

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.

Kris Hoffner, Vice-President of Council, called the duly advertised meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Kris W. Hoffner, Vice-President
Richard L. Nothstein
Holly F. Hausman Sell
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher
Randolph Gursky

Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor
Don J. Herrmann, Mayor
Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
Kim Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent: Terry Costenbader

VISITORS

Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Marj and Joseph Federanich, 418 Princeton Avenue; Drew Snowberger and James Williams, TV-13 Cameramen; Terry Ahner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Raberta Hans of 435 Franklin Avenue asked Council why the large trucks traveling through town are no longer being stopped. Police Chief Kromer advised her the department continues to do weight enforcement.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the February 22, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Vice-President Hoffner 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 | |

Vice-President Hoffner announced that these are on file in the Borough Office for public inspection during regular business hours.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Autumn Canfield had no report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein had no report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell had no report.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, 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>
Palmerton Festival Committee	Park	Community Festival
Palmerton Community Band	Gym	Band rehearsal
Palmerton Community Band	Bandstand	Concert rehearsals
Palmerton Chamber of Commerce	Park	Community Egg Hunt
Palmerton/Towamensing Athletic Asn	Elmer Valo Field	Baseball/softball
St John Neumann Regional School	Park	Egg Hunt
St John Neumann Regional School	Park	Field Day
Palmerton Rec Committee	Park	Summer Rec Program
Palmerton Rec Committee	Gym	Summer Rec Program
Raising the House	Council Chambers	5K Race – Registration
Palmerton Area School District	Park – SW Quadrant	Earth Day Activities

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council tabled the Airing of the Quilts request to until the 2024 event is complete. The requested 2025 date will be held.

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 in Lehigh Township on March 23, 2024.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky reported:

1. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council adopted Ordinance 779 amending streets and sidewalks. A copy of this ordinance is attached to these minutes.
2. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the extension of Edgemont Avenue contingent on successful completion of items in the Engineer's review letter dated March 26, 2024.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher reported:

1. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the revised equipment rental fee schedule.

Holly Sell asked if this equipment was provided by the Council of Governments (GOG). Kris Hoffner informed her the equipment program through COG became problematic and is no longer an option for rental equipment. Randolph Gursky added the Borough employees are sent as operators of the equipment.

2. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the agreement for rental of the street sweeper with Lehighton Borough.
3. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the updated pricing on the rental agreement of the Vac truck with Bowmanstown Borough.

PERSONNEL

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved a summer schedule for the Borough office from May 27, 2024 through August 29, 2024.

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. Thank you to the police department and our other local first responders assisting the Lehighon Borough Police and the PA State police with the incident that occurred in Lehighon a few days ago. It is a constant reminder our first responders need to be prepared for anything as well as a reminder of the mutual assistance our officers provide to our surrounding communities.
2. A reminder to residents to be careful driving as the warmer weather approaches; kids will be out on bikes. Also remember to respect the rules in the park, borough property and clean up after your dogs.
3. The Palmerton Pool is looking for lifeguards, snack stand workers and maintenance workers. Please contact them through Facebook if interested. Military discounts are also available for an adult, family, or senior citizen membership for any veteran, reserve, or military personnel.
4. Happy Easter to Council and all Borough residents. Enjoy the time with your families and remember to contribute to local food pantries and food assistance facilities if you are able.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. Unit 55 is fully operational and Unit 54 will be going for upfit in two weeks. Thank you to the Borough mechanic for all his assistance in getting our fleet fully operational.
2. In two weeks, Officer Green, Officer Stern, and I will be instructing for two ALERRT Level I courses at our EOTC, which will certify 22 more Carbon County Law Enforcement Officers in ALERRT Level I. Officer Green came to us already certified as an instructor. Our Police Department has 3 out of the 11 certified instructors in the County. Detective Buck will be attending training, giving us a 100% certification rate. It is our goal as a Carbon County Chiefs Association to have all Carbon County Law Enforcement Officers certified in Level I.
3. There will be an Elected Officials Event at the Emergency Operations Training Center on Saturday, June 1st. The event is designed to allow local government officials to tour the training center and experience a small view of what police, fire, and EMS use the facility for. I will again be participating in the police demonstration portion. Please consider attending the event.
4. The next National Night Out will be held on August 6, 2024 and will be sponsored by Blue Ridge Communications. Please contact the Palmerton Police Department if interested in participating in or sponsoring the event. The Movie in the Park will follow the NNO event.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Holly Sell reminded residents to check their smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors. She also thanked the Police Department for their attendance at the SS Palmer and Parkside Elementary safety drill. Their presence was much appreciated by the staff and students.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Borough Manager