

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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
Kris W. Hoffner, Council Vice-President
Richard L. Nothstein
Andrew J. Hollywood
William A. Gallagher

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

Absent: Holly Sell
Cory Kepner

VISITORS

Raberta and Jeremy Hans, 435 Franklin Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Lisa Snell Kern, 220 Edgemont Avenue; Marjorie and Joseph Federanich, 418 Princeton Avenue; Terry Arner, Times News reporter; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 Cameraman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATIONS

Kris Hoffner read proclamations recognizing St. John's United Church of Christ for celebrating its two hundred and twenty fifth anniversary and the Borough of Palmerton for its hundred and twenty fifth anniversary.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Joseph Federanich of 418 Princeton Avenue asked Council if the new No Parking sign placed at the Borough Garage parking area is accurate and why they have decided to no longer allow residents with tractor trailers to temporarily park there. Autumn Canfield relayed it is against Borough regulations and the number of trucks, trailers and boats using the lot for parking is becoming out of hand. Chief Kromer added that no vehicle over one ton is permitted to park in a Borough owned lot. Kris Hoffner summed up the action as a situation that has been abused and now requires regulating. Raberta Hans of 435 Franklin Avenue feels Council needs to provide a solution to this problem and Marj Federanich added its difficult to get any cooperation from the Borough and is not happy with the direction town is headed.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the August 24, 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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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. Tax exemption was received for the repository property recently acquired by Palmerton Borough as a result of a recent hearing in Carbon County Court.
2. The Borough Office is still accepting letters of interest for the Quality-of-Life Board of Appeals.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved a revised Non-Uniformed Pension Fund 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation amount of \$124,578.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote (Kris Hoffner abstained), Council approved Resolution 706-23 authorizing the Borough as a signer for an LSA grant application in partnership with the Palmerton Library, requesting \$1,000,000 in funding for building renovations. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein 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>
Palmerton PTO	Park	Halloween Parade (K-6)

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council retroactively approved the request from Albrightsville Volunteer Fire Company for fire department coverage on September 23, 2023, from 1:30 to 10:00 PM.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the Halloween Parade request for Sunday, October 15, 2023, with a rain date of Monday, October 16, 2023.
3. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the request for assistance from Palmerton High School for a cross country meet.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Andrew Hollywood reported:

1. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council approved the request from Shoenbergers Meat Market to provide a food truck on Friday and Saturday evenings from 9:00 to 11:00 PM during the Halls of Horror event, locating to the east of the ticket booth.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

William Gallagher had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader had no report.

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. A reminder to all residents to be cautious when receiving calls from scammers requesting money for a loved one that has gotten in trouble. The PA State Police recommend hanging up immediately and call your loved ones directly. Do not send money, gift cards, or drop money off at a pickup site or a courier.
2. The Palmerton Halloween parade will be held on Sunday October 15th. Please remove your vehicles along the parade route or they will be towed. 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 try to stay in well lit areas.
3. A special thanks to the Jim Thorpe School District and Mayor Mike Sofranko for a great turnout at our annual canned good drive at the Palmerton/Jim Thorpe football game. It was an exciting game and more importantly, our local food pantries benefited from the generosity of Palmerton and Jim Thorpe Residents.
4. Congratulations to Bernie and Debbie Shea on their retirement. Thank you also to their employees. Shea's will be missed greatly for the service they have provided over the last 70 years and above all will be missed for their generosity and always giving back to the Palmerton community.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. The Ford Police Interceptors that were ordered last September are scheduled for production mid-November, with an estimated 3–4-week delivery time frame. Once received, they will go for upfit at Lehigh Valley Fleet Solutions and for graphics at Jet Signs.
2. On September 9th I participated in the demonstration and tour of the new Carbon County Emergency Operations and Training Center and want to thank Councilman Kepner and Borough Manager Autumn Canfield for their attendance at the event. It was a great opportunity to showcase the world class training we can conduct there and demonstrate the cohesion between County law enforcement agencies. It also displayed the vital importance of the training center and the results from the continued support of all municipalities involved.
3. Palmerton Police Department participated in the Second Annual First Responders Awareness Event hosted by Carbon County Chamber of Commerce on September 21st at the Mahoning Drive In. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the event.
4. The 2024 National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 and we look forward to building on the success of this year's event. Anyone interested in participating or sponsoring the event, contact the Palmerton Police Department.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. William Gallagher reminded residents to be careful on wet roads at this time of year with the falling leaves.
2. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Andrew Hollywood and voice vote, Council entered into executive session at 7:35 PM to discuss personnel. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and voice vote, Council reconvened their regular meeting at 7:54 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Autumn Canfield
Manager/Secretary