

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 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:

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

Absent:
Richard L. Nothstein

VISITORS

Raberta & Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Jack Woginrich, 330 Columbia Avenue; Amber Haupt, Vicki and Carl Bush, 827 Delaware Avenue; Allesandra, James and Elizabeth Kimble and Ann Karner, 772 Mauch Chunk Road; Matt Sidlar, 203 Columbia Avenue; Richard Kost, 220 Lafayette Avenue; Don Heiney, 218 Lafayette Avenue; Cindy Mengel-Smith, Sharon and Jim Gower, 413 Delaware Avenue; Timothy Gursky Jr., 812 Edgemont Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Jonathan Siller, 1033 Fourth Street; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 cameraman; Terry Arner, Times News reporter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Holly Sell led a moment of silence for long time resident, Borough employee and fire fighter Joseph Kerksmar.

LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Jack Woginrich of the Palmerton Area Library Board provided Council with the latest newsletter, fact sheet, and information on what's new at the Palmerton Library. He urged the community to stop by the library and visit the website to keep current on their events and happenings.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Richard Kost of 220 Lafayette Avenue complained to Council of the smell and noise produced from four diesel pickup trucks that are left running in front of the property at 224 Lafayette Avenue for an hour at a time. He tried talking to the owners, but to no avail. Chief Kromer informed Mr. Kost an officer was in contact with someone last week and advised there is no ordinance regarding idling vehicles, and nothing can be enforced on that issue.

Donald Heiney of 218 Lafayette Avenue also addressed Council about the diesel trucks asking how it is not considered disturbing the peace and would like the police to follow up on the complaint. Holly Sell suggested that Mr. Heiney and Mr. Kost check back in a week for a report from the Officer.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the January 23, 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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 had no report.

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>
Ryan Heller	Borough Park	Playday (grades 2 & 3)
Bowmanstown Baseball Asn	Council Chambers	Meeting
Crusaders for a Cause	Council Chambers	Monthly Meetings
Lori Strohl	Gym	Volleyball
Bronwyn Cseh	Borough Park	Play Day (grades 1 & 2)
Concourse Club	Bandstand	Summer Concerts
Airing of the Quilts	Park	Quilt Event
CACPAC	Park	Stations of Cross

2. The consideration of the Chamber of Commerce request for installation of a light pole in the park was tabled for committee review.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the updated BWC and MVW/LPR policies.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the fire police assistance request from Lehigh Township Fire Company.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky had no report.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher reported:

1. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 729–25 for small water and sewer grant application. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council ratified the retirement date of Tom Smith effective February 13, 2025.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council appointed James and Elizabeth Kimble as fire police, and Julian Beltran as volunteer fire members to the Fire Company. Don Herrmann provided the oath to the newly appointed members.

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

Don Herrmann reported:

1. Thank you to the emergency personnel and everyone involved in the participation of the funeral services for Joseph Kerksmar.
2. A reminder to residents to be aware of scams, particularly from the IRS and Turnpike tolls.
3. A reminder to residents to contact the Borough office with any pothole complaints.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. On behalf of the Palmerton Police Department condolences are extended to the family of Joseph Kerksmar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holly Sell thanked the Police Department, as well as the public works department, for their help with the fire department in organizing the fire trucks parking for the funeral services for Joseph Kerksmar.

Holly Sell informed PennDOT of the major pothole on 248. They are aware and will work on repairs as the weather allows.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary