

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
7:00 PM

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, Anthony Catalani, William Garber, Tom Miller, Jane Quairoli, 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

- Maddie Reed, 233 E Hazel St, had several issues to bring before Council
 - The concrete sidewalk on the Grant St bridge is breaking up and showing rebar
 - Where does the money for the cemetery come from?
 - There is more graffiti at Memorial Park
 - The new clock at the Town Square is not working
- Bronagh Houser, 134 E Maple St, was in attendance with two other Memorial Day parade committee members to inquire why no Councilors were planning to participate in the parade.
- Carol Keiter, 328 N Railroad St, expressed how distraught she was when the property owner(s) on S. Campbelltown-Palmyra Road (North Londonderry Township) removed two large trees from their front yard. She believes the Borough needs more trees to fight climate change. She reported that students at Pine Street Elementary school received an environmental award. She also asked Council to consider better bicycle interconnectivity between Palmyra & Annville.

Consent Calendar

- a. Approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022, Borough Council meeting.

Motion : To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Anthony Catalani. Motion passed.

Action & Discussion Items

- a. Ordinance #817 – Designating 101 N. Harrison Street as a LERTA District:

Councilor Garber asked for a brief update on the request for LERTA at this property because he was absent from the meeting when this was discussed. He expressed concern about the tax abatement for a commercial property.

Councilor Quairoli inquired if the County and School District agree with the LERTA. Mr. Powl commented that the municipality must take the lead on establishing the district first.

Motion: To schedule a public hearing for Tuesday May 24, 2022, and to authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise Ordinance #817, an ordinance to designate the current unused, former industrial building, located at 101 North Harrison Street, Tax Parcel #16-2291216-358434-0000, as a deteriorated property to establish a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) district for tax abatement to facilitate redevelopment of the property. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by James Tesche. Motion passed with a 6-1 vote with William Garber voting against the motion.

Reports

- a. President's Report: President Shearer did not have a report.

- b. Financial Report: Ms. Pera provided a copy of the April 2022 Delinquent Sewer & Refuse Account Report.
- c. Fire Department: There was no report.
- d. Police Department: Chief Winters informed Council that five candidates took the physical agility test on May 7th and four of the candidates passed. The next phase in the process is oral exams scheduled for the first week in June.

Councilor Barry reported kids at Memorial Park after dark.

- e. Planning Commission:
 - 1. 320-332 W. Main Street (Mrakovich – Filling Station Plan): Mr. Powl reported that the Borough Engineer provided an introductory briefing to the Commission on the Filling Station plan since the plan engineer was not at the meeting.
- f. Public Works Department:
 - 1. Superintendent's Monthly Report: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the April 2022 report.
 - 2. Borough Properties:
 - a. Municipal Building – 325 S. Railroad Street: The various parts needed for the technology upgrade to enable streaming of Borough Council meetings in Council Chambers will not be available until late October 2022.
 - b. Public Works Department – 910 E. Broad Street:
 - c. Town Square:
 - d. Vacant Lot – 40 E. Front Street:
 - e. Vacant Lot – Northeast corner of the intersection of N. Lingle Ave and W. Main Street
 - f. Vacant Lot (Shaffer-Erb Tract) – south side 900 Block East Cherry Street:
 - 3. Cemetery: There was no report.
 - 4. Parks: (Heritage Park, Palmyra Memorial Park, and Southeast Park)
 - a. Park Survey Results: Mr. Powl provided the results of the survey. They will be available on the website for the public to view. Councilor Miller explained that his Susquehanna Area Mountain Bike Association group has looked at the Shaffer-Erb property on E. Cherry Street and they feel there is good potential to develop a nice park there. They are preparing a presentation for Council at a future meeting.
 - 5. Refuse & Recycling: There was no report.
 - 6. Sewer System: There was no report.
 - 7. Sinkholes:
 - a. New: None
 - b. Old:
 - 1. 223 S. Locust Street: (PASD failed injection well)
 - 2. 800 Block E. Main Street: (Center turn lane of US422 in front of Sheetz)
 - 3. 123 E. High Street: (Waste Management property)
 - 4. South Harrison Street (between E. Cherry St and South Ave)
 - 5. 430 E. Walnut Street: (between curb & sidewalk along S. Franklin St side)
 - 6. 35 W. Walnut Street (west side of Firehouse Ramp)

8. Stormwater Management:
 - a. Phase A Stormwater Management System: (north of railroad tracks - west of N. Grant St.): Mr. Powl reported that the Borough must request an official right-of-way map from Norfolk Southern Railway to proceed with the request to bore under the tracks for the stormwater system. The cost of the official map is \$500.
 - b. Stormwater Injection Well #11 (W. Walnut St. & S. Green St): The drilling of two additional wells at this location is scheduled for Monday, May 16th, and Tuesday, May 17th.
 - c. Bio-Swale MS4 Project Update: The letters of consent from the property owners have been received and the Borough is working on a grant application for this project.
 - d. DEP MS4 Stormwater Permit: Mr. Powl reported that staff met with the Borough Engineer to discuss the MS4 permit. The permit has been approved since September 2020 and the Borough needs to make the following changes:
 - Update the Borough's stormwater ordinance to adopt the DEP 2022 Model Stormwater Ordinance, modified for our Karst geology, by September.
 - Need to begin identifying, inspecting, and testing Borough outfall locations and private BMP (Best Management Practice) facilities constructed since 2003.
 - Collect samples for testing at the Borough outfall locations as identified in the MS4 permit on an annual basis in dry conditions to detect any contaminants.
9. Street & Alley Maintenance: The Public Works crew is fixing alleys as complaints are received.
10. Traffic Signals: There was no report.
- g. Solicitor's Report: There was no report.
- h. Zoning & Codes Enforcement: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the April 2022 report.
- i. Borough Manager's Report: Mr. Powl provided a copy of a Dangerous and Diseased tree ordinance from Mt. Gretna Borough. There is a tree located on the corner of S. Forge and East Maple Street that shows some rot or damage and a large limb is in danger of falling. The Borough does not have any ordinance that would require a property owner to take care of the situation. After discussion on the control over trees on private property, Council agreed to review the ordinance and discuss it at a future meeting.

Other Business

- Councilor Garber inquired where the crosswalks went on N. Forge Street and E. Arch and E. Broad Streets. They were there one day and then gone the next.
- Councilor Barry thanked the Garden Club for their plant sale efforts in the rain on Saturday, May 7th.
- Councilor Quairolì made the following motion:

Motion: To approve overtime for public works employees to participate in the Memorial Day parade on May 30, 2022. Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Beth Shearer. Motion passed on the agreement that participation was voluntary and not forced overtime.

Public Comment Period #2

- Greg Reed, 233 E Hazel St, asked for an update on the stormwater management issues for N. Railroad Street. He also asked for the actual numbers in the park survey.
- Maddie Reed, 233 E Hazel St, shared her comments about liability for a dog park in the Borough. She also inquired when the park cameras would be re-adjusted.
- Dave McCloskey, 212 E Ridge Rd, questioned the paving on N. Lincoln Street and reported that his neighbor blows grass onto the alley behind his house.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct its next public meetings on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, and Tuesday, June 14, 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 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager