

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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
Richard L. Nothstein
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher
Randolph Gursky

Don J. Herrmann, Mayor
Timothy Kromer, Police Detective
Autumn Canfield, Borough Manager
Kim Rodrigues, Recording Secretary

Absent: Kris W. Hoffner, Vice-President
Holly Hausman Sell
Jenny Y.C. Cheng, Solicitor

VISITORS

Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Jesse Ziegler, 760 Mauch Chunk Road; Zachary George, 1540 Little Gap Road, Palmerton; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Clare Papay, 1002 Third Street; Marlena Blodgett, 847 Delaware Avenue; Josh Kreitzer; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 Cameramen; Terry Ahner, Times News.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the August 22, 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. Updating residents on the PFAS notifications, Autumn Canfield relayed the Borough is working with DEP and is waiting for a proposal from their Technical Assistance Program consultant for review by the Municipal Authority.
2. Work continues to establish a rental ordinance in the Borough by the new year.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$280,326 and the Non-Uniformed Pension Fund in the amount of \$153,390.
2. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council approved Resolution 721-24 approving application, in partnership with the Palmerton Library, for an LSA Grant for building renovations. 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 Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the release of subdivision financial security funds back to Ramsey Palmerton LLC.

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>
Katrina Sanabria	Bandstand	Wedding

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein 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>
Palmerton Democratic Club	Council Chambers	Meetings
Palmerton Youth Basketball	Gym	Basketball Practice/Games

3. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the proposal from MKSD Architects for the Pool Feasibility Study, not to exceed \$59,820.

PUBLIC SAFETY

William Gallagher reported:

1. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved handicapped parking requests at 411 Fourth Street and 336 Lehigh Avenue.
2. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Halloween Parade request for Sunday, October 20, 2024, with a rain date of Monday, October 21, 2024.
3. On motion by William Gallagher, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the request from Penn Forest Township Volunteer Fire Company for coverage on November 2, 2024 from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

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 and voice vote, Council approved the hiring of John Wilk and Larry Wallace at a rate of \$15.00 per hour for leaf collection.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council appointed Jesse Ziegler to the Palmerton Municipal Fire Company Fire Police.

Mayor Herrmann performed the swearing-in of the newly appointed Fire Police member.

3. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council entered into an Executive Session at 7:10 PM to discuss personnel. On motion by Randolph Gursky, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council reconvened the regular meeting at 7:28 PM.

4. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the hiring of Amie Barclay as a Part-time Police Officer contingent upon completion of a physical and psychological examination.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

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

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Don Herrmann reported:

1. Congratulations to the Northern Lehigh football team for defeating our Palmerton Blue Bombers last Friday. Even though it was a crushing and sound defeat, the night was a huge success for Northern Lehigh and Palmerton food pantries. Thank you for all donations from the two local communities. It is much appreciated and a huge help for the needy especially around the holidays. A special thanks to Keller Williams Realty, the Aquashicola and Palmerton Fire Companies, the Palmerton Football Parents club, the Palmerton Football Booster Club and the Palmerton Cheerleaders for their help. Again, thank you to Jim Christman for using his box truck to transport the huge amount of canned goods to the respective food pantries.

Also, a huge shout out to Mayor Jeralyn Schock of Slatington for helping with the collection and for promoting the event. Slatington, as you all know, is a great borough. They have a great market and farmers market, they have one of the finer pools in the area with the Northern Lehigh Swimming Pool, they have a great concert band shell, and they even have their own airport. Slatington is most known for their contribution of slate which is used in slate roofs and in school chalkboards. Without Slatington, who knows how students across the world would have been educated. Slatington is definitely a great place to live and is good hands with the current mayor. Thanks again Mayor!!!

2. A reminder to the community that Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday October 26th from 6pm-8pm and have your porch light on if you are handing out candy. Drivers please be extra cautious while driving throughout town.
3. The Palmerton Halloween Parade will be held on Sunday October 20th and I will once again 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 the cost of candy that myself and the police hand out along the parade route.
4. Thank you to organizers of the 35th Annual Palmerton Community Festival held in the Borough Park September 6th through 8th. The weather held off which made a great time for friends and families to come out to enjoy the rides, music and food. Most importantly local community businesses and organizations raised money that will go back into the community during the next year.
5. Thank you to Officers Leadbetter and Green, Borough Manager Canfield and Chief Kromer for their hard work in obtaining a grant for new body cameras and dash cameras for our Police department. This equipment will improve our department and keep the public and our officers safe.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. The grant application through the PCCD to upgrade the body cameras and vehicle cameras has been approved. We have been awarded the full amount of \$137,193, which covers the entire five-year camera plan. This will allow us to transition to Axon BWCs and MVRs, which are the highest quality cameras available. The transition will allow us to eliminate the numerous issues we had with our current cameras, including hardware issues, software issues, camera quality, durability, and loss of evidence. Our MVRs also incorporate a license plate reader into the system, which will greatly improve officer awareness and safety. The entire system also works in conjunction with our Taser CEWs. A huge thank you to Patrolman Green, Patrolman Leadbetter, and the Borough Manager for their assistance in securing this grant funding.
2. 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

1. Kristine Keblish of 522 Lafayette Avenue addressed Council with her concern about the presence of PFAS in the water and asked if there was a plan to remedy. Autumn Canfield advised the Borough is working with DEP who is requiring a feasibility study and does not allow for immediate remediation. The Borough is waiting for a proposal from a Technical Assistance Program, a program that through DEP will provide the needed information to move forward. Ms. Keblish asked Council if they would consider reimbursing residents who would purchase their own filtration systems. Andrew Hollywood relayed it may be worthwhile to contact Representative Heffley's office for options.

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