the Borough of Palmerton is lucky to have him in their police department. I have no doubt that he is the best detective in Carbon County.
2. National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, in the Borough Park from 6-8 PM. If you are interested in participating in or sponsoring the event, please contact me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary