

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
 Tuesday January 23, 2018
 7:00 PM

Borough Council President Beth Shearer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Palmyra Municipal Center, located at 325 S. Railroad St. Other Council members in attendance included Don Barry, Josh Holl, Carissa Mellinger, Jane Quairoli, Mark Smith, and Joe Templin. Also in attendance were Mayor Fred Carpenter, Police Chief Stan Jasinski, Borough Manager Roger Powl, and Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera.

Public Comments

- Gary Laudermilch, 30 W. Ridge Road, implied that Borough Management was not abiding by the personnel policies. When asked to give more specific information, he refused to comment further. He also complained that he doesn't like waiting a month to comment on agenda items and wants a second public comment opportunity at meetings.
- Maddie Reed, 233 E. Hazel Street, inquired as to why the Borough isn't picking up Christmas trees as advertised and why it takes 4 men to take down the holiday lights.
- Bill Zeiders, 333 E. Main Street, explained that the Public Works Superintendent treats contractors working for the Borough "like dogs." He doesn't feel that Mayor Carpenter has the right to talk during Council discussions. He believes that all the stop signs in the Borough are not installed at the legal required height. He believes the Borough Engineer shouldn't be conducting "compaction" tests at the new Cherry Street detention basin when the ground is frozen. He reported that two sinkholes developed in the new Cherry Street detention basin today. Doesn't understand why the Police Department would issue a citation to a person for parking more than 12-inches from a curb when they knew the person stopped quickly to help extinguish a fire. Agreed that there is not enough public comment opportunity provided to the public.

Consent Calendar

The following agenda items were acted upon by a single motion:

- a. Approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018 Borough Council meeting.
- b. Approve payment of all bills listed on the December 2017 Bill's List.
- c. Approve the Treasurer's Report for the period December 1 through December 31, 2017:

	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Refuse Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Special Sewer Fund	Liquid Fuels Fund
YTD Revenue	\$3,313,291	\$1,334,960	\$1,005,211	\$466,650	\$96,799	\$221,562
YTD Expenses	\$2,905,453	\$1,529,301	\$986,853	\$670,073	\$73,362	\$15,211
Difference	\$407,838	\$(194,341)	\$18,359	\$(203,423)	\$23,437	\$206,351
Fund Balance	\$1,922,120	\$347,568	\$283,105	\$1,081,036	\$2,281,450	\$527,315

	Library Fund	Police Health Care Fund	Town Square Reserve Fund	Joint Fire Apparatus Fund	Cemetery Fund
YTD Revenue	\$28,980	\$44,132	\$12	\$40,760	\$682
YTD Expenses	\$28,000	\$26,168	\$0	\$0	\$0
Difference	\$991	\$17,964	\$12	\$40,760	\$682
Fund Balance	\$2,649	\$189,562	\$4,746	\$323,778	\$41,052

Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Carissa Mellinger. Motion passed.

Action & Discussion Items

- a. Ordinance #783 – Motor Vehicles & Traffic – Handicap Parking Spaces: Mr. Powl advised Council that the Ordinance is advertised for action at the 2/13 meeting.
- b. Act 172 – Volunteer Firefighter Tax Relief Ordinance: Councilor Quairoli recommended that the Borough hold off on this ordinance due to the cumbersome nature of implementation and the few people it would benefit. Council agreed to postpone further discussion on this until a future time.
- c. Resolution #2018-17 – Extend the term of Alison Hoff - Trustee to the Palmyra Area Education Foundation (Cougar Foundation):

Motion: To approve Resolution #2018-17, a resolution extending the term of Alison Hoff as a Trustee of the Palmyra Area Education Foundation (Cougar Foundation) to expire on June 30, 2020. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Mark Smith. Motion passed.

- d. Resolution #2018-18 – Appoint Aimee Bergner as a Trustee to the Palmyra Area Education Foundation (Cougar Foundation):

Motion: To approve Resolution #2018-18, a resolution appointing Aimee Bergner as a Trustee of the Palmyra Area Education Foundation (Cougar Foundation), whose term shall expire December 31, 2020. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Mark Smith. Motion passed.

- e. Resolution #2018-19 – Appoint Tanya Beauparlant as a Trustee to the Palmyra Area Education Foundation (Cougar Foundation):

Motion: To approve Resolution #2018-19, a resolution appointing Tanya Beauparlant as a Trustee of the Palmyra Area Education Foundation (Cougar Foundation), whose term shall expire December 31, 2020. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Mark Smith. Motion passed.

Reports

- a. President’s Report: President Shearer reminded Council that there is a vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board, and the Borough also still needs a GLRA representative.
- b. Library Report: Councilor Quairoli presented the January 2018 Library Report. She also highlighted the upcoming Wine, Chocolate & a Good Book fundraiser on February 8th from 6-8 PM.
- c. Police Department:
 1. “Safe Trading Station” – Palmyra Police Dept/Municipal Building: Mayor Carpenter reached out to the Safe Trading Station contacts and has not received a return phone call. He asked to table this issue until the next Council meeting.
- d. Solicitor’s Report: There was no report from the Solicitor.
- e. Zoning Hearing Board: No hearings were conducted in January.
- f. Borough Manager’s Report:
 1. 300 Block E. Cherry St / 100 Block S. Grant St Stormwater & Road Restoration Project: Mr. Powl checked on the basin around Noon on 1/23 because of the heavy rain in the morning. The basin was about 1/3 full of water. Subsequently, a sinkhole opened at the bottom of the basin and Mr. Powl notified the engineers and the contractor.

Mr. Powl also refuted the accusation by Mr. Zeiders that compaction testing was done on a 9⁰ day by explaining that the engineer was collecting samples for a clay permeability test.

2. Phase A Stormwater Management System: (north of railroad tracks - west of N. Grant St.) Mr. Powl reported that Representative Ryan is still working on a meeting for the solicitors from the Borough, School District and The Hershey Company.
3. 2009 Stormwater Phasing Plan: Council discussed the 2009 storm water phasing plan and decided to revisit the plan to determine what area the Borough should focus on next.
4. New Public Works Garage: Mr. Powl informed Council that the contractor has ordered the Nucor Building and it should be delivered by the end of April. The contractor is planning to break ground in March if the weather permits.
5. Palmyra Area School District (PASD) – Artificial Athletic Turf Field Project: Mr. Powl reported that Borough staff and the Borough engineer met with PASD representatives and their engineers to discuss the turf field project. The PASD will need to go before the Zoning Hearing Board because they are adding more impervious surface with sidewalks and a small concession stand. The PASD engineer brought a sample of the turf field and the foundation showing its construction. The contractor will be using non-compacted stone for drainage under the field and the shock absorption layer allows water to pass through to the stone layer. As constructed, the turf is considered pervious.

Mr. Powl also mentioned that no land plan will be needed for updating these field areas because the PASD proposal does not meet the definition of “land development” in the Borough’s Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance. A fully engineered storm water management plan will be required to be submitted to the Borough Engineer for review and approval. PASD is planning to send all the water from the trench drains under the turf fields to the injection well located at the rear of the Middle School parking lot along S. Locust Street. Mr. Powl did caution PASD that this injection well may need to be examined and possibly drilled deeper because it is currently causing sinkhole problems along S. Locust Street.

6. Mr. Powl reported that a sinkhole had opened in the first block of North Franklin Street close to an old undocumented injection well. The sinkhole is approximately 8 ft. wide and 8 ft. deep. Mr. Powl contacted Dr. Seaton of ARM Group to see if he had any data of the area from previous testing. Dr. Seaton did have some data that shows a good area to drill a deeper replacement injection well further to the north, but he thought it would be wise to test the area immediately around the sinkhole area to determine if a bigger problem exists to determine the appropriate permanent repair methods. The cost of this testing would be between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Motion: To authorize the Borough Manager to execute the proposal from ARM Group in the amount not to exceed \$6,000 for a geophysical evaluation on the first block of North Franklin Street and to expense the cost of the proposal from Capital Reserve Fund budget line item #30.446.371. Motion by Carissa Mellinger, second by Don Barry. Motion passed.

Other Business

Council discussed and agreed to add a second public comment period to the agenda of each meeting.

Public Comments

- Bill Zeiders, 333 E. Main St, complained that the refuse crew was not collecting any of the allotted number of bags when they place stickers on refuse for being over the required 3-bag per week limit. Council asked Mr. Powl to look into this allegation.

- Gary Laudermilch, 30 W. Ridge Road, expressed his willingness to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board or GLRA. He feels letters of accommodation should be given to the Officers who were on duty during the time of the fire at the Mark Hershey Farms, Inc. location at 475 E. High Street. He also feels an appreciation plaque should be presented to the volunteer fire department each year by Borough Council.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct a public meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 and on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Jane Quairolì, second by Mark Smith. The meeting adjourned at 8:32PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager