

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
Thursday October 8, 2020
7:00 PM

President Shearer called the meeting to order at 7:05 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, and Joe Templin. Also, in attendance were Borough Manager Roger Powl, Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera, Police Chief Andrew Winters and Mayor Fred Carpenter. James Tesche attended the meeting via Zoom.

Announcements

President Shearer announced that Borough Council held an executive session prior to this evening's meeting to discuss personnel and real estate issues as permitted by the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. Any official action resulting from the Executive Sessions will occur at a future public meeting.

Public Comment Period #1

- Susan Lehman, 959 E. Maple Street, inquired if there was a plan to plant trees in the area behind her townhouse where the sewer line was extended. She also inquired about Trick or Treat.

Mayor Carpenter expressed his opinion against holding Trick or Treat due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Borough Council discussed the issues surrounding Trick or Treat and decided to allow parents to determine what is best for their families.

Motion: To recognize Thursday, October 29th from 6-8 PM as Trick or Treat night in the Borough with the recommendation from Borough Council to either follow all recommended CDC guidelines for a safe event or stay home. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Tom Miller.

Consent Calendar

- a. Approve the minutes of the September 24, 2020 Borough Council meeting.

*Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Josh Holl.
Motion passed.*

Action & Discussion Items

There were no action items.

Reports

- a. President's Report: President Shearer did not have a report.
- b. Financial Report:
 1. Financial Statement: The Financial Statement as of September 30, 2020 will be available for the October 22nd meeting.
 2. Delinquent Sewer & Refuse Account Report: Ms. Pera provided a copy of the September 2020 report. She asked Council if they intend to waive the penalties for the last quarter of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Council agreed to waive penalties for the 4th quarter and resume normal practices with the January 2021 billing cycle.
- c. Police Department: Chief Winters announced that the two radar speed signs were received, and the department will begin utilizing them on different poles throughout the Borough. He also reported that Dalton Jones satisfied all the conditions for his employment and started his duties as a new officer on September 28, 2020.
- d. Planning Commission - Subdivision & Land Development Plans: The Commission did not meet in September.
- e. Public Works Department: Borough Manager Powl
 1. Superintendent's Monthly Report: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the September 2020 report.

2. Borough Properties: There was nothing new to report on the Borough properties.
 - a. Municipal Building – 325 S. Railroad Street: Front doors – repair status update:
 - b. Public Works Department – 910 E. Broad Street:
 - c. Vacant Lot – 40 E. Front Street:
 - d. Vacant Lot – Northeast corner of the intersection of N. Lingle Ave and W. Main Street
 - e. Vacant Lot (Shaffer-Erb Tract) – south side 900 Block East Cherry Street
 3. Parks: There was nothing new to report.
 4. Refuse & Recycling:
 1. Palmyra Area School District Recycling issue: Mr. Powl mentioned that the Borough Solicitor is still working with the School District Solicitor to resolve the issue of re-establishing the recycling program in the district.
 5. Sewer System: There was nothing new to report.
 6. Sinkholes:
 - a. Plum Alley: The alley has been repaved and the sinkhole repair project is complete.
 - b. 223 S. Locust Street: There was nothing new to report on the PASD failed injection well.
 7. Stormwater Management:
 - a. 300 Block E. Cherry St & 100 Block S. Grant St Detention Basin & Road Restoration Project: Mr. Powl updated Council on the contract close-out status. The Borough is still waiting for the contractor to finish a few items in order to finalize the contract.
 - b. Phase A Stormwater Management System: (north of railroad tracks - west of N. Grant St.) The latest information that Mr. Powl received is that The Hershey Company is considering allowing the piping of storm water from the wetland area through their property to the quarry and have indicated that they may contribute monetarily towards the project. Mr. Powl will keep Council apprised as information becomes available.
 - c. Shellbark Alley Drainage System - New Injection Wells: The alley has been repaved and the project is complete.
 - d. DEP Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit: The Borough received the MS4 permit which requires budgeting for the Best Management Practices (BMPs) projects for 2021.
 8. Street & Alley Maintenance: There was nothing new to report.
 9. Traffic Signals: There was nothing new to report.
 10. Other: Mr. Powl reported that the Public Works crew was able to install a wireless remote operating controller on the sewer vacuum truck to make operating the truck safer and more user friendly.
- f. Solicitor's Report: There was nothing new to report.
- g. Zoning & Codes Enforcement: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the September 2020 report. He also reported that three Zoning Hearing Board hearings were scheduled for October 12th at 5:30 PM. Jacobs Telecom / AT&T will be requesting another continuance until the October 2020 meeting.
- a. 61 N. Prince Street – Jacobs Telecom / AT&T: (continued from September 14th)
 - Seeking Special Exception under Section 380-64.1 to allow for the placement of a commercial communications antenna in the right-of-way of the Highway Commercial (HC) District.
 - Seeking a Variance of Section 380.64.1(E)(4) to allow for a utility pole/tower height of 45-feet versus the 40-feet permitted.

- b. 739 Locust Alley – Jacobs Telecom / AT&T: (continued from September 14th)
 - Seeking Special Exception under Section 380-64.1 to allow for the placement of a commercial communications antenna in the right-of-way of the Highway Commercial (HC) District.
 - Seeking a Variance of Section 380.64.1(E)(4) to allow for a utility pole/tower height of 45-feet versus the 40-feet permitted.
- c. 626 E. Oak Street – Jessica & Patrick Maloy:
 - Seeking a Variance under Section 380-14.G (35' front-yard setback) to allow for an existing 10'6" x 22'4" attached single-car garage to be removed and replaced with a new 24' x 27' attached two-car garage with a 10-foot setback from the unnamed north/south alley where 35-feet is required.

Council did not take a position on the variance request for Jessica & Patrick Maloy.

h. Borough Manager's Report:

- a. Mr. Powl informed Council that Bob Riahi from Millfield Construction discussed off-site improvements on the north side of E. Ridge Road for stormwater upgrades. The Borough can't mandate that the developer make improvements, but Mr. Riahi was not against the conversation. Mr. Powl anticipates that they may be willing to accept a reduction in the "fee in lieu of" for the required recreation land dedication. An agreement will need to be made with the neighboring property owner to acquire the necessary easement for the stormwater pipe location.
- b. Mr. Powl reported that CVS challenged their reassessment when the County reassessed property values several years ago. The Palmyra Area School District fought that challenge and the case has recently made it through the courts. The Borough and the School District have been mandated by the courts to refund real estate tax dollars. Mr. Powl just wanted to inform Council because they will see it in the financial report for October 2020.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Public Comment Period #2

- William Garber, 725 N. Grant St, had questions concerning the stormwater pipe replacement on the north side of E. Ridge Road that Mr. Powl referenced earlier.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that the Borough Council will conduct its next public meetings on Thursday, October 22, 2020, and Thursday, November 12, 2020 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Josh Holl, second by Jane Quairolì. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager