

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
 Tuesday November 26, 2019
 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, Tom Miller, Jane Quairoli, Jim Tesche, and Joe Templin. Also, in attendance Borough Manager Roger Powl, Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera, Mayor Fred Carpenter and Police Chief Andrew Winters.

Public Comment Period #1

There were no public comments.

Consent Calendar

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Borough Council meeting.
- b. Approve the Treasurer's Report for the period October 1 through October 31, 2019:

	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Refuse Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Special Sewer Fund	Liquid Fuels Fund
YTD Revenue	\$3,241,603	\$1,601,690	\$1,081,259	\$623,087	\$343,476	\$244,499
YTD Expenses	\$3,608,647	\$1,604,754	\$1,029,338	\$695,385	\$112,798	\$641,966
Difference	\$(367,043)	\$(3,064)	\$51,921	\$(72,298)	\$230,678	\$(397,467)
Fund Balance	\$1,066,529	\$693,534	\$459,053	\$1,476,990	\$1,672,539	\$336,970

	Library Fund	Police Health Care Fund	Town Square Reserve Fund	Joint Fire Apparatus Fund	Cemetery Fund	Employee Benefits Fund
YTD Revenue	\$28,990	\$42,136	\$64	\$61,846	\$795	\$114,440
YTD Expenses	\$30,000	\$23,001	\$0	\$420,018	\$0	\$40,596
Difference	\$(1,010)	\$19,135	\$64	\$(358,172)	\$795	\$73,845
Fund Balance	\$921	\$217,682	\$3,925	\$20,127	\$42,584	\$103,077

Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Don Barry. Motion passed.

Action & Discussion Items

- a. 2020 Preliminary Budget Discussion: Council was pleased that the budget deficit was reduced to only require a .27-mill tax increase which was down from the .85 increase projected in the draft preliminary budget. After additional budget discussion, Council agreed to only offer the Lieutenant test to in-house candidates, therefore, the Lieutenant salary could be removed from the police department budget reducing the need for a tax increase to .27-mills.

Motion: To authorize the Borough Manager to advertise the 2020 Preliminary Budget and to make the 2020 Preliminary Budget available for the required 10-day public review period pursuant to Section §1308(a) of the Borough Code for final consideration of the Budget to occur at the Thursday December 19, 2019 Borough Council meeting.

Motion by Tom Miller, second by Don Barry. Motion passed by a 5-1-1 vote with Jane Quairoli voting against the motion. Josh Holl abstained from the vote because of the potential for him to benefit from the Fire Department incentive program.

- b. Ordinance #798 – 2020 Real Estate Tax Ordinance: (Only if a tax increase is proposed)

*Motion: To authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise Ordinance #798, the 2020 Real Estate Tax Ordinance, to set the real estate tax rate pursuant to Section §1310.1 of the Borough Code for the Year 2020 at the following rates:
Real Estate Tax = 3.45 mills; Public Library Tax = .06 mills*

Motion by Tom Miller, second by Jim Tesche. Motion passed by a 5-1-1 vote with Jane Quairoli voting against the motion. Josh Holl abstained from the vote because of the potential for him to benefit from the Fire Department incentive program.

- c. Ordinance #799 – Vehicles & Traffic - Add Truck Traffic Prohibitions:

Motion: To authorize the Borough Solicitor to advertise Ordinance #799, an ordinance to restrict truck traffic on E. Poplar Street, E. Cedar Street, E. Hazel Street, and E. Spruce Street between N. Railroad Street and N. Chestnut Street, except for local deliveries. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Joe Templin. Motion passed.

Reports

- a. President's Report: President Shearer reported that the parade was a good time and thanked PAHA for their coordination.
- b. Library Report: Councilor Quairoli did not attend the Library Board meeting.
- c. Fire Department: Chief Dugan reported that the new tower is still not in service. They are considering using MuniBid to sell the old tower vehicle in the next few months.
- d. Police Department: Chief Winters provided a copy of the October report. He commented that there were no incidents during the parade and was informed that the plans have begun for next year. Chief Winters held a community meeting on November 20th that was attended by eight residents. He also reported a warrant detail was conducted by the department and County Sheriff and they were able to apprehend five persons with outstanding warrants, and two later turned themselves in.

Chief Winters, Roger Powl, and Mayor Carpenter recently attended the first regional police study meeting with representatives from DCED and North Londonderry Twp. The concept of a regional department was well received, and discussions were positive. The study will be presented at an informational meeting for the elected officials on December 18th at 9:30 a.m. in the firehouse training room followed by a voluntary meeting for the officers of both municipalities at 1:00 p.m.

- e. Recreation Commission: Councilor Quairoli shared a copy of the November Director's Report.
- f. Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Cleary provided samples of short-term rental ordinances for Council to review. Council agreed that getting through the budget is a priority and tabled discussion on this issue until the January 23, 2020 meeting.

- g. Zoning Hearing Board: No hearings were conducted in November.
- h. Borough Manager's Report:
1. N. Duke Street Sinkhole Repair Status: Mr. Powl reported that the non-watertight manhole sections were dug out and replaced with watertight sections as requested. The contractor is still hoping to pave the excavation trenches this year, provided temperatures allow for that to occur. A cost to pave curb to curb still has not been provided.
 2. ShadowStone Zoning Map Amendment Request: Mr. Powl stated that the amendment is scheduled for action at the January 6th meeting.
 3. Plum Alley Sinkhole: Mr. Powl indicated that Compaction Grouting Service, Inc. is still hoping to be onsite to begin grouting operations the week after Thanksgiving. Beyond this information, Mr. Powl has not received any new updates.
 4. Mr. Powl reported a sinkhole started in West Walnut Street in front of the fire house. He had ARM Group, Inc. do a geophysical study in the area to determine if grouting would assist in permanently resolving the issue. Dr. Seaton reported to Mr. Powl that the rock elevations are higher in the area and an injection well may be a probability but, it does not appear to be a candidate for compaction grouting. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

Communications

Mr. Powl provided a copy of the PSAB Newly Elected Municipal Officials Bootcamp Flyer. Councilors Tesche, Miller and Holl would like to attend.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Public Comment Period #2

- Nancy Fleegle, 127 W Maple Street, asked about the requirements of the property manager for rental licenses.
- Doug Fleegle, 127 W Maple Street, commented that providing maintenance in the Borough comes at a cost and it is easier to swallow smaller tax increases that getting a larger one all at once. He cited the turnpike tolls as an example. He also commented that fixing E. Oak St at S. Forge St. will cost less than any potential liability if something should happen at that intersection and the Borough knowingly ignored the problem.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct a public meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 and on Thursday, December 19, 2019 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jane Quairola, second by Josh Holl. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager