

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023, 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 L. Costenbader, Council President
Richard L. Nothstein
Holly Sell
Andrew J. Hollywood
William Gallagher

Jenny Y.C. Cheng Esq., Solicitor
Don Herrmann, Mayor
Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Autumn Canfield, Manager/Secretary
Christal Benninger, Recording Secretary

Absent: Cory Kepner
Kris W. Hoffner

VISITORS

Stacy Hollywood, 320 Smith Avenue; Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Bernie & Debby Shea, 317 Smith Avenue; Marjorie and Joseph Federanich, 418 Princeton Avenue; Terry Arner, Times News reporter; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 Cameraman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATIONS

On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Proclamation recognizing Shea's hardware for their commitment to the community for over sixty years through multiple generations, providing goods and services to its customers.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Joseph Federanich of 418 Princeton Avenue asked Council since there has been no talk or movement on the charging tables in the park, he considers this a dead subject. He is very upset and asked Council to reconsider allowing tractor trailers to park in the borough lots.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the September 28, 2023 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 that these are on file in the Borough Office for public inspection during regular business hours.

MANAGERS REPORT

Autumn Canfield reported:

1. The meetings for November and December will be held the first and Third Thursdays due to the holidays.
2. The Borough Office is still accepting letters of interest for the Quality-of-Life Board of Appeals.
3. Autumn Canfield advised Council she is working on the 2024 budget and will be adding a dedicated fire fund for 2024.

Budget Highlights

- a. Borough Buildings will be getting gutter and roof work done in 2024.
- b. The Arle Grant for the traffic signals on Delaware Avenue will be worked on in 2024.
- c. The Borough will be using CDBG Funds for Alley H & Alley J paving projects.
4. Andrew Hollywood asked about Railroad Alley on why it was not paved all the way. It was not paid due to Anticipated work by UGI.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 707-23, LSA grant for the Police facility.
2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 708-23, LSA grant for the Library building.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell had no report.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Constenbader, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the following use request. The approval is subject to scheduling and availability.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Tamantha Kress	Bandstand	Wedding
Palmerton Youth Basketball	Gym	Basketball Practice

PUBLIC SAFETY

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the appointment of a Junior Firefighter.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Nesquehoning Boroughs request for Fire Police.
3. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Leighton Boroughs request for Fire Police.
4. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Slatington Boroughs request for Fire Police.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Andrew Hollywood had no report.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the hiring of Larry Wallace and John Wilk for Leaf Collection at the rate of \$15 per hour.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved Kevin Buck, retroactive, as Officer in charge from October 2, 2023 through October 6, 2023 in the absence of Chief Tim Kromer
3. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council accepted the resignation of Councilman Cory Kepner.
4. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council will accept letters of intent for the open Council seat from October 26, 2023 until November 6, 2023.

5. On motion by Terry Constenbarder, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council entered into executive session at 7:24 PM to discuss personnel. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 8:00 PM.

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 Palmerton Halloween Parade with a special thanks to BRC TV-13 for their outstanding coverage of the event. It is a great community event and I appreciate all the local organizations that participated.
2. Halloween will be held on Saturday October 28th from 6-8PM. Drivers, please be cautious of children crossing the streets; children and parents, please cross at intersections and crosswalks and well lite areas. Officers will be patrolling on bikes and patrol cars to ensure community safety.
3. The Bethany Wesleyan Church on Delaware Avenue will be hosting free pickle ball on Wednesday nights from 6:30 –7:45 PM. This is a great way to exercise and learn a new sport. Also, the Police Department is collecting canned goods at the station until Nov 14th to help those in our community during the holidays.
4. A special thanks to Pencor Services for their donation of a new dell laptop to the police department. This will be used exclusively to view the cameras at the bandstand in the park on a 24-hour basis.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. Officer Leadbetter and Chief Kromer recently completed the Taser Instructor Certification Course hosted by Lehigh Township Police Department. It was my third re-certification and Officer Leadbetter's first certification. We now have at least one officer, other than me, certified to instruct mandatory training or qualification allowing us to keep all our training in-house.
2. The Police Department participated in the SS Palmer and Parkside evacuation drills on October 20th. Thank you to Principal Andrews and the PASD for including us in this exercise. It is a great opportunity for positive student/officer interaction and makes all of us more prepared in the event of an emergency.

3. Have a safe and fun trick or treat night. Drivers, please slow down and watch out for pedestrians. Trick or Treaters, please watch for cars and use the sidewalks and crosswalks. Palmerton PD will be handing out candy at the station's Fourth Street entrance.
4. Jim Thorpe and Lehighon Police Departments have challenged Palmerton Police Department to collect the most non-perishable food items for the 4th Annual Give a Gobbler event. Donations can be made in the lobby of the Police Department and the Borough Hall between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday through November 14th. Thank you in advance for your participation and let's beat Jim Thorpe and Lehighon this year!
5. 2024 National Night Out will be held August 6, 2024. Thank you to Blue Ridge Communications for being the primary sponsor and for their dedication to our community. Anyone interested in participating or sponsoring the event, please contact the Palmerton Police Department.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Holly Sell thanked everyone involved in the safety school drill in October.
2. Holly Sell thanked the Fire Department for their involvement in Fire Safety week at both SS Palmer and Parkside Elementary schools in October.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christal M. Benninger
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary