

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting  
 Thursday February 27, 2020  
 7:00 PM

President 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, Joe Templin and James Tesche. Also, in attendance were Borough Manager Roger Powl, Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera, Police Chief Andrew Winters, and Mayor Carpenter.

Announcements

President Shearer announced that Borough Council held an Executive Session at the conclusion of the Thursday February 13<sup>th</sup> 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

- Scott & Deb Harner, 647 E Broad Street, relayed a problem they had with a sewer backup in their basement which resulted in approximately \$20,000 of damage. The incident occurred in February 2019 and a smaller incident occurred in November 2019. They are requesting reimbursement for their losses and provided a list of the damages.

Mr. Powl stated that their claim was submitted to the Borough’s insurance company and was denied under the provisions of the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act.

Council considered their request and asked Mr. Powl to check with the Borough Solicitor to determine if there is anything that they can do.

Consent Calendar

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 Borough Council meeting.
- b. Approve the Treasurer’s Report for the period January 1 through January 31, 2020:

	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Refuse Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Special Sewer Fund	Liquid Fuels Fund
YTD Revenue	\$108,902	\$295,993	\$193,945	\$1,860	\$10,623	\$322
YTD Expenses	\$203,353	\$32,152	\$41,327	\$0	\$0	\$0
Difference	\$(94,451)	\$263,841	\$152,618	\$1,860	\$10,623	\$322
Fund Balance	\$998,171	\$910,418	\$507,875	\$1,452,450	\$1,682,373	\$232,519

	Library Fund	Police Health Care Fund	Town Square Reserve Fund	Joint Fire Apparatus Fund	Cemetery Fund	Employee Benefits Fund
YTD Revenue	\$379	\$275	\$5	\$26	\$54	\$132
YTD Expenses	\$0	\$648	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Difference	\$379	\$(373)	\$5	\$26	\$54	\$132
Fund Balance	\$1,388	\$215,627	\$3,942	\$20,212	\$42,765	\$103,505

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

Action & Discussion Items

a. Resolution 2020-20 – Fee Resolution Update:

*Motion: To approve Resolution 2020-20, a resolution amending the Borough’s Fee Resolution to add the fees associated with small wireless antenna facilities. Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Jim Tesche. Motion passed.*

Reports

a. President’s Report: President Shearer shared her appreciation for the new floors in the lobby, Council Chambers, Conference Room, and restroom areas of the municipal building.

b. Fire Department: There was no report.

c. Police Department: Chief Winters provided a copy of the January 2020 report. He inquired if anyone has received emails from the Crime Watch website. He also mentioned that the department is beginning to solicit applications for the next round of civil service testing to be conducted on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The department will also be participating in the next Aggressive Driving enforcement program in March.

d. Recreation Commission: Councilor Quairolì provided a copy of the January 2020 Director’s Report. She also reported that the V.F.W. donated \$500 to P.A.R.P.C.

e. Solicitor’s Report: Solicitor Cleary provided new language for the Chapter 288 – Sewer and Chapter 305 - Solid Waste ordinances in order to align the verbiage related to receipt of payments. The new language will require payments to be considered on time if they are received by the end of business on the due date. Payments post-marked on the last day but received after the due date will no longer be considered on time. Council requested the Solicitor advertise the ordinance by a unanimous consensus.

g. Zoning Hearing Board: A hearing is scheduled for Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM for the following application:

1. 20 E. Willow Street (Train Station) – Duane E. Hess:

- Seeking Special Exception (Section 380-21.C(2) – Commercial Recreation Uses) to use the property for commercial recreation, and;
- Seeking a Variance (Section 380-38 – Off-Street Parking) to allow 24 parking spaces versus the 28 parking spaces required.

Council agreed to take no official position on the application and to defer to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mayor Carpenter expressed his concern for the possibility of someone getting hit by a passing train with a more intense use of the property.

h. Borough Manager’s Report:

1. Town Square Compaction Grouting Project: Mr. Powl reported that the grouting at the Square is complete. The grouting had to be stopped when the adjacent parking lot heaved. The Public Works crew will fix the pavement when the weather allows. The grouting was an attempt to straighten the lamp post in the southwest corner of the Square and to stabilize the area. The effort was successful in pushing the light more upright. The entire project came in under the anticipated budget.

2. Plum Alley Sinkhole Repair Status: The compaction grouting is complete. The Public Works crew will need to excavate and remove the sags in the sewer line and stormwater pipe, but the area has been stabilized. This will be done in approximately 60-days to allow for proper settling.
3. 300 Block E. Cherry Street Sinkhole Repair – Sale of 310 & 312 E. Cherry St: Mr. Powl met with the owner of these two properties. The owner requested that the Borough allow him to hold onto the properties and upon his death he will have his estate transfer the property to the Borough at no cost. The owner agrees to continue paying the property taxes, which are minimal, and he does not want paid for the parcels. Mr. Powl stated that the Borough Solicitor said this can be done and will work on establishing an agreement for all parties to sign that will be recorded at the Lebanon County Courthouse.

#### Other Business

- Councilor Barry reported a property on N. Railroad Street that has an inordinate amount of cigarette butts in front of it. He did not know the address but will do what he can to get that information to the Borough office.
- Councilor Holl asked Mr. Powl to have more millings placed in the sinkhole in front of the fire house ramp.

#### Public Comment Period #2

There were no additional public comments.

#### Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct its next public meetings on Thursday, March 12, 2020 and Thursday, March 26, 2020 beginning at 7:00 PM.

#### Motion to Adjourn

*Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jane Quairola, second by Josh Holl. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl  
Borough Manager