

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
Thursday July 9, 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 Sergeant Pete Mathews and Mayor Carpenter.

Announcements

President Shearer explained to anyone in the audience that may be prepared to comment on the shooting of fireworks over the July 4th holiday that the Borough has been advised by its Solicitor that there is nothing the Borough can do to regulate fireworks because they are governed by State law. All complaints or concerns should be made to Representative Frank Ryan or Senator Dave Arnold to encourage them to make changes to the State law.

Public Comment Period #1

- Bill Zahorchak, general manager of Funck's Restaurant, asked for Council's permission to allow music outdoors at the restaurant as they are working through the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Mr. Powl advised Council that Chapter 241, Section 6.C(3) requires Council's approval for outdoor music.

Motion: To approve the request by Funck's Restaurant for an exemption under Section 241-6.C(3) of the Palmyra Borough Code of Ordinances to allow outdoor music, according to Section 241-6, until a future point in time when the indoor restaurant seating capacity restrictions established by the Commonwealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are removed. Motion by Josh Holl, second by Jane Quairoli. Motion passed.

- David McCloskey, 212 E. Ridge Rd, expressed his concerns about the stormwater issues the proposed development north of Ridge Road may bring to N. Grant Street, and also expressed concerns of the functionality and safety of a new intersection proposed by extending N. Lincoln Street north of E. Ridge Road into the development.

Consent Calendar

- a. Approve the minutes of the June 25, 2020 Borough Council meeting.

Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Josh Holl, second by Jim Tesche. Motion passed.

Action & Discussion Items

- a. Noise Ordinance (Chapter 241) – Draft Amendment: The Solicitor provided a proposed version of the ordinance which revised the definition of noise disturbance and incorporated Motor Vehicle prohibitions as outlined in the West Reading Borough Noise Ordinance. Council discussed the changes as presented. Councilor Miller did not like the subjective nature of the ordinance and how it references a reasonable person of normal sensitivities. He commented that he would not be comfortable passing the amendments as presented. Other Council members agreed and asked Mr. Powl to put the ordinance on the agenda for continued discussion at the July 23rd meeting.

Reports

- a. President's Report: President Shearer did not have a report. She asked Fire Chief Dave Dugan, who was in attendance, if he had a Fire Department report. Chief Dugan updated Council on the incentive program for volunteers. The first six months of 2020 yielded \$17,500 for incentives. This amount will be split 50/50 between the Borough and North Londonderry Township.

Chief Dugan also announced that the old American LaFrance tower truck was picked up by the Lindsey Fire Department in Punxsutawney Borough. It sold for \$150,000.

Council thanked Chief Dugan for the efforts of the fire department volunteers.

- b. Financial Report:
 1. Financial Statement: The financial report was not available for this meeting. It will be presented at the next meeting.
 2. Delinquent Sewer & Refuse Account Report: Ms. Pera provided a copy of the June 2020 report. She also inquired if Council wants to continue withholding penalties for the next quarter due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on employment. Council discussed the idea of waiving penalties for the third quarter and agreed that it was a good idea to continue this practice until the end of September 2020.
- c. Police Department: Sergeant Mathews was representing the Police Department and did not have a report.
- d. Planning Commission - Subdivision & Land Development Plans: The Commission did not meet.
- e. Public Works Department:
 1. Superintendent's Monthly Report: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the June report.
 2. Borough Properties:
 - a. Municipal Building – 325 S. Railroad Street: Mr. Powl presented three proposals related to repairing the Front doors. The first proposal is for door control software upgrades at the cost of \$2,599.50. The second proposal is to replace the failing power supply and to run two new 14-gauge wires to replace the single 18-gauge wire to the doors for a cost of \$2,605.05. The final proposal was for \$970.13 to install a battery back-up power supply to keep the door control system energized for the brief period between a power failure and when the emergency back-up generator turns on.

Council discussed the need to conduct all the upgrades to the existing doors versus waiting until the 2021 budget and replacing the doors completely. Mr. Powl commented that the software proposal is only to bring the obsolete control software program up to date. It has nothing to do with the physical functionality of the doors. However, the power supply box is the part that is failing after 6-years and has the most urgent priority regardless of keeping the existing doors or replacing them next year. According to the representative from Sage Technology Solutions, the 18-gauge wire that is currently installed may be sufficient to operate the sliding doors but is not for operating the existing doors. Council asked for a price to just replace the power supply box and test the door release solenoids.
 - b. Public Works Department – 910 E. Broad Street: There was nothing new to report.
 - c. Vacant Lot – 40 E. Front Street: There was nothing new to report.
 - d. Vacant Lot – Northeast corner of the intersection of N. Lingle Ave and W. Main Street: There was nothing new to report.
 - e. Vacant Lot (Shaffer-Erb Tract) – south side 900 Block East Cherry Street: There was nothing new to report.
 3. Parks: (Heritage Park, Palmyra Memorial Park, and Southeast Park) There was nothing new to report.
 4. Refuse & Recycling: There was nothing new to report.
 5. Sewer System: There was nothing new to report.
 6. Sinkholes:
 - a. Plum Alley: There was nothing new to report. The Public Works crew continues to monitor the area.
 - b. 35 W. Walnut Street: (in front of firehouse ramp) There was nothing new to report. The Public Works crew continues to monitor the area.
 - c. 223 S. Locust Street: (PASD Failed injection well) There was nothing new to report. The Public Works crew continues to monitor the area.
 - d. 122 E. Poplar Street: a small hole opened and was repaired immediately.

- e. 520 E. Walnut Street: A sinkhole opened along the curblineline in this area and the Public Works crew excavated the hole but found no cause so, they filled it with 4-yards of concrete. They will continue to monitor the area.
 - f. S. College Street (south of W. Pine Street): A sinkhole occurred as the result of a failed sewer main. It was repaired and will continue to be monitored.
7. Stormwater Management:
- a. 300 Block E. Cherry St & 100 Block S. Grant St Detention Basin & Road Restoration Project: Solicitor Cleary has the agreement for the Borough to inherit ownership of 310 & 312 E. Cherry Street upon owner's death in draft form.
 - b. Phase A Stormwater Management System: (north of railroad tracks - west of N. Grant St.): There was nothing new to report.
 - c. Shellbark Alley Drainage System - New Injection Wells: (to the rear of 138 N. Chestnut St) The Public Works crew is actively working on this drainage system installation.
 - d. DEP Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit: There was nothing new to report.
8. Street & Alley Maintenance: There was nothing new to report.
9. Traffic Signals: There was nothing new to report.
- f. Solicitor's Report: Borough Solicitor provided a letter regarding a zoning text amendment to allow a planned duplex community to be constructed on parcels sized 10-acres or greater within the Low-Density Residential (LDR) District. Council considered the Solicitor's comments and agreed to pursue the amendment. The text changes will permit the Chimel property development plan to move forward as an "age targeted" development versus and "age restricted" 55 years of age and older development that is currently allowed in the LDR District. Mr. Powl indicated that all the costs for the zoning text changes will be the responsibility of the developer.
- g. Zoning & Codes Enforcement:
1. Zoning Officer/Codes Enforcement Officer Report: Council reviewed the report.
- h. Borough Manager's Report: Mr. Powl had nothing additional to report.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Public Comment Period #2

- David McCloskey, 212 E Ridge Rd, reported that the northern section of Kramer Way near the intersection of Ridge Road was in disrepair and needs to be repaired.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct its next public meetings on Thursday, July 23, 2020, and Thursday, August 13, 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 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager