REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 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
Kris W. Hoffner
Richard L. Nothstein
Holly F. Hausman Sell
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher
Timothy "T.J." Gursky, Jr.

Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Autumn Canfield, Manager/Secretary
Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent:
Jenny Y.C. Cheng
John "Bo" Rodrigues

VISITORS

Peter Hrusovsky and Kniechelle Kauffman, 166 Avenue A; Kim Clark, 74 Avenue A; Ron Valish, 901 Delaware Avenue; Lynn Shupp, Palmerton Chamber of Commerce; Jared Cebrosky, 104 Kaysea Lane, Lehighton; Mary Pachorkowsky, 1149 Main Road, Lehighton; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 cameraman; Terry Arner, Times News reporter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Peter Hrusovsky of 166 Avenue A questioned the need for the increase of the parking ticket fee from $10 to $30, particularly for street cleaning, adding the regulations are not feasible for his area due to one-sided parking and the number of vehicles per household. Kniechelle Kauffman, also of 166 Avenue A, suggested setting a shorter time frame to be off the street in that area as a potential fix to the problem. Andrew Hollywood advised he is willing to discuss this further with them.

Kim Clark of 77 Avenue A began thanking Council and the Borough for the quick tree removal near her property that she reported. She continued, reporting an issue at the rear of her property with small red stone runoff. Council advised before anything can be done, ownership of the adjacent property would need to be determined. She also inquired about a rental ordinance, noting issues with neighbors. Holly Sell informed her the Borough is working on an ordinance and Terry Costenbader advised her to call 911 in the meantime.

Lynn Shupp of the Palmerton Chamber of Commerce updated Council on the recent meeting with the fireworks tech and Public Works Supervisor Todd Merkel to determine the best location for setup, which was determined to be the macadam lot between the Borough Garage and the Elmer Valo field. Ms. Shupp acknowledged the insurance concern and advised the Borough of Palmerton would be listed as insured under Pyro Joe's policy. Autumn Canfield asked Lynn Shupp to supply her with a copy of Pyro Joe's Certificate of Insurance to be reviewed by the Borough's insurance company.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the February 26, 2026, and March 12, 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

Richard Nothstein had no report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council referred a draft zoning ordinance amendment regarding data centers to Palmerton Planning Commission and Carbon County Planning Commission for review

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved, the following use requests subject to scheduling and availability:

Applicant	Facility	Purpose
Bo Tkach Foundation	Park	Turkey Trot 5K
Palmerton Festival Committee	Park	Community Festival
St. John Neumann School	Park (NE Quadrant)	Field Day
S.S. Palmer Elementary – Ryan Heller	Park	Field Day
S.S. Palmer Elementary – Ryan Heller	Park	Field Day (K-First Grade)
Palmerton Towamensing Athletic	Elmer Valo Field	Youth baseball/softball
Boldly Rooted/Living Hope Lighthouse	Park	Youth Night

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Palmerton Chamber of Commerce request for fireworks contingent upon proof or proper insurance coverage and meeting the requirements of Borough's insurance company.

3. Andrew Hollywood thanked the Borough Manager and Public Works Department for repairing and re-opening the Dog Park.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council adopted Ordinance 788 amending fire prevention. A copy of this ordinance is attached to these minutes.

2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council adopted Resolution 751-26 setting a fee schedule for fire service associated with Ordinance 788. Holly Sell clarified this fee is not a charge to residents, but to their insurance companies which provides opportunity for non-residents to pay their share. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

T.J. Gursky had no report.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher reported:

1. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote (Holly Sell opposed), Council reviewed and accepted a tapping fee calculation establishing the fee of $9,197.00 as recommended by Entech Engineering.

2. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote (Holly Sell opposed), Council adopted Resolution 752-26 amending the fee schedule for sewer tap in fee. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader had no report.

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

Bo Rodrigues reported:

1. Happy March, and I'm happy to say we are back in Daylight Savings Time. We experienced some days of warmer weather, and I'm excited to see the parks overflowing with children and families, as well as the streets filled with shoppers and people enjoying this great town.

2. Congratulations and welcome to more new businesses in Palmerton:

   Wild Thingz Exotic Pets & Supplies opened this month. Snakes, turtles, geckos, parakeets, chinchillas, guinea pigs, rabbits, and more. They even have a wide variety of pet foods. If they don't have what you are looking for, ask and they will try to get it. This was the former Shea's Hardware building, on the right side.

   Tir Na nOg Mugs & Metal has a variety of coffees and teas with a touch of Ireland, as well as various baked goods, metal and wooden signs, honey and more for sale. This was the former Shipman's Pharmacy building.

   Next door in the former Fred's Haberdashery building is Archery Addictions which relocated to Palmerton this week and will be offering the same services as their previous location, with the exception of the range. I'm looking forward to visiting them in the near future.

   Again, local businesses are the backbone of our community. I wish them all success!

3. Borough officials were invited earlier this month to meet with the Democratic Club for an open discussion of various topics. We tried to answer questions the best we could. It was an interesting evening, but the best thing to come out of the meeting is that we all agreed that Palmerton is a great community.

4. The Fire Company hosted an Autism Awareness Class, which I was fortunate to attend, along with other Palmerton agencies, as well as from surrounding areas. We have very dedicated first responders that take the time from their busy schedules to attend classes and extra training like this to always be ready for all types of situations. Our community should be thankful.

5. Aquashicola Fire Company will be having a fish fry on Good Friday, April 3rd from 3-7PM.

6. The Easter Egg Hunt in the Borough Park is Saturday at 1PM. I wish everyone a blessed Easter.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. Our Department has recently completed transition to our new taser devices, the Taser 10. We conducted training in conjunction with the now mandatory control tactics training required by the MPOETC beginning this year. The devices are a massive technological improvement for less lethal and de-escalation. They also work seamlessly with our new Axon body worn cameras and dash cameras. We essentially lost our entire training budget this year to purchase them, but I believe they are well worth the sacrifice.

2. Today Detective Buck and Officer Green attended the annual Safety Summit at the Pennsylvania School Safety Institute. They attended in conjunction with staff from the Palmerton Area School District. This is the second PennSSI event that they have attended, and it is a great opportunity to continue to build our relationship with the school district and improve safety for our students.

3. National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, in the Borough Park from 6-8 PM. If you are interested in participating in or sponsoring the event, please contact me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Holly Sell reminded residents to be mindful when driving with children out in the warmer weather and children with electric scooters and e-bikes to wear a helmet and stay off roadways.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary