

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023, 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, Council Vice-President	Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor
Richard L. Nothstein	Don Herrmann, Mayor
Holly F. Hausman Sell	Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Andrew J. Hollywood	Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
William A. Gallagher	Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent: Terry Costenbader

VISITORS

Dennis Haydt, 542 Lehigh Avenue; Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Randy Gursky, 921 Edgemont Avenue; Lisa Snell Kern, 220 Edgemont Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Marj and Joseph Federanich, 418 Princeton Avenue; Chris and Alice Kegel, 608 Columbia Avenue; Scotty and Susan Morrison, 292 Harvard Avenue; Peter Ramstein, 1205 Minnesota Drive, Whitehall; Terry Arner, Times News reporter; TV-13 Camera Person.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Peter Ramstein of 1205 Minnesota Drive, Whitehall, asked Council the reason behind their decision to not allow a parade for the championship win of the Palmerton Football Booster Club Program Varsity team. Kris Hoffner explained a situation several years ago that inundated the Fire Department with parade requests. This led to the current policy permitting the Police and Fire Departments to escort High School League/District/State Championships or individual State achievements only. Mr. Ramstein asked if the Borough would at least recognize the team with a Proclamation and Kris Hoffner agreed.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the October 26, 2023 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

1. Autumn Canfield advised Council and residents of the upcoming road work on sections of Delaware Avenue, Avenue A and Avenue B.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 709-23 naming Kirk, Summa and Company LLP, as the auditing firm for the 2023 accounts. A copy of this is attached to these minutes.
2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved signing the Cooperation Agreement for the 2022 CDBG Program Administration.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell had no report.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote (Kris Hoffner abstained from the Raising the House requests), Council approved the following use requests. The approvals are subject to scheduling and availability.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Raising the House	Park/Bandstand	5K Race
Raising the House	Council Chambers	Pre-race Registration
Palmerton Historical Society	No Parking-SS Palmer	Bus tour pick-up/drop-off
Palmerton Veterans Org.	Park/Vet Memorial	Ceremony to honor Veterans

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote (Holly Sell abstained), Council approved Resolution 710-23 implementing a Volunteer Tax Credit increase. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 711-23 implementing a Volunteer Tax Credit for Aquashicola Fire Company members residing in Palmerton. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.
3. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the updated evidence policy for the Palmerton Police Department.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Andrew Hollywood had no report.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council entered into an Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss personnel. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 7:25 p.m.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council appointed Randolph Gursky as Council member to fill the term of the vacant position. Mayor Herrmann proceeded to swear him into office.

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 all the organizers of the Operation Give a Gobbler Food Drive. Thank you to all of the local police departments and businesses that participated. Thanks to Chief Kromer for his hard work. The true winners of an event like this are those in the community that need help during the holidays.
2. A quick reminder for all residents to check the batteries in their smoke detectors. A simple battery can save a life.
3. The annual tree lighting of the park will be held on December 2nd. It is a beautiful event that also benefits the local organizations.
4. Reminder that it's never too early to get your pool passes for the 2024 season.

Have a happy and safe holiday!

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Annual Give a Gobbler event. Everything that was donated is given to local Veterans. The response from our community was overwhelming and we are proud to be part of such an amazing event.
2. Palmerton Police Department will again be participating in No Shave November. Officers will make a donation to be exempt from the Department's facial hair policy with all funds going to a local charity benefiting children of Palmerton.
3. The production date for our new patrol vehicles has been pushed back from November 13th to December 5th. The change in dates was due to the UAW strike.
4. Next year's National Night Out will be held on August 6, 2024. Anyone interested in participating or sponsoring the event, please contact the Palmerton Police Department.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Autumn Canfield announced the 2024 Budget is in final draft form and includes an increase of 1.2 mills for establishment of a fire fund as well as an increase in water rates that the Municipal Authority will adopt at their December meeting. Kris Hoffner thanked Ms. Canfield for her work on the budget.
2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved Proclamations for the Palmerton High School football team and the Palmerton Booster Club Varsity football team for presentation at the next Council meeting.

3. Richard Nothstein suggested a proclamation for the 225th Anniversary of St. Johns Towamensing Lutheran Church of Palmerton for presentation at the next Council meeting.
4. Holly Sell reminded residents to place leaves between the curb and the sidewalk for collection, not in the street. Kris Hoffner received many compliments on the collection this season and Marj Federanich applauded the Public Works crew for a job well done.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Assistant Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary