

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

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

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

Absent: Randolph Gursky

VISITORS

Rose Smith, 1059 Mauch Chunk Road; Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Josh Kreitzer, Anthracite Waste; Charles Panteleo and Paul Brady, Whitetail; TV-13 Cameramen; Terry Ahner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council appointed Macrae Ross to the Palmerton Municipal Fire Company.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council appointed a junior firefighter to the Palmerton Municipal Fire Company.

Mayor Herrmann performed the swearing-in of Macrae Ross as a newly appointed Fire Department member.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Rose Smith of 1059 Mauch Chunk Road addressed Council as a crossing guard to the School District with a safety concern on Delaware Avenue. She asked for help at the intersection of Fourth Street and Delaware Avenue, relaying when cars are stopped on Delaware for children to cross, cars approaching from behind are driving around the stopped car. She is afraid someone will get hurt if it continues. Police Chief Kromer will have an officer post there periodically.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

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

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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 | |

President Costenbader announced these are on file in the Borough Office for public inspection during regular business hours.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Autumn Canfield reported:

1. Reminder to residents of the government forum held the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30-6:30 at the Palmerton Library. This is an open place to ask questions of local government, and all are invited.
2. Congratulations to the Palmerton Library for their LSA Grant approval.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved a revised Non-Uniformed Pension Fund 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation amount of \$153,400.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. A reminder to all residents the Borough is accepting letters of interest for the Property Maintenance Appeal Board. Please send or drop them off at the Borough office.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved, retroactive, the following use request:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
SS Palmer/Parkside PTO	Park	Bomber Fun Run

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council rescinded the requested PMVB grant approval for a pickleball court. Andrew Hollywood commented the desired location of the court was not feasible.
3. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the revised PMPA lease agreement.
4. MKSD Architects began the PMPA feasibility study on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, by virtual meeting.
5. In response to the PFAS water filter request by Christine Keblish at the September 26, 2024 meeting, Andrew Hollywood informed residents that Doyle Heffley's office is waiting for an approved list of filters and will share that information when received.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Muncibid sale of the Smeal Pumper in the amount of \$10,100.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved, retroactive, Kevin Buck as Officer in Charge on October 1, 2 and 3, 2024, as well as October 16, 17 and 18, 2024.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

William Gallagher reported:

1. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the advertising of bids for the Alley H and Alley J paving project.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher reported:

1. Discussion took place on the trash bids from visitors of both haulers, Whitetail and Anthracite. Whitetail holds the low bid for the 3 year contract, while Anthracite was lowest for the 5 year. Each contractor provided information on their company and outlined their process to handle such issues as resident calls, missed locations and damaged cans.

On motion by William Gallagher, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council tabled awarding the trash bid.

2. William Gallagher informed Council of a request received from The Palmerton Municipal Authority to re-allocate ARP funds, if needed, from the Church Street Improvement project to the purchase of radio reading equipment. He explained the initial bid for the approved use of ARP funds for Improvements to Church Street water lines was rejected by the Authority as the cost was higher than expected. The Authority has decided to re-bid but would like approval to use the ARP funds towards the purchase of radio reading equipment if the re-bid is also rejected.

On motion by William Gallagher, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the re-allocation of ARP funds to the Palmerton Municipal Authority.

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 Halloween Parade that occurred on Sunday October 20th. There was a huge turnout and I appreciate the help from our Police Department and all the residents along the parade who moved their vehicles to make room for floats and spectators. Thank you also to all the local responders who participated in the parade.
2. Trick or Treat night will be held on Saturday October 26th from 6pm-8pm. Participants should cross at crosswalks and well-lit areas. Drivers, please be aware of kids running throughout town and cautious for excited trick or treaters along your route.

3. A reminder to change the batteries in smoke detectors and CO2 detectors with the time change on November 3rd. The cost of a battery could be the difference between life and death.
4. Remember to vote on Tuesday November 5th! Voting sites are open from 7am to 8pm, if you haven't already submitted an early ballot. The West End and Middle Districts vote at the Sokol Hall and the East District at the Palmerton Ambulance Building. Every vote counts!!!
5. The Carbon County Veterans Day parade will be held in Lansford this year on Sunday November 10th starting at 1:45PM. Come out to show your respect for the veterans who made this Country the greatest in the world.
6. Christmas in the park will be held on Saturday December 7th. Come out to enjoy the festivities and support local nonprofits.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. I recently completed the Colt Armorer's Course to re-certify as a Colt Armorer which allows me to perform all necessary maintenance on patrol rifles and not outsource for maintenance or repairs.
2. I have been selected to join the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association's newly created Mental Health Committee to support the mental well-being of officers, improve community relations, help manage mental health crises, and contribute to a more proactive and effective public safety system.
3. Our officers will again be participating in No Shave November, where the Department's facial hair policy is waived in lieu of a donation by participating officers. The donations are given to the Palmerton Area School District to help local families in need for the holidays.
4. Reminder residents to have a safe and fun trick or treat night this Saturday. Drivers, please slow down and watch out for pedestrians and Trick or Treaters, please watch for cars and use the sidewalks and crosswalks. Palmerton Police will also be handing out candy at the station's Fourth Street entrance.
5. Jim Thorpe and Lehighon Police Departments have challenged Palmerton Police Department to collect the most non-perishable food items for the 5th Annual Give A Gobbler event. The event is held on November 20th and coordinated by Colossal Radio, the VALOR Clinic Foundation, and the PA State Police. Donations can be dropped in the lobby of the Palmerton Police Department or the Palmerton Borough Hall between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday no later than November 18th. Donations can also be dropped at Giant in Lehighon the morning of the event. All donations help our local veterans in need. We had immense support from the community for this event and I hope that we have even more participation this year. Thank you in advance for your participation.
6. Please remember to honor our Veterans this Veterans Day. As a Veteran myself, along with several members of Council, Veterans Day is special to us.

7. Next year's National Night Out is Tuesday, August 5, 2025 in the Borough Park. Anyone interested in participating in or sponsoring the event can contact the Palmerton Police Department.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Borough Manager