

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025, 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	Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor
Kris W. Hoffner, Council Vice-President	Don Herrmann, Mayor
Richard L. Nothstein	Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Holly F. Hausman Sell	Autumn Canfield, Manager/Secretary
Andrew J. Hollywood	Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary
William A. Gallagher	
Randolph M. Gursky	

VISITORS

Raberta & Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Patrick Brana; Walter Haas Jr., 494 Franklin Avenue; Richard Kost, 220 Lafayette Avenue; Don Heiney, 218 Lafayette Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 cameraman; Terry Arner, Times News reporter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Raberta Hans of 435 Franklin Avenue asked Council to use more detail when discussing or approving ordinances.

Donald Heiney of 218 Lafayette Avenue followed up asked Council, as a result of last month's discussion of the idling diesel trucks, if they would be adopting a noise ordinance. Autumn Canfield explained the existing noise regulations found in the Zoning Ordinance is based on decibel readings and exempts trucks and cars on the public streets.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the February 27, 2025 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       | 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

Autumn Canfield reported:

1. A reminder to residents that street sweeping begins April 1, 2025, and the schedule can be found on the Borough website and was printed in the Times News.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 730-25 approving application to the DCNR Peer to Peer grant for a PMPA organizational study.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. Holly Sell updated residents on an upcoming rental ordinance relaying the committee is diligently working and hoping to have it on the table this summer.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Kim Nenscel	Park – SW Quadrant	Earth Day Activities
Michael Netznik	Elmer Valo Field	Little League Baseball/Softball (retroactive)

Joseph Plechavy	Bandstand	Palmerton Com Band rehearsal
Joseph Plechavy	Gym	Palmerton Com Band rehearsal
Susan Ahner	Park	Community Egg Hunt
Susan Ahner	Park	Community Festival
Anna Leigh Conway	Gym	Softball conditioning (retroactive)
PARC	Park/Coal Bowl	Rec Program
PARC	Gym	Rec Program
Over 60 Club	Council Chambers	Monthly Meetings
St. John Neumann	Park	Egg Hunt
St. John Nuemann	Park	Field Day Activities

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved application to the Pocono Mountain Visitor’s Bureau for a matching grant to repair the town clock.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved Fire Department participation in a crash demonstration at Carbon County Technical Institute on May 5, 2025, and at the Palmerton High School on May 30, 2025.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council held the first reading and advertisement of Ordinance 783-25 amending the vehicles and traffic ordinance.
3. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved membership for Eric Gavalis to the Municipal Fire Company.

#### STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky reported:

1. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Pay Request #2 based on the KCE recommendation to TELCO, Inc. in the amount of \$26,454.60.

Answering Holly Sell’s question about a projected completion date, Autumn Canfield relayed July is the goal.

#### SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the hiring of a streets crew member at 18.33 per hour and a water department member at 18.33 per hour, contingent upon completion of the physical and drug screen requirements.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council authorized advertisement for two summer help employees at a rate of \$15.00 per hour.
3. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the 2025 Borough Hall Office Summer hours schedule.
4. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council entered an executive session at 7:20 PM to discuss personnel matters involving employment. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 7:34 PM.

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

Don Herrmann reported:

1. With clocks springing forward an hour please check the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. A new battery can be the difference between life and death.
2. A reminder that Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup> is Primary day. Get out and vote for the people that represent you.
3. I am looking for help in organizing a community cleanup. The last cleanup was held in 2021 with over 60 volunteers and was a huge success.
4. Street cleaning begins April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please move your vehicles so Borough crews can clean the streets. This is a simple practice and important for our stormwater system to avoid flooding due to debris in the drains. The police will be enforcing.
5. Thank you to all our first responders, including the Police Department, Fire Department, and Palmerton Ambulance for all they do for Palmerton and surrounding communities.
6. With warm weather coming, please be mindful of increased bike traffic in town and more people getting outside to walk and exercise. Please slow down!

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. Officer Stern recently certified our Police Department, Public Works crew, Borough office staff, and some Council members on CPR and AED. He also assisted Lehighon Ambulance with certifying our Fire Department as well. His knowledge and dedication are a great asset to our department.
2. Officer Stern will also be attending a Tactical Medical Instructor course through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers. The Carbon County Chiefs of Police Association is hosting at the Emergency Operations and Training Center. This is a tuition-free course which certifies instructors in Tactical Combat Casualty Care that they can then teach to all of our officers.
3. The new Body Worn Cameras have arrived. Officer Green and I have already received training on their use and deployment that we will be teaching the other officers. Also, last week was a technical kick-off meeting with Axon for the MVRs which should be shipping out shortly. Thank you to Borough mechanic Brad Clewell for helping to ensure we are prepared for the new cameras.
4. National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in the Borough Park. Anyone interested in participating in or sponsoring the event can contact the Palmerton Police Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. William Gallagher encourages residents to fly an American Flag on March 29, 2025, for National Vietnam War Veterans Day. He asked all the veterans present to stand for applause.
2. Terry Costenbader asked pedestrians to walk on the sidewalks instead of the street as this may create a safety hazard.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues  
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield  
Manager/Secretary