REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 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
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher

John "Bo" Rodrigues, Mayor
Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent:
Holly F. Hausman Sell
Timothy "T.J." Gursky, Jr.
Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor

VISITORS

Jonathan Siller, 1033 Fourth Street; Janice Sylstra, 568 Mauch Chunk Road; Linda Christman, Save Carbon County; Sarina Berlow, 338 Columbia Avenue; Deborah Smith, 572 Mauch Chunk Road; Cathy Mueller, 332 Church Drive; Dan and Lee Kunkle, 1372 Municipal Road, Lehighton; Ron Valish, 901 Delaware Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 104 Kaysea Lane, Lehighton; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 cameraman; Terry Arner, Times News reporter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Janice Sylstra of 568 Mauch Chunk Road and Deborah Smith of 572 Mauch Chunk Road addressed Council with concerns in their area. Ms. Sylstra was upset that she reported a leaf collection in September that was never picked up and created a mess in the alley. She is not happy with the paving of the South side of Mauch Chunk Road, relaying there is no curbline, which will result in the flooding of homes with no place for the water to go but over the sidewalk. Also, she was looking for an update on the repair of the Railroad Alley wall, saying she has heard nothing in a year and a half. She reported a large tree has recently fallen from above the wall and feels there will be more to follow. Deborah Smith suggested the Borough have an arborist examine the trees along the wall to identify dead from healthy trees. Autumn Canfield advised the Borough remains unsure of who is responsible for the wall as there have been two surveys, but discrepancies on both. She has applied for a grant and has not heard back thus far. Andrew Hollywood would like to follow up on the situation and see if there is anything he can find out.

Linda Christman, the President of Save Carbon County, spoke about their organization helping the Borough by investigating the Northface project. Their current goal is to not allow extension of the DEP general fill permit, that allows the dumping of soil, past the expiration date of June 28, 2027. She, along with Dan Kunkle, urged Council to be vigilant with writing letters in opposition of an extension. Kris Hoffner explained the Borough did just that back in 2010 when it was up for renewal, with no avail. He applauds Save Carbon County for their initiative.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the April 23, 2026 and May 14, 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

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved Ordinance 789 amending Chapter 118, vehicles and traffic.

2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the first reading and advertisement of Ordinance 790, amending the Zoning ordinance for adding use and regulations for data centers. Kris Hoffner added there will be a public hearing on June 25, 2026 for Ordinance 790.

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
Palmerton Municipal Fire Co	5th St – Del to Lehigh	Block Party - RETROACTIVE
Reckoning Force Productions	Council Chambers	Movie scene – RETROACTIVE
Concourse Club	Park (SW Quadrant)	Movie in the park
Crusaders For A Cause	Council Chambers	Meetings
Jacqueline Vaughn	Bandstand	Wedding
Crusaders for A Cause	Park	2027 Carnival
Cindy Mengel-Smith	Park	2027 Airing of the Quilts
Palmerton Library	Bandstand	Fife and Drum Corp performance
Bill Strauch	Park	Time Capsule display

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council entered into an executive session to discuss potential land acquisition at 7:23 PM. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council resumed their regular meeting at 7:42 PM.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved, retroactive, the East Penn Township Fire Police assistance request. Richard Nothstein is concerned our Fire Police volunteers are doing too much and wants to be sure they are ok with the requests. Kris Hoffner advised Fire Police assistance is reciprocated and the volunteers help when they can.

2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved, retroactive, Detective Kevin Buck as Officer in Charge May 20 through May 25, 2026 in the absence of Chief Timothy Kromer.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

T.J. Gursky reported:

1. On motion by T.J. Gursky, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the installation of a handicap parking space at 339 Lehigh Avenue.

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 appointed Ron Keblish to the Zoning Hearing Board. Kris Hoffner commented on his impressive resume and feels he will be an asset to the Board.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved payment of the invoices and the check register as presented.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Bo Rodrigues reported:

1. Although the weather did not always cooperate, the Palmerton community did not disappoint last month, managing to hold some very successful events. The success and tradition of these events help to keep our town special. As the hub of our community, the borough park gets a lot of use, and it's great to see local organizations be able to benefit from it. I'm also thankful for our police officer presence at these events.

2. Airing of the Quilts was an amazing display of over 500 quilts throughout Palmerton. I was able to walk a portion of it and was amazed by the creativity and passion of the event. Churches, businesses, schools and even the band stand were all displaying quilts.

3. Palmerton Youth Night held in the Palmerton Park was very successful for its first year with games, activities, food, and live music.

4. Raising the House held its annual 5K honoring the memory of Blaine House.

5. Crusaders for a Cause celebrated their 20th anniversary for the carnival in the Palmerton Park. They give back to the community so much, and it was nice to see the support given to them.

6. Heroes Day, hosted by Kids for the Community, was held at the Grove Pavillion at the Palmerton Memorial Park honoring our local community EMS heroes.

7. The Palmerton High School Football team volunteered their time to placing the American flags around the park. I thanked them for continuing this tradition that the entire town looks forward to every year and then gave Mr. Nothstein a hand adding a few flags ourselves.

8. The Palmerton American Legion Post 269 held its annual Memorial Day Celebration to honor fallen U.S. service members, including the 72 soldiers from Palmerton. The parade was cancelled, but the ceremony was held in a packed St. John Neumann auditorium, ceremonial flag folding, utilizing a giant American flag, which dozens of community members took part.

9. The America 250 committee is finalizing details for its Palmerton Proud Celebration on Sunday, June 14th in the Palmerton Park. Our next meeting will be held Sunday, June 7th at 5:00pm in the park for a final walk through. Follow along on Facebook at Palmerton Proud-America 250 and please share with your friends and family. Residents and businesses have been decorating and are encouraged to continue showing their support for this event. I want to thank the committee and the Borough for the many hours put in and working together to make this a special event. Please make sure you all come out to enjoy! The day begins with an Ecumenical church service at 2:00pm. The Celebration begins at 4:00pm with some very patriotic events, culminating with fireworks at night.

10. The Block Party is back, hosted by the Palmerton Fire Company, being held Saturday June 6th from 11:00am – 10:00pm. It will be located on 5th Street between Delaware and Lehigh Avenue. There will be food trucks, music, and community fun!

11. Lastly, the annual Car Show will be held Saturday June 20th from 9:00am – 3:00pm, which I always look forward to. It is hosted by the PACE-MAKERS Association.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Tim Kromer reported:

1. On April 9th, we participated in the evacuation drills for the SS Palmer and Parkside Elementary schools. I want to thank Josh Nenscel and all of the staff at both schools for including us in the drill. It is a great opportunity to work together to ensure that our safety plan is effective and an excellent way to have a positive interaction with the students and staff of both buildings.

2. In April, I assisted Franklin Township Police Department with their transition to the Taser 7 device. I also assisted Carbon County Juvenile Probation with certifying several new probation officers on the Taser 10 device. Neither agency has their own Taser instructor,

and this is another great example of sharing resources in our County to provide better police services for all County residents.

3. There are only 68 days until our National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4th. It is held in our Borough Park from 6-8 PM. If you are interested in participating or sponsoring the event, please contact the Palmerton Police Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. William Gallagher announced the Palmerton United Veterans Organization placed 1800 flags on Veterans graves in Palmerton, Bowmanstown and Trachsville cemeteries on May 23, 2026 along with military honors. He also announced the Memorial Day Parade Committee made the decision to cancel due to weather, and held the ceremony in the St. John Nuemann gymnasium, which was well attended.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Borough Manager