REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.

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Terry Costenbader, President of Council, called the duly advertised meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Terry Costenbader, Council President
Holly F. Hausman Sell
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher
Timothy "T.J." Gursky, Jr.

Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor
John "Bo" Rodrigues, Mayor
Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent:
Kris W. Hoffner
Richard L. Nothstein

VISITORS

Maynard Silliman, 605 Franklin Avenue; Sarina Berlow, 338 Columbia Avenue; Kristin Blahnik, 730 Church Street; Dorcas and Dale Lauer Jr., 582 Lehigh Avenue; Amber Yesik, 584 Lehigh Avenue; Janis Sylstra, 568 Mauch Chunk Road; Heather Lake, 100 Ridgeview Drive, Lehighton; Jessica Rumfield, 654 Lafayette Avenue; John Cihiy, 218 Piney Woods Drive, Jim Thorpe; Lorraine Wertman, 828 Princeton Avenue; Ron Valish, 901 Delaware Avenue; Brian and Rose Faulstick, 424 Sixth Street; Kathy Fallow, 365 Edgemont Avenue; Cathy Mueller, 332 Church Drive; Danielle Jones, 300 Edgemont Avenue; Nadine Owens, 301 Edgemont Avenue; Stephanie and Steve Saas, 380 Little Gap Road; Jonathan Siller, 1033 Fourth Street; Ron and Sharon Minnich, 608 Mauch Chunk Road; Jessica Cohen, 121 Franklin Avenue; Scott Smith and Marie Wellen, 262 Avenue A; Bobby Kennedy, 788 Mauch Chunk Road; Don Herrmann, 644 Lafayette Avenue; Deborah Smith, 572 Mauch Chunk Road; Peter and Kelly Beblavy, 749 Columbia Avenue; Stacy Solt, 424 Lehigh Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 104 Kaysea Lane, Lehighton; Bill and Jennifer Strauch, 77 Princeton Avenue; Debbie Fox, 270 Stagecoach Road West, Lehighton; Debra Fox and Archie Goodwin, 270 Stage Coach Road West, Lehighton; Carolee Boyer, 202 Lafayette Avenue; Drew Snowberger, TV-13; Terry Arner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SENIOR RECOGNITIONS

On motion by William Gallagher, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the reading of:

Resolution 754-26, Honoring senior Alex Beblavy
Resolution 755-26, Honoring senior Hadlee Lake
Resolution 756-26, Honoring senior Brayden Newhard
Resolution 757-26, Honoring senior Madeleine Rakos
Resolution 758-26, Honoring senior Leah Rumfield

William Gallagher presented the Resolutions. A copy of which are attached to these minutes.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Bo Rodrigues presented Mackenzie Long with a Proclamation, recognizing her as the recipient of the Girl Scout Gold Award. He applauded her leadership, dedication and community spirit.

A brief intermission was taken from the regular meeting to allow for photographs.

PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – DATA CENTER USE AND REGULATIONS

Holly Sell provided a statement of intent for the meeting. She announced the proposed amendments, the recording of the meeting by the court stenographer and notified all visitors who signed up to speak of the three-minute time limit.

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, the public hearing was opened at 7:20 PM. Attorney Cheng asked the Court Stenographer to swear in Zoning Officer Duane Dellecker and verified with him the proper entrance postings were completed on June 17, 2026, and the affected property notices were sent on May 22, 2026. She then confirmed the public hearing was advertised in the Times News on June 10 and June 17, 2026. The following individuals were sworn in by the court stenographer to allow for public comment relating only to the zoning ordinance amendment: Maynard Silliman, Kristin Blahnik, Dale Lauer Jr., Kathy Fallow, William Strauch, Rosalie Faulstick and Serina Berlow. Some spoke in favor of the ordinance applauding Borough Council for being proactive and offered ideas to enhance the content. Others were simply opposed to data centers and questioned how it could benefit the citizens of Palmerton.

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, the public hearing was closed at 7:37 PM.

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council adopted Ordinance 790, amending the Zoning Ordinance for data center use and regulations. A copy of this ordinance is attached to these minutes. Holly Sell thanked residents for their concern and asked President Terry Costenbader to continue with the regular meeting.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Dorcas Lauer of 582 Lehigh Avenue expressed to Council her disappointment with the PFAS in the water adding her family will not drink it or give it to their animals.

Kathy Fallow of 365 Edgemont Avenue and Save Carbon County provided an update on the Northface project and relayed she has a phone number to file complaints with the DEP.

Dale Lauer Jr. of 582 Lehigh Avenue explained to Council he is alarmed with the water quality as a cancer survivor and was not happy with the response he received from a Borough office employee after expressing his concern.

Lorraine Wertman of 828 Princeton Avenue asked for help from Council regarding a rat infestation in her area. Andrew Hollywood replied if people leave trash out that will contribute to the rodent activity. She feels it is a result of the dumping at the Northface site since it was never an issue before. She also asked if the water purification has begun. Autumn Canfield informed her the project went out to bid and is moving forward.

William Strauch of 77 Princeton Avenue handed out a letter, along with pictures, requesting permission for a 15' time capsule to be installed in the Borough Park, either next to the Veteran's Memorial or in the center of the circular flower bed. Terry Costenbader advised the request will go to the recreation committee for now.

Danielle Jones of 300 Edgemont Avenue asked Council if they ever considered buying the Northface property to keep it safe for residents. Holly Sell informed her the Northface permits specify the land cannot be left as open space. It is required to be capped and built on.

Don Herrmann of 644 Lafayette Avenue notified Council the placement of trash 24 hours prior to collection is not being enforced as many homes have it out much sooner. He also asked the status of the rental ordinance that Council has been working on. Holly Sell advised there is a draft that needs some revisions after reviewing recent judgements on the subject but ensured it is being diligently worked on. He then expressed his concern on the electric bikes in town adding that laws need to be passed to regulate.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the May 28, 2026, 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

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

President Costenbader 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

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council authorized advertisement of bids for Library renovations funded by two LSA grants (C000092005 and C000094144)

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the request from the applicant to delay the decision on Peach Alley.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Holly Sell and voice vote (Terry Costenbader abstained from the Pace Makers request), Council approved the following use requests subject to scheduling and availability:

Applicant	Facility	Purpose
Palmerton Rifle/Pistol Club	Rifle Range	Firearms Safety Classes
Pace Makers Association	Park	2027 Car Show
Raising the House	Park	2027 5K walk/run
Raising the House	Council Chambers	Race packet pick-up
Aron Bizousky	Park/Bandstand	Wedding

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council ratified the approval of the time capsule request. William Gallagher clarified this was for a past request.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved, retroactive, fire police assistance requests from Lehighton Borough, the Carbon County Fair Association and Nesquehoning Borough.

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved, retroactive, Detective Kevin Buck as Officer in Charge May 31 through June 3, 2026 in the absence of Chief Timothy Kromer.

3. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 759-26 supporting the Carbon County initiative for increasing the 911 surcharge. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

T.J. Gursky reported:

1. On motion by T.J. Gursky, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote (Terry Costenbader abstained), Council approved the Pace-Makers Association 2027 car show request for street closure and parking lot use.

2. On motion by T.J. Gursky, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the request from Kristi Thomas for a block party on the 600 and 700 blocks of East Princeton Avenue.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader had no report.

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

Bo Rodrigues reported:

1. As we welcome the arrival of summer, our community is once again filled with energy, activity, and opportunity. The warmer weather brings events, celebrations, and projects that showcase the pride and spirit of our borough. Last month really highlighted why Palmerton is a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.

- Palmerton Fire Company Block Party - June 6 - It was great to see the Block Party revitalized again! Food trucks and vendors, live music, and even a dunk tank that nobody was able to successfully hit the target and drop me in the water without coming up and pushing the lever. An unfortunate storm ripped through Palmerton, forcing most people inside the station. Those that stayed were able to witness the multiple calls that came in for assistance with storm emergencies and show why our volunteer fire company is so important to our community. I look forward to this block party becoming a tradition again.

- Grand Opening for Mugs and Metal and Archery Addictions - June 13 - Bag pipes could be heard along Delaware Avenue and all through Palmerton. The 2 businesses are side-by-side, owned by husband and wife, and they shared a ribbon cutting with guests followed by live music. It was a great event!

- Palmerton Proud Celebration, honoring America250 - June 14 - The weather held off long enough to be able to hold most of the events, including the Ecumenical church service, opening ceremonies with a flyover, bald eagle presentation, and signing of a commemorative Declaration of Independence. Even though the rain pushed the band and fireworks to the following day, it was still a very memorable evening with fireworks for the first time in almost 50 years. Thank you to Lynn Shupp and the committee for the many hours spent organizing such an amazing event. Thank you to the business and individual sponsors for helping us raise the funds, fireworks are not cheap. And thank you to the community for decorating your homes in red, white, and blue, and showing your patriotism for this beautiful country of ours. This coming month and rest of the year will feature more celebrations for America 250, including Independence Day, Saturday July 4th. Let's keep the celebration going all year long!

- The Palmerton Pool will be celebrating America250 on July 11th

- Car Show - June 20 - The weather was amazing and the Pace-makers Association held another great car show. It was an honor to be included to award my favorite vehicle, a 1957 Chevrolet 3100 Pickup Truck.

2. A few reminders for borough residents and visitors:

- If there is a medical or life-threatening emergency or immediate threat to safety, call 911. For non-urgent events, such as public disturbances or minor incidents, use the non-emergency number so the appropriate responder can be dispatched. This is meant to screen the call to ensure the correct action is being taken. This number is 570-325-9111 and can also be found on the Borough's website.

- With Independence Day approaching, residents are reminded that nothing greater than consumer fireworks can be used in the borough between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 10:00 AM and must be 150 feet from any building. The exception to the time is on July 2, 3 and 4 when consumer fireworks may be used until 1:00 AM the following day. Use of consumer fireworks on borough property is prohibited.

- Domestic pets, especially dogs, must be leashed and under full control when walking within the borough. It is not the responsibility of others to know if your pet is trained well or harmless.

- 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. Too often, kids have complete disregard for pedestrians walking or enjoying an event. Micromobility vehicles can use a combination of any, human-powered, combustion and electric-based propulsion. These are also prohibited during permitted events, with the exception of mobility scooters and wheelchairs. Electric bikes have been a hot topic the last several months. State law mandates riders 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.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Tim Kromer reported:

1. At the beginning of the month, I attended the PA Chiefs Conference. This year was the first opportunity I had to attend due to scheduling conflicts in previous years. I received a lot of valuable training, and it was a great opportunity to network with other Chiefs throughout the Commonwealth. I want to thank the Public Safety Committee for approving my request to attend and I look forward to attending again next year.

2. There are only 40 days until National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4th in our Borough Park from 6-8 PM. If you are interested in participating in or sponsoring the event, please contact the Palmerton Police Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Holly Sell asked residents to adhere to the speed limits in town and be vigilant with kids on summer break. She also thanked Save Carbon County for their work in pursuing the Northface issues.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Holly Sell, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Borough Manager