

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

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

Absent: Kris Hoffner

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Don Herrmann called for a moment of silence to pay respects to lifelong Palmerton resident, retired US Army Colonel George Duell.

VISITORS

Judy Borger, 834 East Princeton Avenue; Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Lisa Snell-Kern, 220 Edgemont Avenue; Robert, Irene and Christina Obrecht, 339 Lehigh Avenue; Larry Zawaly, 757 Delaware Avenue; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 Cameramen; Terry Ahner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SENIOR RECOGNITIONS

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

- Resolution 714-24, Honoring senior Maddie Everett
- Resolution 715-24, Honoring senior Riley Gerhard
- Resolution 716-24, Honoring senior Kaitlyn Heimbach
- Resolution 717-24, Honoring senior Emma Snyder
- Resolution 718-24, Honoring senior Cora Wentz

Resolutions were presented to Riley Gerhard and Kaitlyn Hiembach, followed by a brief intermission to allow for photographs. A copy of the resolutions are attached to these minutes.

HEARING OF VISITORS

- 1. Raberta Hans asked Council for the status of the overtime labor dispute involving the Police Department and how many hours were billed on the subject to date. Terry Costenbader informed her an arbitration hearing was held on Monday, May 20, 2024, but no decision has been rendered. Andrew Hollywood will follow up with her regarding the hours.
- 2. Lisa Snell Kern of 220 Edgemont Avenue asked, again, if Council would consider placing microphones at their seats to project their voices to the back of the room. Andrew Hollywood will follow up on the request.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the May 23, 2024 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. The Borough is currently accepting letters of interest for a Zoning Hearing Board member as one of the members recently resigned.

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 Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved partnership with Palmerton Area Library for an appropriations requirement of environmental assessment.
- 2. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council tabled discussion of a letter of concern from a resident regarding landlord issues.

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>
Airing of the Quilts	Park/Bandstand/Delaware Ave	Quilt Event
Samantha Koehler	Bandstand	Wedding Rehearsal
Jim Shull	600/700 Block E Princeton	Block Party
Pace Makers Assn.	Park/Bandstand	Car Show
Crusaders for a Cause	Bandstand/SW Quadrent Park	Carnival
SHINE Program	Courtyard next to Police Dept	End of Year Carnival

Prior to approval, Holly Sell confirmed there were no issues with the Airing of the Quilts event, the Crusaders for a Cause Carnival, or the East Princeton Avenue Block Party request.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Terry Costenbader reported:

- 1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved, retroactively, Kevin Buck as of Officer in Charge from May 6, 2024 through May 10, 2024, and May 11, 2024 through May 17, 2024 in the absence of Chief Timothy Kromer.
- 2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Handicap parking request for 596 Mauch Chunk Road. There is a vacant space existing at this location that will be reactivated for this request.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky reported:

- 1. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council awarded the bid for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Delaware Avenue traffic signal project.
- 2. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council denied the application of a decal on to trash containers placed along Delaware Avenue donated by the Chamber of Commerce and a local business.

Roll Call Vote:

Randolph Gursky	Aye	Richard Nothstein	Abstained
William Gallagher	Aye	Holly Sell	Aye
Terry Costenbader	Aye	Andrew Hollywood	Nay

Secretary recorded 4 aye, 1 nay and 1 abstention; motion carried.

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 authorized Borough Manager Autumn Canfield to hire 2 summer employees at a rate of \$12 per hour.

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 Airing of the Quilts, and congratulations on your first annual event. It seemed very well received by the community and numerous restaurants in town stated that they were very busy on the day of the event. Also, congratulations to the annual Crusaders for a Cause carnival for their 4-day event in the park.
- 2. On Tuesday, May 28, 2024, Senator Argall and Representative Heffley will be hosting a “Hard to Read License Plate” event from 10 am to 1PM in Palmerton at the Public Works Building located at 413 Third Street. If you are unable to make it you can download form MV-46 and stop by the Police station to have the form verified by an officer. I have already received my new plate from the State in only a few weeks.
- 3. The Palmerton Pool opens for its 77<sup>th</sup> year on Saturday, best wishes for another successful year.

4. Please come out and show your respect to all those who have given the ultimate sacrifice by attending the Memorial Day Parade/event in the park on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.
5. The annual Pacemakers car show will be held rain or shine in the Borough Park on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm.
6. Congratulations to our track and field athletes that will be participating at the State Championships in Shippensburg on Friday and Saturday and to our High School seniors that will be graduating. Best wishes to the students moving up to their next level of their education.
7. Thank you to Officer O'Brien for his assistance and professionalism aiding the FBI in Philadelphia with an investigation. We received an email commending officer O'Brien on his quick response and overall excellent job performance.

#### REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. I recently completed the POSIT Course at the Penn State Justice and Safety Institute. The course is Police Supervisory In-Service Training and is the first level of their leadership training program. I plan to attend High Impact Supervision in 2025, which is the next level of their program.
2. Officer Green and I attended the GLOCK Armorer's Course at the end of April. I have been a certified GLOCK Armorer since 2016 and this was his first certification as a GLOCK Armorer. That gives our department three certified armorers and allows us to perform all of our weapon maintenance and service in house. We have received our new duty weapons and will transition to using them once the new holsters arrive.
3. The next National Night Out will be held on August 6, 2024 and will be sponsored by Blue Ridge Communications and Cheng Law Offices. 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.
4. A PPD officer will be present at the license plate replacement event on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, to sign off on the PENNDOT forms that are completed by the staff of Representative Heffley and Senator Argall. Again, anyone that needs a replacement plate that cannot make the event can stop by PPD at any time to have the form signed by a PPD officer.
5. I want to remind everyone of the importance of Memorial Day and to honor those who have been killed in combat while serving their country.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Lisa Snell Kern asked Council who was awarded the bid for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Delaware Avenue Traffic Signal project. Autumn Canfield advised TELCO, Inc. was the lowest bidder at \$483,215.00.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Richard Nothstein announced that Saturday morning, May 25, 2024 at 9:00 AM volunteers will be placing 1400 US Flags around the Park and anyone is invited to help.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council entered into an Executive Session at 7:35 PM to discuss personnel. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 8:04 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues  
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield  
Borough Manager