

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 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:

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| Terry L. Costenbader, President | Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor |
| Kris W. Hoffner, Vice-President | Don J. Herrmann, Mayor |
| Richard L. Nothstein | Timothy Kromer, Police Chief |
| Holly F. Hausman Sell | Kim Rodrigues, Recording Secretary |
| Andrew J. Hollywood | |
| William A. Gallagher | |
| Randolph Gursky | |

Absent: Autumn Canfield

VISITORS

Paul and Diane Snyder, 1004 Charles Street; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Ella, Jeana and Matt Baumgardt, 65 Ridgeview Drive, Leighton; Derek, MaryJo and Greg King, 70 Ridgeview Drive, Leighton; Kerri DiDario, 180 Basket Lane, Leighton; Joshua, Jessica and Kim Merkel, 1010 Koch Road, Kunkletown; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 Cameramen; Terry Ahner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SENIOR RECOGNITIONS

On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the reading of:

- Resolution 732-25 Honoring senior Ella Baumgardt
- Resolution 733-25, Honoring senior Isabella Catania
- Resolution 734-25, Honoring senior Macy DiDario
- Resolution 735-25, Honoring senior Cassandra Hager
- Resolution 736-25, Honoring senior Derek King
- Resolution 737-25, Honoring senior Joshua Merkel

Resolutions were presented to Ella Baumgardt, Kerri DiDario (for daughter Macy), Derek King and Joshua Merkel, followed by a brief intermission to allow for photographs. A copy of the resolutions is attached to these minutes.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Jared Cebrosky of 816 Princeton Avenue thanked Council for all they do, stating through the process of looking for a new home, he feels Palmerton is top notch.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the May 22, 2025 regular meeting minutes, with the addition of the National Night Out start time of 6:00 PM.

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 Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 738-25, amending the fee schedule. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. The committee has met twice since the last meeting and is making significant progress on developing a code for rental properties.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION

Andrew Hollywood reported:

- 1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote (Terry Costenbader abstained from the Pacemakers request), Council approved the following use requests. The approvals are subject to scheduling and availability:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Crusaders for a Cause	Bandstand/SW Quadrant Park	Carnival
Concourse Club	Park	Movie in the Park
Palmerton Rifle Club	Rifle Range	Firearm Safety
Kristi Thomas	600/700 Block E Princeton	Block Party
Bethany Wesleyan	Park	Church Service (retro)
Pacemakers	Park	2025 Car Show (resched)
Pacemakers	Park	2026 Car Show
PMPA	Council Chambers	Meetings
Lighthouse Church	NW section of park	Games for Bible School

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 May 27, 2025 through May 31, 2025 in the absence of Chief Timothy Kromer.
- 2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Lehighton Borough’s Fire Police Request for assistance with the fireworks event on Friday July, 4th.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky reported:

- 1. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Pay Request #1 to Construction Master Services in the amount of \$117,720 for the paving of Alley H and J, based on the recommendation of Keystone Consulting Engineers.
- 2. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved Pay Request #2 to Construction Master Services in the amount of \$26,886.58 for the paving of Alley H and J, based on the recommendation of Keystone Consulting Engineers.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader had no report.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council entered into executive session at 7:23 PM to discuss a potential land acquisition and personnel. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by William Gallagher and voice vote, Council reconvened the regular meeting at 8:11 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. A reminder to residents to move their cars for street cleaning. Street cleaning is for cosmetic reasons, as well as safety to help ensure that debris does not clog drains. If cars are not moved, they will be ticketed. Compliance ensures our public works department is able to do their job and to avoid possible flooding.
2. A reminder to residents who park in borough owned lots. Ordinance 559 states it unlawful to park any commercial vehicle that weighs more than 1 ton, any personal or commercial trailers, any housing and camping trailers, boats and boat trailers, recreational vehicles and storage of any material. I have asked Chief Kromer to ticket each violator on a daily basis, and if necessary tow the vehicles or trailers.
3. Please be aware that residents who do not have current registration on their personal vehicles may receive a ticket. The police have the right to tow a vehicle that is unregistered, not inspected or able to be driven if it is on the street or in any alley way. License plate readers are making this an easy job for our officers.
4. A reminder to residents to let the experts handle the fireworks on the upcoming July 4th holiday. There is no legal area in town where fireworks are permitted. They also present a major fire and safety issue. If you are having a party, please be considerate of your neighbors and keep the noise at minimal level.
5. The Palmerton Pool is up and running for its 78th year. Come out with your family and cool off during the summer. The Pool offers veterans discounts and has many special event days planned for this season.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. On May 22, 2025, the PD fully deployed the new Axon Body Worn Cameras and MVR/ALPR cameras. The transition has been seamless, and all officers are extremely happy with the quality and performance of the new equipment. The new cameras are much easier to use and provide a higher quality video. Processing digital evidence now takes seconds instead of up to an hour on a computer and the amount of time spent on processing digital evidence is exponentially less. The benefits will continue to increase with use and additional storage of evidence.
2. Since the deployment of the new ALPR cameras, the cameras have scanned well over 10,000 plates, as the system only stores the most recent 10,000 scans. It has provided over 3000 hits for expired registration and over 400 hits for suspended registration. Once those hits are reported, officers then review them for accuracy (correct read, correct state) and verify them with the Communications Center. Since their deployment, 100 total citations and 20 written warnings have been issued, with 50 citations just for expired or suspended registration. In addition, we have used the stored ALPR data in several investigations already. One of those resulted in identifying and charging a driver who passed a school bus with its lights activated.
3. A reminder that National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 5th in our Borough Park from 6-8 PM, sponsored by Blue Ridge Communications and immediately followed by the Concourse Club's Movie in the Park. Anyone interested in participating or sponsoring the event can contact the Palmerton Police Department.

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