

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023, 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 L. Costenbader, Council President	Jenny Y.C. Cheng Esq., Solicitor
Kris W. Hoffner, Council Vice-President	Don Herrmann, Mayor
Richard L. Nothstein	Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Holly Sell	Autumn Canfield, Manager/Secretary
Andrew J. Hollywood	Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary
Cory Kepner	
William A. Gallagher	

VISITORS

Mark Stemler, 318 Beechay Lane; Alisha Brown, 260 Delaware Avenue; Marjorie and Joseph Federanich, 418 Princeton Avenue; Scotty Morrison, 292 Harvard Avenue; George Petrole, 1120 Mauch Chunk Road; Judy Borger, 834 East Princeton Avenue; Cindy Micklesmith; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Terry Arner, Times News reporter; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 Cameraman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Joseph Federanich of 418 Princeton Avenue approached Council about using \$4,000 donated by Spillanes Fit and ?? to add trash cans to Delaware Avenue in the one and two hundred blocks, place an additional two trash cans near the parking lot across Delaware Avenue from Spillane's Fit and beautify the area between 255 Delaware Avenue and the bridge. Terry Costenbader advised the lack of trash cans in the beginning of town could be the low number of eating establishments in that area, and the Borough would consider placing one can outside the parking lot. Autumn Canfield added the overgrown area of concern is not owned by the Borough.

Joe Federanich continued, asking Council if the streets and sidewalks committee had a meeting regarding the Borough owned parking lot on Delaware Avenue. Holly Sell confirmed there was a meeting, and relayed they will not approve painting of parking space lines or concrete park stops as the initial investment is a donation, but the ongoing responsibility of maintenance falls on the Borough. Autumn Canfield advised that as part of the 2023 Paving Project the parking lot in question is scheduled for paving and parking lines are part of the bid. Alisha Brown of 260 Delaware Avenue reiterated that there is an abundance of littering on the 200 block of Delaware and asked Council to consider placing a can outside of her building. She also feels the proposed cement parking stops are for the safety of the residents to prevent driving off the small curbing and would like to see the weeds around the parking lot removed. At this time, Joe Federanich asked if Council would table the discussion and have the committee meet with them to discuss further. Terry Costenbader agreed.

Scotty Morrison of 292 Harvard Avenue feels the sidewalks on Delaware Avenue should be kept clear of weeds. Autumn Canfield advised this is a code issue and is reviewed upon complaints and inspections.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the June 22, 2023 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.

MANAGERS REPORT

Autumn Canfield reported:

1. The repository property request for tax exemption hearing is set for August 29, 2023 at 3:00 PM and Attorney Cheng will attend.
2. The Greenaway Project is holding a public meeting on September 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Stoney Ridge Recreation Center, 1770 Fireline Road, Palmerton.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Cory Kepner reported:

1. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council denied the requests for use of the Park for a Plant Fest in April and August of 2024 due to not being a non-profit organization, nor a resident of the Borough.
2. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice, Council approved the following use requests. The approvals are subject to scheduling and availability.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Palmerton Preschool	Gym	Basketball/Dodgeball
Blue Mtn Community Church	Park NW Quad/Bandstand	Picnic

3. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the PMPA Peer to Peer Grant cost share request, assuming Borough responsibility for approximately \$750.00. Andrew Hollywood announced there was a gracious donation of the monies to cover the Borough's portion. Richard Nothstein proceeded to present a check to Mayor Herrmann in the amount of \$750.00.
4. The initial request for the Airing of the Quilts show on Saturday, May 11, 2024 was previously approved, but is growing into more of an event to include the entire town. Judy Borger and Cindy Micklesmith were present at the meeting to provide answers to questions about the additional information and requests they submitted. Following discussion Council feels they are not able to make a determination with the information available.

On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council tabled the request from Airing of the Quilts to allow for additional information.

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the pension calculation of \$4,466.92 per month for Donna McGarry.
2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council accepted the 2022 Financial Statements as presented by Kirk Summa and Company.
3. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the CDBG application for reconstruction of Maryann Alley.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell had no report.

1. Scotty Morrison commented to Council he hopes the trouble with short-term rentals in other Boroughs does not happen here. This led to a discussion about junked vehicles. Holly Sell relayed all vehicles on private property are handled by the Code Officer, while vehicles parked on the street, in the alleys or in a Borough parking lots are a police issue. Chief Kromer added according to Borough Ordinance no vehicles are permitted to park in the alleys, but if they are not affecting the flow of traffic there are no tickets issued.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the request for Fire Police assistance for the "Back the Blue" ride on August 12, 2023, contingent upon staffing.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Andrew Hollywood 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 a rental agreement with Bowmanstown Borough for use of the Vac-Con truck.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader had no report.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

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

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Don Herrmann reported:

1. I am going to try to be a little more positive this month than I was last month. I have been Mayor of our town for almost 19 months now and believe I have done a good job and represented our residents well. I am a very simple person and expect our officers to just do their job. What I, as well as Council does, is always in best interest of our town.
2. Over the last year and a half, Council approved vast amounts of training, applied for grants for our Police Department, have been flexible in experimenting with work schedules and above all is planning for the future of our Police Department. I appreciate the hard work of Councilman Kepner and the Buildings Committee, Borough Manager Canfield, Chief Kromer and President Costenbader in hopefully making this a reality someday. We all have a common goal of working together. There are many hurdles and issues ahead, but I am confident that we will solve our problems. Simply, I just wish to thank Council for their dedication and hard work over the past year and a half. I also wish to thank the volunteers and residents who care enough to give their time to help others in our community without the care or regard for recognition.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. The window tinting and decals have been applied to the police station Fourth Street doors and squad room windows. A huge thanks to Jet Signs for their once again incredible work.
2. The Second Annual First Responders Awareness Event has been rescheduled. The Carbon County Chamber of Commerce has scheduled it for Thursday, September 21, 2023 at the Mahoning Drive In.

3. A reminder that the Palmerton Police Department is hosting National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 from 6-8 PM. We will have over 30 agencies and organizations represented. We will also have a LIFE Flight helicopter landing in the park, as long as there are no weather concerns or emergency transports. It appears it will be a beautiful day, as the weather forecast is 77 degrees and sunny. The Palmerton Concourse Club is holding their annual movie in the park on the same night, after the National Night Out event.

OLD BUSINESS

1. George Petrole of Northface addressed Council with a request for LERTA consideration for the development of the West Plant area. Following the presentation Council began questioning Mr. Petrole about the proposed industry that would move in, a timeline of construction and details about the years of activity throughout the Borough. It was made clear by members of Council they would prefer to see industry other than warehouses come to the location, but Autumn Canfield reminded everyone present that a plan for development cannot be denied if all the zoning requirements are met. George Petrole explained the industry interest changed through the years from office space to warehousing, but there has been more than \$20 million spent on this site and they want to see development on the site. Council feels it has been a rough 14 years for our residents dealing with Northface and will look to them for feedback on offering the tax abatement.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council entered into executive session at 8:22 PM to discuss land matters and litigation. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 9:27 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 9:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary