

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
 Tuesday November 22, 2022
 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, Anthony Catalani, William Garber, Tom Miller, Jane Quairola, and James Tesche. Also, in attendance were Mayor Fred Carpenter, Police Chief Andy Winters, Borough Manager Roger Powl, and Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera.

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 10, 2022 Borough Council meeting.
- b. Approve payment of all bills listed on the October 2022 Detailed Check Listing Report.
- c. Approve the Treasurer's Report for the period October 1 through October 31, 2022:

	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Refuse Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Special Sewer Fund	Liquid Fuels Fund
YTD Revenue	\$3,511,604	\$1,457,100	\$1,010,183	\$595,845	\$8,473	\$217,575
YTD Expenses	\$3,480,321	\$1,197,845	\$965,392	\$90,942	\$27,168	\$209,382
Difference	\$31,282	\$259,255	\$44,791	\$504,902	\$(18,695)	\$8,193
Fund Balance	\$733,944	\$225,134	\$275,382	\$1,850,686	\$2,183,227	\$56,889

	Library Tax Fund	Police Health Care Fund	Joint Fire Apparatus Fund	Cemetery Fund	Employee Benefits Fund	Fire Protection Tax Fund
YTD Revenue	\$29,464	\$54,572	\$80,473	\$872	\$170,750	\$293,842
YTD Expenses	\$30,500	\$8,944	\$0	\$107	\$0	\$225,514
Difference	\$ (1,036)	\$45,628	\$80,473	\$765	\$170,750	\$68,328
Fund Balance	\$1,618	\$308,320	\$201,135	\$43,413	\$534,860	\$68,328

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

Action & Discussion Items

- a. 2023 Preliminary Budget Discussion:

The discussion began with President Shearer summarizing the average tax increases for the past several years. She mentioned that the Borough has seen increases to the tax millage on the average of every three years and the size of the tax increases has been decreasing which is remarkable in this economy.

Councilor Catalani mentioned that the poverty rate in Palmyra was 17% and he felt it was too much to ask residents to pay for drinking fountains at the parks. He asked Council to consider removing the fountains from the budget.

Council discussed removing the drinking fountains and the hanging flower pots in the downtown area. President Shearer asked Mr. Powl how removing these two items from the budget affects the proposed millage. Mr. Powl quickly estimated that it would reduce the millage from 3.83-mills to 3.77-mills.

Councilor Miller argued in support of the flowers and moving forward with the budget that includes the core items that are essential to the community.

President Shearer took a straw poll of the Council to see who supports the flower pots. Councilors Garber, Shearer, Quairoli, and Catalani did not want to add flower pots to the budget.

President Shearer also took a straw poll on the addition of water fountains at the parks. Only Councilor Tesche was okay with adding the water fountains. The rest of Council agreed to remove them from the budget.

At the conclusion of Budget discussions, Council took the following action:

Motion: To authorize the Borough Manager to advertise the 2023 Preliminary Budget and to make the 2023 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 Tuesday December 13, 2022, or Tuesday December 27, 2022 Borough Council meeting. Motion by James Tesche, second by Beth Shearer. The motion passed by a 4-3 vote with Councilors Miller, Quairoli and Catalani voting against the motion.

b. Ordinance #820 – 2023 Real Estate Tax Ordinance:

Motion: To authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise Ordinance #820, the 2023 Real Estate Tax Ordinance, to set the real estate tax rate pursuant to Section §1310.1 of the Borough Code for the Year 2023 at the following rates:

Real Estate Tax = 3.77 mills

Fire Tax = .67 mills

Public Library Tax = .06 mills

Motion by James Tesche, second by Beth Shearer. President Shearer called for a roll-call vote:

<i>Don Barry</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Anthony Catalani</i>	-	<i>No</i>
<i>William Garber</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Tom Miller</i>	-	<i>No</i>
<i>Jane Quairoli</i>	-	<i>No</i>
<i>James Tesche</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Beth Shearer</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed by a 4-3 vote with Councilors Miller, Quairoli and Catalani voting against the motion.

c. Ordinance #821 – 2023 Sewer Rates:

Motion: To authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise Ordinance #821, an ordinance to amend Chapter 288 (Sewers) of the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of Palmyra to increase the rates charged for domestic sewage from the current \$88 per quarter to \$98 per quarter for flat-rate residential dwelling units, and from \$88 to \$98 per quarter for commercial units plus \$9.80 per each 1,000-gallons over 10,000 gallons used, effective January 1, 2023.

Motion by Don Barry, second by James Tesche. President Shearer called for a roll-call vote:

<i>Don Barry</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Anthony Catalani</i>	-	<i>No</i>
<i>William Garber</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Tom Miller</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Jane Quairoli</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>James Tesche</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Beth Shearer</i>	-	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed by a 6-1 vote with Councilor Catalani voting against the motion.

Reports

- a. President's Report: President Shearer wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- b. Financial Report:
 1. Financial Statement: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the October 2022 report.
 2. Delinquent Sewer & Refuse Account Report: Ms. Pera provided a copy of the October 2022 report.
- c. Fire Department: Doug Fleegle mentioned that the incentive plan was introduced at the last company meeting and was well received.
- d. Library Report: Councilor Quairoli reported that she did not have the November 2022 report prepared and there is no meeting scheduled for December.
- e. Police Department: Chief Winters provided a copy of the October 2022 report. He also reported that he and the Annville Township Police Chief will be meeting on Friday, November 25, 2022 to continue discussion on the regional police department.

He also provided a mutual aid agreement with Annville Township Police Department for Council to consider. The departments have determined that it is in their mutual interest and benefit to furnish and receive supplemental police protection with each other.

Motion: To approve a mutual aid agreement between the Palmyra Police Department and Annville Township Police Department. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Tom Miller. Motion passed.

- f. Recreation Commission: Councilor Quairoli reported that she did not have the November 2022 report prepared and there is no meeting scheduled for December.
- g. Solicitor's Report: Mr. Powl provided a copy of a letter from Jeffrey Viola, the Assistant General Counsel for Waste Management. The letter was in response to the Borough withholding payment for service issues. Mr. Viola asked the Borough to rescind or reduce the penalties and submit payment for the amount. Borough Council was not interested in complying with their request.
- h. Borough Manager's Report:
 1. Mr. Powl reported that Pat Krebs of the Lebanon County Bicycle Coalition contacted him and Mike Booth of North Londonderry Twp about opening the dead end located at the end of the 900 block of E. Cherry Street. She commented that creating a connection for a bike path to North Londonderry Township will keep cyclists off Route 422 and improve safety. Mr. Powl indicated that North Londonderry Township did not have a problem with the request and offered to open and construct a path for cyclists. Council did not have any issues with this request.

Other Business

- Chief Winters informed Council that the school district did hire another school resource officer.
- Councilor Barry commented that he spoke with Commissioner Bob Phillips a few days ago and he was not happy that the school district refused to consider the LERTA request for the North Harrison Street property.

- Councilor Miller reported that he will not be in attendance for the December meetings because he will be out of the country.
- Councilor Tesche stated that the meeting with the school district representatives went well and there is interest in meeting quarterly.
- Councilor Catalani inquired on the status of the North Harrison Street development. Mr. Powl stated that the developer is still moving forward and looking at ways in which to finance the luxury apartment project without the LERTA. If those efforts fail the developer may construct a standard apartment building, or, if all else fails, possibly sell the property to the Lebanon County Housing Authority.
- President Shearer inquired on the status of the Filling Station codes violation. Mr. Powl commented that they have not completed any task outlined in their agreement. They have not filed for any permits. According to the Borough Solicitor, the agreement, which their attorney developed, allows the Borough to charge a penalty of \$500 per day until the conditions which they agreed upon are met.

Public Comment Period #2

- Todd Gottshall, 511 E. Cherry St, inquired why the E. Cherry Street dead-end isn't opened for vehicles too.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct its next public meetings on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 and Tuesday, December 27, 2022 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jane Quairola, second by Anthony Catalani. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager