

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

Terry L. Costenbader, President	Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor
Kris W. Hoffner, Vice-President	Don J. Herrmann, Mayor
Richard L. Nothstein	Timothy Kromer, Police Chief
Holly F. Hausman Sell	Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
Andrew J. Hollywood	Christal Benninger, Recording Secretary
William A. Gallagher	
Randolph Gursky	

VISITORS

Dennis Behler, 512 Lafayette Avenue; Bo Rodrigues, 523 Franklin Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Drew Snowbereger, TV-13 Cameraman; Terry Ahner, Times News; Kyle Behler, 512 Lafayette Avenue; Charlie Kistler, Dyanne Kistler, 443 Lehigh Avenue; Avery Thomas, 365 Lehigh Avenue; Kameron Behler, 727 Franklin Avenue; Jason Behler, 727 Franklin Avenue, TJ Gursky, 812 Edgemont Avenue; Sean Jahelka, 443 Lehigh Avenue; Rob Sell, 909 Charles Street.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. TJ Gursky of 812 Edgemont Avenue reported the streetlight on his street, near the water towers, has been out for 5 plus months now and has benn reported multiple times. The light near the old train station on Mauch Chunk Road is also out. Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager, said that she will speak with our Street Supervisor and see if they were on the prior list to be fixed.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council approved the August 28, 2025 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.

MANAGER'S REPORT

No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$293,558 and the Non-Uniformed Pension Fund in the amount of \$156,746.
2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 741-25 approving application to LSA Monroe Grant program for a street sweeper. A copy of the Resolution is attached to these minutes.
3. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote (Kris Hoffner abstained), Council approved Resolution 742-25 approving application to LSA Monroe Grant program for repairs to the Library. A copy of the Resolution is attached to these minutes.
4. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the bid for Mucibid auction of Car 51 for \$4,100.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved to bring back to the table the Little White Church parking lot project pertaining to the CDBG funds.
2. On motion by Holly Sell, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council denied the Little White Church parking lot project pertaining to the CDBG funds.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by and voice vote, Council approved the following use requests. The approvals are subject to scheduling and availability:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Bethany Wesleyan Church	Bandstand	Outdoor Service - retroactive
PASD PTO	Park	Fun Run
Bo Tkach Foundation	Park	Turkey Trot 5-K

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved Ordinance 785, amending Chapter 64, Outdoor Burning. A copy of the Ordinance is attached to these minutes.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved, retroactively, Kevin Buck as Officer in Charge from September 8, 2025, through September 12, 2025, in the absence of Chief Timothy Kromer.
3. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nostein and voice vote, Council approved the Halloween Parade for October 19, 2025.

#### STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Randolph Gursky had no report.

#### SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

#### PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein, Council authorized the hiring of two seasonal employees, Larry Wallace and Keith Seltzer for leaf collection 2025 at a rate of \$15.00 per hour.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein Council approved the resignation of part-time custodian Cindy Roberts, effective September 30, 2025.
3. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein, Council authorized the hiring of Dennis Rupert as a part-time custodian for the Police Department.
4. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote (Andrew Hollywood abstained), Council appointed and swore in Sean Jahelka and Kameron Behler to the Fire Department.

#### 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

Don Herrmann reported:

1. Thank you to Council Vice-President Kris Hoffner for giving the opening remarks at the Palmerton Community Festival in my absence, it was very much appreciated. Also, thank you to the organizers of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Palmerton Community Festival held at the Borough Park from Sept 5 through September 7, 2025. The weather held off, and it was a great time for friends and families to come out and enjoy the rides, music and food. Most importantly local community businesses and organizations raised money that will all go back into the community during the next year.
2. In the past few months, the Police Department and the Mayor have received numerous calls from residents regarding abandoned bikes in parks, alleys and sidewalks. If you have lost a bike, please call the Police Department at 610-826-4055 to see if they have it at the station. I also believe residents can register bikes at no cost. This will help the police find the right owners.
3. A reminder to all residents, especially motorists, to slow down in school zones and obey posted speed limit signs in town. Also, please yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, it is a state law.
4. The Pacemakers annual car show will be in the Park this weekend, Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Let's hope for nice weather. It is a great event for the community. The Palmerton Halloween Parade will be held on Sunday October 19, 2025, and I hopefully once again will be announcing the parade live on Blue Ridge Cable TV13 at 4PM. A special thanks to Lisa Tupper and Allstate Insurance for their contribution to the Halloween parade, which will help with cost of candy that I will be giving out along the parade route. Lastly, Trick or Treat will be held on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 - 8:00 PM. Please leave your porch light on if you intend to hand out candy. Drivers please be extra cautious while driving around town. Trick or Treaters, please cross at intersections and try to stay in well-lit areas.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. This week, Officer Green and I are attending the AAIR (Active Attack Integrated Response) Instructor Course. AAIR is part of the ALERRT series of training. It is the national and state standard for active shooter response. The course integrates responses between police, fire, Ems, and dispatch.
2. In September Officer Stern, Officer Green, and Chief Kromer completed the Tactical Medical Instructor Course, which is presented by FLETC (Federal Law Enforcement Training Center). Our department hosted the course at the Carbon County EOTC. The certification allows us to instruct other officers in providing critical medical care to other officers in the event of a serious injury in a law enforcement incident.
3. Earlier in September, Officer Leadbetter and Chief Kromer were recertified as Axon Taser Instructors at a course hosted by Lehigh Township Police Department.
4. 2026 National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 in Borough Park from 6 – 8:00 PM. If you are interested in participating in or sponsoring the event, please contact me.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council entered into executive session at 7:18 PM to discuss litigation: index #000444/2025. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council reconvened the regular meeting at 7:26 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Holly Sell and voice vote, Council adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christal M. Benninger  
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield  
Borough Manager