REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.

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Kris Hoffner, Vice-President of Council, called the duly advertised meeting to order at 7:00 PM, with the following members present:

Kris Hoffner, Council Vice-President
Richard Nothstein
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher
Timothy "T.J." Gursky, Jr.

John "Bo" Rodrigues, Mayor
Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent:
Terry Costenbader
Holly Sell

VISITORS

Ron Valish, 901 Delaware Avenue; Lori Schoenberger, 1037 Princeton Avenue; Jonathan Siller, 1033 Fourth Street; Jared Cebrosky, 104 Kaysea Lane, Lehighton; Waletr Haas, Jr., 494 Franklin Avenue, Apt 1R; Matthew Beaumont, 536 Franklin Avenue; Drew Snowberger, TV-13; Terry Arner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Lori Schoenberger of 1037 Princeton Avenue questioned Council about the drilling of the well near the Borough dump on Princeton. Manager Canfield explained the Municipal Authority is drilling a test well at that location, and she is welcome to attend an Authority meeting with her concerns. Ms. Schoenberger also asked Council about the dumping of dirt at the Sand Quarry. Autumn Canfield explained this is a question for Lower Towamensing Township as it is their jurisdiction. Andrew Hollywood added she can contact EPA and also attend a Lower Towamensing Township meeting for information.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the June 25, 2026 regular meeting minutes

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Vice-President Hoffner 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
2. Zoning Officer Report
3. Police Department Report
4. Fire Chief Report
5. Moving Permit Report
6. Code Compliance Agent Report
7. Street Supervisor Report

Vice-President Hoffner 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 reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved an expenditure overage of the CDBG project that paved the South side of Mauch Chunk Road, in the amount of $18,024.17 to Bracalente Construction. This will be paid from the Capital Fund.

2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by William Gallagher and voice vote, Council approved the 2025 CDBG Cooperation Agreement.

3. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by TJ Gursky and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 760–26 for application to the DCED Multi Modal Grant Program for street lighting upgrades in the amount of $126,000. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

4. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by William Gallagher and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 761–26 for CDBG 2026 submittal through Carbon County. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

No report.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

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

| Applicant | Facility | Purpose |
|---|---|---|
| Palmerton Area Library | Council Chambers | Luminary pick-up |
| Karla Gildner | Bandstand | Wedding |
| Pace-Makers Association | Council Chambers | Meetings |
| Living Hope Lighthouse Crch | Park (NW Corner) | Vacation Bible School activity |
| Kelly Alexander | Bandstand | Wedding |

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council ratified the letter of support for the PCCD Grant.

2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the sale of unit 56 on Municibid in the amount of $1,150.00.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

T.J. Gursky had no report.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved membership for Matthew Beaumont to the Palmerton Municipal Fire Company.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

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

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Bo Rodrigues reported:

1. I'd like to thank the Concourse Club for the Concerts in the Park this summer. There has been great entertainment and was very well attended. I look forward to the remainder of the year.

2. The Sidewalk Sale will be held August 13th through the 15th. I just learned that this began in 1961 to promote the borough's 50th anniversary. Please support our local businesses and help continue this special annual event.

3. Thank you to those who have been following the laws and ordinances concerning bicycles and electric bikes, but there is still more work to be done. Chief Kromer and I will be meeting with representatives from S.S. Palmer and Parkside to discuss bicycle safety and educational programs for the upcoming school year.

4. As a reminder, pedal bicycles and push scooters are not to be ridden within the borough park during permitted events. This includes concerts in the park, National Night Out, the Palmerton Festival, and more. State law mandates riders of electric bikes must be 16 or older to ride on public streets. Electric bikes must follow all traffic laws, including stop signs, red lights, and riding with traffic. Electric bikes are not permitted in borough parks at any time. Electric scooters meet the PA Vehicle Code definition of a motor vehicle. Like electric skateboards and electric unicycles, they cannot be legally operated on public roadways.

5. This Sunday, I will be participating in the Ben to Shore Bike Tour. The ride is 65 miles from Philadelphia to Atlantic City, and raises money to support families of fallen or critically injured first responders, as well as other resources. This year, I am riding in support of our Palmerton Police and Fire Departments and in memory of Aquashicola Volunteer Fire Company Chief Bill George.

6. On July 4th, our nation and our community celebrated 250 years of independence. We naturally end to think of the Founding Fathers, but America's story has never belonged only to those whose names appear in history books. It belongs just as much to the men and women who quietly answer the alarm at two in the morning, who leave birthday parties, holiday dinners, and family gatherings because someone else needs help. Aquashicola Volunteer Fire Company Chief George was one of those Americans. Municipal boundaries may divide our maps, but they have never divided our hearts. Firefighters know no borough lines when someone calls for help. Neither does grief. Some will remember him as the owner and operator of George's Plumbing and Heating or a board member for First Northern Bank in Palmerton. More importantly, others will remember his involvement with the Palmerton Holiday Lighting or his many other quiet acts of kindness. We are here as one community mourning one of our own. May God grant Bill eternal rest, comfort his family, watch over his fellow firefighters, and continue to bless the communities he served so faithfully. Please keep Bill's family in your thoughts and prayers.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

No report

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Lori Schoenberger feels police presence is needed on West Princeton Avenue to monitor speeding. Mayor Rodrigues will pass this request along to the Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by William Gallagher and voice vote, Council adjourned their regular meeting at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Borough Manager