

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 9, 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.

Special Visitors

Don Isabella & Dave Menges of Waste Management (WM) were present to discuss the Borough's trash & recycling collection program after a request by Mr. Powl to have WM review the program and suggest changes that could be made to improve efficiency and quality of service. They agreed that they need to do better for the Borough, but the issues of driver shortages have caused difficulties in meeting the challenges. They also discussed the obstacles they have with yard waste collection and their efforts to improve it.

They proposed a solution to change the five-day collection schedule to a four-day schedule. They cited Friday as being their busiest day and Wednesday being their lightest day so, eliminating Friday out of the Palmyra schedule would allow WM to use the day for catching up. Their proposal would be to combine the Wednesday and Thursday routes into Wednesday and move the Friday route to Thursday. The change would allow WM to bring two trucks into Palmyra on Wednesday.

Council was receptive to the schedule change and asked Mr. Isabella and Mr. Menges to work with Borough management to implement the change.

Public Comment Period #1

- Harmonie & Nathan Sherk, 211 E Maple St, Cleona, representing the Palmyra VFW, asked permission to participate in the Wreaths Across America program. The program places wreaths on veteran gravesites for Christmas and the VFW would like to do this for the Palmyra Cemetery. The wreaths are placed around December 17th each year and removed in mid-January. The program would be completely run by the VFW with no Borough responsibility for the wreaths. Council granted permission for Wreaths Across America at the cemetery and thanked them for their participation.

Motion: To allow the Palmyra VFW, through Nathan & Harmonie Sherk, to participate in Wreaths Across America at the Palmyra Cemetery. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Beth Shearer. Motion passed.

Consent Calendar

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

Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by James Tesche. Motion passed.

Action Items

There were no action items

Reports

- a. President's Report: President Shearer announced that she will not be in attendance for the August 23rd meeting.

- b. Financial Reports: Ms. Pera provided a copy of the July 2022 Delinquent Sewer & Refuse Account Report.
- c. Fire Department Incentive Program – Fire Chief Dugan was in attendance to explain the need to consider increasing the incentive program contribution for 2023. The current contribution is \$25,000 paid each by the Borough and North Londonderry Township. The Chief would like to increase it to \$112,500 each. He indicated that the program would be changed to be based on activity during each quarter of the year rather than on a biannual basis so that volunteers that may be able to give time over a couple of months would be able to qualify for payment in the incentive program. The goal is to encourage volunteers to stay active with the fire department.

Council inquired as to how this increase would affect the fire tax millage. Mr. Powl did a quick calculation and determined that the tax increase would be approximately a quarter of a mill. Council asked Mr. Powl to add that to the budget for 2023.

Chief Dugan also reported that they currently have five live-in volunteer members, and the rescue engine has been sent for refurbishment.

- d. Police Department: Chief Winters reported that National Night Out went well. He mentioned that the County has agreed to pay for half of the training costs for Detective Henry's Magnet training for cell phones. He also reported that Officer Jones is planning to participate in the Gracie jiu jitsu for law enforcement training class.

Regional Police Department Study: President Shearer announced that Borough Council participated in an information session conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) today at 1:00 p.m. in the Citizens Fire Co. training room to hear the results of a new regional police services study DCED conducted on behalf of Palmyra Borough, Annville Twp, and Annville Twp.

The purpose of the study was to determine if the municipalities would benefit from consolidation by forming a full-service regional police department to serve all three municipalities. The study highlighted a department consisting of eighteen full-time officers and two full-time clerical personnel.

The Borough currently spends \$1.7 million of the general fund budget on police services. Preliminary costs analysis shows a reduction in that cost by \$300,000 with a regionalized department if all three municipalities participate at the 100% rate. Savings will be less if the municipalities participate at a lesser rate.

Borough Council discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the regional department and concluded that the only way to experience cost reductions is to move forward.

Motion: To continue the process of moving the Palmyra Borough Police Department into a regionalized department with Annville Township and South Annville Township. Motion by Tom Miller, second by Jane Quairolì. Motion passed.

- e. Planning Commission: There was no meeting in July.
- f. Public Works Department:
 - 1. Superintendent's Monthly Report: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the July 2022 report.
 - 2. Borough Properties:
 - a. Municipal Building – 325 S. Railroad Street:
 - 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:
4. Parks: (Heritage Park, Palmyra Memorial Park, and Southeast Park) Ms. Pera informed Council that the Palmyra Garden Club / Bowman Trust Committee was given two options to renovate the pavers at the Town Square. The first option was to remove the existing pavers, clean them, and put them back at a cost of \$15,000. The second option was to replace all the existing pavers with new pavers at a cost of \$22,166. The discussion for this project originated prior to Covid-19 and stalled because of the pandemic. The Committee received the updated information and opted to replace the pavers. However, the cost of the project exceeds the bidding limits for the Borough, so the project will need to be contracted directly with the Palmyra Garden Club.

Motion: To approve the request of the Palmyra Garden Club / Bowman Trust Committee to replace the Town Square pavers, with oversight of the project to be conducted by Borough Management. Costs of the improvements will be paid using Bowman Trust funds. Motion by Don Barry, second by James Tesche. Motion passed.

5. Refuse & Recycling:
6. Sewer System:
7. Sinkholes:
- a. New: None
 - b. Old:
 - 1. Walnut Alley at 220 E. Main Street
 - 2. 430 E. Walnut Street: (between curb & sidewalk along S. Franklin St side)
 - 3. 800 Block E. Main Street: (Center turn lane of US422 in front of Sheetz)
 - 4. 223 S. Locust Street: (PASD failed injection well) – Mr. Powl indicated that Council will need to revisit this issue. The sinkhole on S. Locust Street is starting to open again and there needs to be a more permanent fix. Council asked Mr. Powl to reach out to the Palmyra Area School District.
8. Stormwater Management:
- a. Phase A Stormwater Management System: (north of railroad tracks - west of N. Grant St.):
 - b. Stormwater Injection Well #11 (W. Walnut St. & S. Green St): Mr. Powl reported that the Public Works crew has plans to connect the old injection well to the new one.
 - c. Bio-Swale (west of S. Lingle Ave) MS4 Project Update:
 - d. DEP MS4 Stormwater Permit Issues: DEP 2022 Model Stormwater Ordinance: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the proposed changes to the ordinance as prepared by the Borough Engineer and reviewed by the Borough Solicitor. The proposed changes bring the Borough's ordinance into compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection. The ordinance update needs to be enacted by the end of September. Council asked for this item to be placed on the August 23rd meeting agenda.
9. Street & Alley Maintenance: Some road markings remain to be completed for the Cherry Street Microsurface project. Once completed, all paving projects will be finished for the year.
10. Traffic Signals:

- g. Solicitor's Report: There was no report.
- h. Zoning & Codes Enforcement: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the July 2022 report. There were no hearings scheduled for August 2022.
- i. Borough Manager's Report: Mr. Powl announced that the new 2022 Ford Ranger 4X4 crew-cab pick-up truck was received and will serve as the Administration vehicle. The 2012 Ford Focus was purchased new for \$12,000 and was traded for \$7,000, bringing the purchase price of the Ranger down to \$21,000.

Other Business

- Councilor Barry stated that the crosswalk lines look horrible on Forge Rd and inquired about the budget for spraying thermoplastic lines on the roadway since the thermoplastic tape does not seem to work.
- Councilor Garber announced that he will not be at the next meeting.

Public Comment Period #2

There were no public comments.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct its next public meetings on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, and Tuesday, September 13, 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 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager