

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
 Thursday December 19, 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, Tom Miller, Jane Quairola, Jim Tesche, and Joe Templin. Also, in attendance Borough Manager Roger Powl, Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera, and Police Chief Andrew Winters. Josh Holl and Mayor Fred Carpenter were absent from the meeting.

Announcements

President Shearer announced that Borough Council held an Executive Session at the conclusion of the Tuesday December 10th meeting to discuss a personnel issue as permitted by the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. Any official action resulting from the Executive Session will occur at a future public meeting.

Public Comment Period #1

The following individuals were in attendance to express their dissatisfaction with the rental license fee of \$50.00:

- Mike Blauch, 81 Augusta Drive, Palmyra PA
- Len Chimel, 1 N. Clearview Drive, Palmyra PA
- Steve Johnson, 15 Highland Drive, Palmyra PA

- Mr. Blauch also asked Council to reconsider how sewer rates are charged for rental units.

Consent Calendar

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Borough Council meeting.
- b. Approve the Treasurer's Report for the period November 1 through November 30, 2019:

	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Refuse Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Special Sewer Fund	Liquid Fuels Fund
YTD Revenue	\$3,478,030	\$1,735,058	\$1,130,540	\$625,517	\$345,022	\$245,055
YTD Expenses	\$3,758,964	\$1,773,074	\$1,071,034	\$697,637	\$116,368	\$670,834
Difference	\$(280,934)	\$(38,017)	\$59,506	\$(72,120)	\$228,654	\$(425,779)
Fund Balance	\$1,152,638	\$658,582	\$466,639	\$1,477,169	\$1,670,515	\$308,658

	Library Fund	Police Health Care Fund	Town Square Reserve Fund	Joint Fire Apparatus Fund	Cemetery Fund	Employee Benefits Fund
YTD Revenue	\$29,054	\$42,493	\$71	\$61,878	\$865	\$114,601
YTD Expenses	\$30,000	\$24,964	\$0	\$420,018	\$0	\$40,596
Difference	\$(946)	\$17,528	\$71	\$(358,139)	\$865	\$74,006
Fund Balance	\$985	\$216,075	\$3,932	\$20,160	\$42,655	\$103,238

Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Jane Quairola, second by Jim Tesche. Motion passed.

Action & Discussion Items

a. 2020 Final Budget Discussion:

Motion: To approve the 2020 Final Budget. Motion by Tom Miller, second by Jim Tesche. Motion passed.

b. Ordinance #798 – 2020 Real Estate Tax Ordinance:

Motion: To enact 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 = 3.39 mills; Public Library Tax = .06 mills. Motion by Don Barry, second by Jim Tesche. Motion passed.

Reports

a. President's Report: President Shearer wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

b. Library Report: Councilor Quairoli did not have a report because there was no meeting this month.

c. Fire Department: There was no report.

d. Police Department: Chief Winters provided a copy of the November 2019 report. He reported that he was elected Secretary for the Lebanon County Chiefs of Police Association.

Regional Police Study: Chief Winters and Mr. Powl outlined the regional police study presentation meeting held on December 18th. The presentation by the DCED consultant indicated that the merger is a strong possibility, both with personnel and financially, but it will take discussions between the two municipalities to agree on moving forward and how to implement the new department. Council was happy to hear that the possibility of merging was feasible and asked Mr. Powl to schedule a meeting with North Londonderry Township after the new year to begin the discussion.

e. Recreation Commission: The PARPC Director provided a copy of the December 2019 report on Tuesday, December 17th.

f. Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Cleary did not have anything new to report.

g. Zoning Hearing Board: Three hearings were conducted Monday December 16th.

a. 407 W. Maple Street – Richard & Jessica Hodnett:

- Granted a variance of the minimum (35') front yard setback (Section 380-14.G) to enable construction of a new front porch with a (20') front yard setback.

b. 101 N. Harrison Street – Joseph T. Burgio (Aradiant):

- Approved a Special Exception for the replacement of a current prior non-conforming use with a new non-conforming use (mini warehouse/self-storage).

c. 401 W. North Ave. – Richard Whitman:

- Granted a variance of Section 380-38.I (Parking Spaces) and Section 380-27.B(2) (Open Space Requirements), and approved a Special Exception for Section 380-38.G (Location of Parking Spaces) to allow two parking spaces per apartment unit and to enable the use of neighboring properties owned by Kevin Bashore and Richard Gerhart to be utilized for parking by patrons for the applicant's Microbrewery/Pub previously approved by the Zoning Hearing Board with the following conditions:

1. Handicap parking must be located immediately to the rear of the Brew Pub building on the south side of North Avenue.

2. The access driveway on the west side of the property must be changed to one way from Main Street to North Avenue.
 3. Signage is required to be placed on the off-site parking areas to indicate the spaces reserved for the Brew Pub.
 4. The pathway from the parking area to the business must be paved and striped like a crosswalk.
- h. Borough Manager's Report:
1. N. Duke Street Sinkhole Repair Status: Mr. Powl stated that N. Duke Street is paved but cannot be opened until the line striping is complete. Then the traffic signal will have to be returned to the original operating sequence and the barricades removed. The weather is supposed to become more cooperative in the next week.
 2. Plum Alley Repair Status: The compaction grouting contractor has begun drilling the holes and will be working on this effort as much as possible through the holidays.
 3. ShadowStone Zoning Map Amendment Request: This request will be ready for action at the January 6th meeting.

Other Business

- Councilor Templin explained that he is having trouble getting PA American Water Company to understand that his water meter is located outside in a meter pit in the sidewalk versus inside his house as they are claiming.
- Councilor Miller explained that he is thinking of heading up the efforts to get a downtown revitalization committee effort started. He also asked Staff to place a message on the electronic message board to thank the residents for their efforts in decorating the town for the Holidays.
- Councilor Quairoli stated that the light on the American flag at Memorial Park needs to be checked.

Public Comment Period #2

- Councilor Miller's son, Sean, was in attendance and wished Council a Merry Christmas.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct the required Biennial Reorganization meeting on Monday, January 6, 2020 and a regular public meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2020 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jane Quairoli, second by Tom Miller. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager