

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.

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
Kris W. Hoffner, Council Vice-President
Andrew J. Hollywood
Holly F. Hausman Sell

Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor
Don Herrmann, Mayor
Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Donna I. McGarry, Manager/Secretary
Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent: Michael Ballard
Cory Kepner
Richard Nothstein

VISITORS

Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Lisa Snell-Kern, 220 Edgemont Avenue.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Raberta Hans of 435 Franklin Avenue addressed Council about the trash collection confusion the week before Christmas on the 400 Block of Franklin Avenue. She reported the trash cans were full all week and set that way in the alley until the following weeks collection. She continued saying not all the trash was collected and the alley was left a mess after the hauler finally went through. Donna McGarry agreed there was a problem in that alley but confirmed the trash on that block was collected in its entirety after Christmas as she checked it herself. Since the Borough does not currently have a Code Officer there have been no Quality-of-Life tickets issued, Donna McGarry is making phone calls to residents of complaints. Raberta Hans also complained about the number of trash cans along the alley even though trash was collected there a day ago. Terry Costenbader advised her to call the borough office and report these instances to the staff and Donna McGarry will post a reminder to residents on Facebook about retrieving the cans after collection.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council had the first reading of Ordinance 775, repealing the alarm systems code, and approved advertisement.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the Palmerton Municipal Fire Company participation in Community Day at the Blue Mountain Ski Resort on February 25, 2023.

FINANCE

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council granted Donna McGarry permission to apply for the Low Volume Pavement Grant for stormwater drainage.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. Holly Sell informed Council and residents herself and Donna McGarry have been looking into an Ordinance pertaining to long term rentals. It has been a long process as the information included needs to be enforceable by the Police Department. Andrew Hollywood agreed and commented this topic seems to be of interest County wide.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION

Cory Kepner reported:

1. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the following use request. The approvals are subject to scheduling and availability.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Getaway House, Inc.	Council Chambers	Meeting

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Andrew Hollywood had no report.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council granted Donna McGarry permission to advertise sludge removal bids on Penn Bid with a bid opening on January 25, 2023.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved a Special Meeting on January 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM to discuss personnel and hold an executive session if needed.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council appointed Josh Henry and Charles Kistler as firefighters, and Josh Burnett as a junior firefighter, to the Palmerton Municipal Fire Company.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Don Herrmann reported:

1. Thank you to Borough Council for their hard work this past year. Thanks also to the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works and support staff for all of their hard work and dedication to the Borough. I look forward to the challenges that we face in the upcoming year.
2. Thank you to thank Walmart in Leighton for their donation of 2 – 65” televisions that have been installed in the police station. These units will allow for improved visibility of the security cameras at the police station and will allow for future expansion of borough property to be monitored in the station.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer had no report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council entered into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss personnel. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 7:45 p.m.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council accepted the resignation of Michael Ballard as a member of Borough Council, effective January 12, 2023, due to health reasons.
3. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council accepted the resignation of Gerald Robertson as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board, effective January 12, 2023.
4. Council announced anyone interested in the vacant Council or Zoning Hearing Board position may submit a letter of interest to the borough office by Friday, January 20, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Donna I. McGarry
Manager/Secretary