

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024, 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 Costenbader, President	Jenny Y. C. Cheng, Esq.
Kris W. Hoffner, Vice-President	Don J. Herrmann, Mayor
Holly F. Hausman Sell	Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Andrew J. Hollywood	Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
William A. Gallagher	Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary
Randolph M. Gursky	

Absent: Terry Costenbader
Richard L. Nothstein

VISITORS

Patti and Vik Thomas, 452 Lafayette Avenue; Carl and Vicki Bush, 827 Delaware Avenue; Jeremy and Raberta Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Jason White; Frank Haas, 893 Edgemont Avenue; Kyla Behler, 512 Lafayette Avenue; Shawn Rios, 40 Hahns Dairy Road; Austin Wilburn, 139 Lehigh Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Marj and Joe Federanich, 418 Princeton Avenue; Terry Ahner, Times News Reporter; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 Cameraman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held to pay respects to Dr. John Nicholson, a lifelong resident, friend, and physician of Palmerton.

SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Don Herrmann performed the swearing-in of Andrew Hollywood and William Gallagher for Council. All election certificates and residency affidavits have been received and are on file with the Borough Secretary.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Jared Cebrosky of 445 Princeton Avenue would like Council to consider painting a stop marking on the street, in conjunction with the stop sign, at the Third Street and Columbia Avenue intersection.

Vik Thomas of 452 Lafayette Avenue complained about the rate of speed cars are traveling on the town streets and feels more police presence would deter the speeding.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the December 7 and December 21, 2023 and regular meeting minutes and the January 2, 2024 reorganization 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.

MANAGER’S 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 the Volunteer Tax Credit eligibility list.
2. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the 2023 Per Capita Tax Exoneration List in the amount of \$190.00.
3. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council appointed Berkheimer Associates to collect the balance of 2023 per capita taxes in the amount of \$6,723.00 base plus \$623.00 in penalties for a total of \$6,853.00.
4. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council corrected their motion from the January 2, 2024 meeting and appointed Keystone Consulting Engineers as the Water Engineer and Entech Engineering as the Sewer Engineer.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council appointed Barry Scherer to the vacant Planning Commission position.
2. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved partnership with the Palmerton Library to hold a monthly forum for local government education. Holly Sell thanked Borough Manager Canfield for her initiative with this event.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the following use requests. The approvals are subject to scheduling and availability:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Parryville Volunteer Fire Co	Park	Yard Sale
Bo Tkach Foundation	Park	5K Run
Over 60 Club	Council Chambers	Meetings
Concourse Club	Bandstand	Summer Concerts
PMPA	Council Chambers	Meetings

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council renewed the Palmerton Memorial Park Association lease.
3. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the DCNR consultant agreement with PMPA.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council had the first reading and approved advertising of Ordinance 778, amending vehicles and traffic for a handicapped parking request.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 713-24 implementing a Volunteer Tax Credit for Bowmanstown Fire Company members residing in Palmerton. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.
3. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the Police Department awards policy.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky reported:

1. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council renewed the snow plow cooperation agreement with Lower Towamensing Township.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council appointed Autumn Canfield and Greg Vlossak to the PA Municipal Fire Department Support Team Board of Directors.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote (Holly Sell abstained), Council approved the following Palmerton Municipal Fire Company membership list:

Jacob Bachert	Ezra Green	Shawn Rios
Dennis Behler	Walter Haas, Jr.	Jade Ruzicka
Jason Behler	Walter Haas, Sr.	Brandon Schnell
Kameron Behler	Frank Haas	Hunter Sell
Kyle Behler	Levi Johnson	Rob Sell
Gary Bonser	Sean Jahelka	Jacob Serfass
Garrett Broadfield	Joe Kerksmar	Greg Solensky
Shannon Broadfield	Mike Kerksmar	Nathan Steinmetz
Carolyn Brown	Charles Kistler	Brittany Stepp
James Brown, Jr.	Brianna Kroboth	Greg Vlossak
Burkett, Ryan	Nick Liggitt	Christopher Weiss
Carl Bush	Cory Lapata	Jason White
Vicki Bush	Andrew Neff	Gavin White
Ben Cornmesser	Jason Peters	Austin Wilburn
Jon Deibert	Brian Rehrig	

3. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote Council appointed Jason Behler as Chief and Greg Vlossak as Assistant Chief of the Municipal Fire Company.
4. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council appointed Attorney James Nanovic as alternate Solicitor to the Borough.

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 had no report.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. A new patrol vehicles has arrived, has had the graphics applied by Jet Signs and will be going for upfit in two weeks. Once that vehicle is complete, the second vehicle will go for upfit and they will

enter service. It will be the first time in my 21 years here that we will have a matching fleet of patrol vehicles.

2. Thank you to Keystone Harley Davidson for the donation of an E-bike. This increases mobility and agility while navigating various terrain in the Borough and will have a positive impact on the effectiveness of our bike patrol.
3. An Elected Officials Event will be held at the Emergency Operations Training Center on Saturday, June 1st and is designed to allow local government officials to tour the training center and experience a small view of what police, fire, and EMS use the facility for. I will be participating in the police demonstration portion. We had the first event last year and it was not well attended. Our Borough Manager and Councilman Kepner attended and were impressed with the facility and our demonstration.
4. 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.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council entered into an Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. to discuss personnel, litigation and land matters. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 8:45 p.m.
2. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council agreed to the pro rata share for agreement for appraisal cost of BEFESA property.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Borough Manager