

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025, 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, President
Kris W. Hoffner, Vice-President
Richard L. Nothstein
Holly F. Hausman Sell
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher
Randolph Gursky

Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor
Don J. Herrmann, Mayor
Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
Kim Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

VISITORS

Raberta & Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Lisa Snell-Kern, 220 Edgemont Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Colton Link, TV-13 Cameraman; Terry Ahner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Raberta Hans of 435 Franklin Avenue, questioned Council about the water situation and the Borough's plan of remediation. Autumn Canfield explained the Municipal Authority is working with DEP and recently reviewed a feasibility study which looks at 2 remedies; carbon filtering and ion exchange. Raberta Hans then asked if all the costs will fall on the Borough. Manager Canfield advised both grant and loan programs will be looked at to aid in costs. Andrew Hollywood will follow up with Representative Heffley's office regarding the possibility of state aid for in-house filtering systems since he hasn't heard back from them. Autumn Canfield added the Borough will be treating at the source.
2. Lisa Snell Kern of 220 Edgemont Avenue expressed her concern about the amount of fireworks set off, especially in the area of the 200 Block of Columbia Avenue, and what the penalty is for doing so. Mayor Don Herrmann informed her the fine for fireworks within 150' of a structure is \$500.00. Chief Tim Kromer added the Police Department has been called, but has not been able to make an arrest.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the June 26 and July 10, 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

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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

No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council accepted the 2024 financial statements as presented by Kirk, Summa and Company.
2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved signing the Cooperation Agreement for the 2024 CDBG Program Administration.
3. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved application to the 2025 CDBG program.
4. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 738-25 allowing for application to the CDBG program. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved an agreement with Weissport Borough for rental of the vac truck.

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>
Ryan Jones	Bandstand	Wedding (retroactive)
Elena Roano	Bandstand	Wedding/food truck

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved, retroactively, Kevin Buck as of Officer in Charge from July 1 through July 3, 2025, and Brian White from July 4 through July 6, 2025, in the absence of Chief Timothy Kromer.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote (Andrew Hollywood abstained), Council appointed Kyle Behler as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Palmerton Borough.
3. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved a handicap parking space at 672 Princeton Avenue on the recommendation of the Police Chief.
4. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council had the first reading and authorized advertisement of Ordinance 784, amending Chapter 118, vehicles and traffic.
5. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the fire police assistance request from Franklin Township Fire Company.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky reported:

1. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Pay Request #5 based on KCE recommendation to TELCO, Inc. in the amount of \$77,950.95.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the hiring of Timothy Brown as a streets crew member, contingent upon completion of the physical, drug screen and background requirements.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Richard Nothstein announced National Night Out will be held on August 5, 2025, in the Borough Park at 6:00 PM followed by the movie in the park, Inside Out 2.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Randolph Gursky and voice vote, Council entered into executive session at 7:16 PM to discuss land matters regarding leased space and security of

Borough property. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council reconvened the regular meeting at 7:35 PM.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

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

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Don Herrmann reported:

1. He will not be running for a 2nd term as Mayor. His work load has increased at his place of employment and it is in his best interest to withdraw his candidacy from the next election.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. A reminder to all residents to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. The Chief has a posting on the department Facebook page, and they are enforcing.
2. National Night Out will be held on August 5, 2025, in the Borough Park at 6:00 PM with Medevac on the ground, weather depending. The movie in the park, Inside Out 2, will follow National Night Out.
3. Terry Costenbader announced residents need to be aware of the motorized skateboards, scooters and bicycles driving throughout town. Chief Kromer suggested contacting State Representative Heffley's office to enact legislation for motorized equipment. Andrew Hollywood does not agree, stating we do not need laws to enforce safety. Kris Hoffner mentioned the Borough of Coplay has addressed it and shared a copy of their ordinance with Chief Kromer and Manager Canfield.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Borough Manager