REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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 PM, with the following members present:

Terry Costenbader, President
Kris Hoffner, Council Vice-President
Richard Nothstein
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher
Timothy "T.J." Gursky, Jr.

Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor
Timothy Kromer, Chief of Police
Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent:
Holly Sell
John "Bo" Rodrigues, Mayor

VISITORS

Jonathan Siller, 1033 Fourth Street; Richard Parrish, Impact Environmental; Susan Olivia, 1036 Circle Drive; Maynard Silliman, 605 Franklin Avenue; Londa Ritchey, Save Carbon County; Marcy Zelinsky (PMPA), 133 Columbia Avenue; Danielle Jones, 300 Edgemont Avenue; Scott Semmel, 1005 Charles Street; Faith Gruber, Palmerton; Ron Valish, 901 Delaware Avenue; Kim Balliet, Palmerton; Jared Cebrosky, 104 Kaysea Lane, Lehighton; Andrew Hunadi, 85 Princeton Avenue; Drew Snowberger, TV-13; Terry Arner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

Impact Environmental Question/Answer:

Rich Parrish of Impact Environmental provided a question-and-answer session to address public concerns over the Northface project. Council began by thanking him for attending the meeting and proceeded with questions. Andrew Hollywood asked for an update on the Route 248 entrance project to which Rich Parrish said there was nothing to report. This required permission before development and would be a part of the developer's application to construct. Councilman Hollywood asked to have the area inspected for roadway debris after being told by Rich Parrish that the trucks are not required to be washed before leaving the site. He also advised Andrew Hollywood to provide written requests to obtain truck weight slips after being questioned on the number of overweight trucks entering the project site.

Kris Hoffner asked Rich Parrish to explain the fill permit to the public. He explained that the regulated fill, which is the material that has been covering the site thus far, is permitted. It is high-quality material that comes from highly regulated projects and is tested for approval. It is used to cap the grading to prevent the contaminated soil from being exposed or dug into upon development. Clean fill does not require a permit and will be used as the final overlay. He believes completion will happen within two years.

Jared Cebrosky, a former Palmerton resident, asked what is causing the strong, pungent smell of the soil currently being trucked in. Mr. Parrish relayed it is substance from a dredging project that has been mixed with a cement material to be solid enough to spread and has a light organic odor associated with it. He has been around the area of the odor complaints and has not smelled the strong scent residents are complaining of.

Londa Ritchie, a representative of Save Carbon County, asked Rich Parrish what gives him the certainty that the project will wrap up within two years and what happens with non-compliant trucks. He informed her that most of the areas of the site are up to grade and he is very confident the fill will not continue beyond 2029. The trucks that try to enter the site overweight are placed into a "penalty box" and are required to sit an hour for the first offense and two hours for the second offense. He feels this is ample enforcement as truck drivers work from a schedule and do not like to sit idle. Ms. Ritchie also asked when the last time was that DEP sampled the soil. Rich Parrish did not know but noted there is nothing preventing them from coming.

Danielle Jones of 300 Edgemont Avenue feels that Mr. Parrish is grossly under rating the odor and is not only in the area of the project but can be smelled on Third Street and Harvard Avenue as well as traveling on Route 248. She also questioned what happens if the next regulated fill extension is not granted. He did not know.

Maynard Silliman of 605 Franklin Avenue asked if there was any silt being applied to the ground and when there may be construction started. Rich Parrish advised there is nothing but dirt being used and there is no developer at this point.

A resident of Mauch Chunk Road is concerned with the hill behind the 700 block of Mauch Chunk Road, saying it is getting taller with dirt and seems excessive. She also spoke with DEP who informed her the hauling of the foul-smelling material should be complete within five and a half weeks. Mr. Parrish told her the area she is referring to is at its maximum height and he doesn't know why DEP would give her that timeline of the dredging, that they are only halfway with bringing in that material.

Andrew Hunadi of 85 Princeton Avenue is frustrated as a resident of Palmerton saying they were promised something for 15-20 years and have nothing. Rich Parrish relayed that some of the area is ready to go and can be built on, but they need to get the entire site to elevation so it can be sold as a whole, adding it is on the market for sale. Mr. Hunadi feels the owner is producing a lot of revenue at the expense of Borough residents and asked what is preventing them from donating to the town of Palmerton, citing a community impact fee of one dollar per truck for example. Mr. Parrish advised the owner has costs associated with testing, certifications, engineering, etc., but will pass along the suggestion.

Councilman and resident T.J. Gursky also has an issue with the odor of the latest fill being trucked in and asked for an estimated end date to this material. Rich Parrish feels it will wrap up sometime this winter. Mr. Gursky commented that DEP is not relaying the same information. This was the end of the Northface project question and answer session.

Jared Cebrosky, 104 Kaysea Lane, Lehighton, mentioned the amount of data center meetings around the area and asked if the Borough would be attending any for informational purposes. Autumn Canfield advised she and Terry Costenbader attended the most recent meeting for the proposed Lower Towamensing data center and reviewed the curative amendment. She also believes they will be attending the upcoming meeting as well.

Danielle Jones of 300 Edgemont Avenue asked if anyone from Council will be speaking in opposition of it. Terry Costenbader will see what is being proposed and go from there. Kris Hoffner informed her Council is opposed to it as it could affect our water supply.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the August 27, 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.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Autumn Canfield reported:

1. The Borough has been awarded $300,000 in statewide LSA funds for the purchase of Fire Department radios.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved ` the Police Pension Fund 2027 Minimum Municipal Obligation in the amount of $303,473 and the Non-Uniformed Pension Fund 2027 Minimum Municipal Obligation in the amount of $181,208.

2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council adopted Resolution 762-26 approving application to LSA Monroe Grant program for Railroad Alley repairs. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

3. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adopted Resolution 763-26 approving application to LSA Monroe Grant program for sewer improvements. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council had the first reading and authorized advertisement of Ordinance 791 enacting a rental ordinance.

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council tabled the PMPA request regarding leased homes.

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
Carbon Elite Volleyball	Gym	Volleyball practice
Festival Committee	Park	2027 Community Festival

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council denied the request to display a time capsule on Borough property.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner had no report.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

T.J. Gursky reported:

1. On motion by T.J. Gursky, second by William Gallagher and voice vote, Council had the first reading and authorized advertisement of Ordinance 792 for installation of a handicap parking space.

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 the hiring of two seasonal leaf collectors at a rate of $15 per hour.

2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved membership of a junior firefighter to the Palmerton Municipal Fire Company.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

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

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

No report.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

1. The Palmerton Halloween Parade will be held on Sunday, October 18th at 4 PM. The rain date is Monday, October 19th at 6 PM.

2. Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 31st from 6-8 PM. I would like to remind everyone to 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.

3. National Night Out is only 313 short days away. It will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2027.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council adjourned their regular meeting at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Borough Manager