

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022, 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
Michael J. Ballard
Andrew J. Hollywood
Cory Kepner
Richard L. Nothstein
Holly F. Hausman Sell

Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent: Kris W. Hoffner
Jenny Y.C. Cheng
Don Herrmann
Donna I. McGarry

VISITORS

Marjorie and Joseph Federanich, 418 Princeton Avenue; Jason Behler, 727 Franklin Avenue; Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Lisa Snell-Kern, 220 Edgemont Avenue; Clare Papay, 1002 Third Street; Terry Arner, Times News reporter; Chris Stager and Drew Snowberger, TV-13 Cameraman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Jason Behler, Fire Chief, explained the importance of mutual aid and how their monthly drills help the group function more cohesively at a fire. He informed Council and the Palmerton residents of a drill taking place at the Harvard Apartments on August 15, 2022, advising there may be fire trucks in the area and some re-routing of traffic. There will be a posting on Facebook prior to the event so residents are not alarmed by their presence in the area during the training.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council approved the June 23, 2022 and July 14, 2022 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

No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council had the first reading and approved the advertisement of Resolution 684-22 establishing fees for stormwater management plans.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council had the first reading and approved the advertisement of Ordinance 769 allowing the Palmerton Area School District Board of Directors to assume hiring and oversight of school crossing guards.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Cory Kepner reported:

1. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Richard Nothstein 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>
Raising the House	Park	5K Event
Jullian Silverman	Bandstand	Wedding
Raising the House	Council Chambers	Meeting

2. Andrew Hollywood provided an update on the dog park, relaying Lipfert Landscaping has completed the fence installation, and feels Chris Lipfert should be presented with a plaque of appreciation by the Borough for his generosity and hard work. He also announced the park will need community support to keep it clean and maintained.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council approved Ordinance 767 amending vehicles and traffic for a stop intersection. A copy of this ordinance is attached to these minutes.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Lehigh Township fire police assistance request.
3. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council approved the Franklin Township fire police assistance request.
4. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Police Department request to participate in a Sobriety Checkpoint program (Highway Safety Network). Answering a question from Holly Sell, Chief Timothy Kromer informed Council the additional officer will be reimbursed at full cost by the program.
5. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council tabled their discussion on the Police Department Mobile Video/Audio Recording Policy until next meeting.
6. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the purchase of a 2022 Police Interceptor Utility vehicle under Co-Stars contract for the price of \$43,175 to be paid with American Rescue Plan funds.
7. On motion by Michael Ballard, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council tabled their discussion on the new Police vehicle upfitting until next meeting.
8. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council had the first reading and approved the advertisement of Ordinance 768 amending Chapter 44 relating to Alarm Systems.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote 5-1, Council approved advertising an ordinance to make all parking ticket fees uniform.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

Michael Ballard reported:

1. On motion by Michael Ballard, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the Entech Engineer proposal for sewer main sectional repairs and road restoration project engineering services.
2. Due to the recent weather conditions Michael Ballard asked residents to voluntarily conserve water and directed them to the Borough website for additional information and ways they can help reduce water use.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council accepted Lisa Nemeth's resignation as Tax Collector. Holly Sell thanked her for her years of service.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council approved advertising for a Tax Collector with applications due to the Borough Office by August 15, 2022.
3. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the updated version of the Police Department Code of Conduct.
4. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council accepted Gerard Alfano's resignation from the Palmerton Municipal Fire Company. Fire Chief Jason Behler announced there is a need for volunteers at the Fire Company and stated there are many roles of a volunteer. Anyone interested should pick up an application at the Borough Office.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Michael Ballard 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. Officer Shawn Leadbetter has acquired his National Child Passenger Safety certification. Citizens can now request a car seat check any time by contacting the Department. Officer Leadbetter conducted a car seat safety check at the Palmerton Day event and will again on August 2, 2022 at the National Night Out event in the Park.
2. Thank you to Crusaders for a Cause for their generous donation to the Palmerton Police Department. Crusaders for a Cause has always supported us and other local organizations in the past and have donated \$200 for National Night Out, and 2 red dot optic sights for our patrol rifles. This will help to make the rifles a much more effective tool for the Police Department.
3. The Palmerton Police Department is hosting its first annual National Night Out campaign on Tuesday, August 2nd from 6-8PM in the Palmerton Borough Park and all the citizens of Palmerton area are invited to come to the event. It will feature an emergency vehicle display, car seat safety check, and an opportunity for the community to interact with its First Responders. We are excited to announce that Bobby Spadell from Colossal Radio will be set up in the park, providing music for our event and the following groups will be there with us:

Palmerton Municipal Fire Company
Palmerton Community Ambulance Association
Aquashicola Volunteer Fire Company
Towamensing Volunteer Fire Company
Bowmanstown Volunteer Fire Company
Pennsylvania State Police
Beltzville State Park DCNR Rangers
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Carbon County Sheriff's Office
Carbon County District Attorney's Office
Carbon County Children and Youth
Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health/Developmental Services
Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission
St Luke's University Health Network
Lehigh Valley Health Network
American Red Cross
Reading Escapades/Math Explorers
PathStone Carbon County Child Development Center
Christman Realty
Christina's Reptiles and Animal Sanctuary

Bethany Wesleyan Church at 457 Delaware Avenue is having an event in front of their church on National Night Out as well.

4. On September 11th at 1 PM, there will be a 9/11 Memorial Program along with the Dedication of the Carbon County Emergency Operations and Training Center, which includes a Fire Training Tower and Police Training Building. I serve on the Training Center Committee and will be speaking at the 9/11 Memorial portion of the event. Our Police and Fire Departments both will be attending the event, which is the culmination of a 15-year effort to make this center a reality. It is the largest and most advanced Public Safety Training Center in the area and will allow our public safety agencies to receive state of the art training right here in Carbon County.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cory Kepner reported on recent vandalism to the Bandstand regarding baseball bats to the railings. The Police Department was able to identify the offenders and are handling the situation, but the Committee remains upset with the damage. Cory Kepner would like to schedule a consultation with Keystone Technology, LLC for a complete, updated camera system at the Park. He will have quotes available at the next meeting and suggested using LSA grant monies for the purchase. Holly Sell added there are more costs to consider than the original purchase amount as upgrades and maintenance would be ongoing.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Assistant Secretary