

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
Tuesday May 9, 2023
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, James Tesche, and Jane Quairoli. 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

Dave McCloskey, 212 E Ridge Road, inquired about the agenda item pertaining to the Filling Station Plan.

Consent Calendar

a. Approve the minutes of the April 25, 2023, Borough Council meeting.

Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Don Barry, second by James Tesche. Motion passed

Action & Discussion Items

a. Ordinance #823 – Amend School Speed Zone Times & Handicap Parking:

Motion: To enact Ordinance #823, an ordinance to amend the following provisions contained in Chapter 350 (Motor Vehicles & Traffic) of the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of Palmyra:

1. Section 350-18 (School Speed Zones):

- *Change all Elementary School Zones to the following times:*
 - *8:15 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.*
 - *11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*
 - *12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.*
 - *3:20 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.*
- *Change Middle School Zone to the following times:*
 - *7:10 a.m. – 7:50 a.m.*
 - *2:35 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.*

2. Section 350-26 (Special Purpose Parking Zones):

- *Add – North Penn Street – East Side – Handicap parking – 110 North Penn Street*
- *Add – West Main Street – North Side – Handicap parking – 125 West Main Street*
- *Remove – E. Poplar Street – South Side- Loading Zone – From N. Railroad St to a point 70-feet east thereof*

Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Don Barry. Motion passed.

b. 320-332 W. Main Street – Mrakovich (Filling Station) Plan – Financial Security Reduction:

Motion: To approve the reduction of the required financial security for the 320-332 W. Main Street – Mrakovich Plan from \$10,257.63 to \$3,537.08. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by James Tesche. Motion passed.

- c. Road Closure Request – First Evangelical Congregational Church – 100th Anniversary Festival:

Motion: To authorize the closure of W. North Ave from N. College Street to Federal Alley, and Federal Alley from W. North Ave to W. Main Street on Saturday July 29th from 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for the First Evangelical Congregational Church 100th Anniversary Festival. Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by William Garber. Motion passed.

Reports

- a. President’s Report: President Shearer did not have a report.
- b. Financial Report:
1. Financial Statement: Mr. Powl commented that the April 2023 report will be available at the May 23, 2023 meeting.
 2. Delinquent Sewer & Refuse Account Report: Ms. Pera provided a copy of the April 2023 report.
- c. Fire Department: There was no report.
- d. Police Department: Chief Winters mentioned that Officer Jones will more than likely be resigning soon because he is on the hire list at another municipality. He also mentioned the new Tahoe patrol vehicle is due to be outfitted over the next week.
- e. Planning Commission:
1. Ordinance #824 - Vacation of “Paper Streets”: Borough Manager Powl stated that the Commission met on Wednesday, April 26th and considered the request to vacate a portion of N. Prince Street and E. High Street. They made a recommendation to Borough Council to enact Ordinance #824 to vacate and abandon the portions of N. Prince St. north of E. Broad St. and E. High St. east of N. Forge Rd. that are unnecessary and unimproved “paper” streets.
- Mr. Powl also stated that no comments have been received from Lebanon County Planning Department. The Ordinance has been advertised for action at the May 23, 2023 Borough Council meeting.
- f. Public Works Department:
1. Superintendent's Monthly Report: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the April 2023 report.
 2. Borough Properties:
 - a. Municipal Building – 325 S. Railroad Street: Mr. Powl reported that Sage Technologies is scheduled for May 25th to install equipment necessary for live video streaming of meetings conducted in Council Chambers. He also stated that Public Works installed a new sidewalk at the rear of the building for easier access to the sidewalk along W. Oak Street.
 - b. Public Works Department – 910 E. Broad Street: Mr. Powl was contacted by Shentel about the possibility of constructing a new cell tower on the grounds of the Public Works facility. The tower would require a 75’ x 75’ space, which may be possible on the site. He will update Council as additional information is received.
 - 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: Ms. Pera reported that the VFW is planning to place flags on the graves of the veterans on May 20th for Memorial Day. Wreaths Across America would also like to place wreaths again at the veteran headstones at Christmas time.
4. Parks: (Heritage Park, Palmyra Memorial Park, and Southeast Park) Mr. Powl stated that the Public Works crew is preparing the metal panels for installation on the roof of the new pavilion.
5. Refuse & Recycling:
6. Sewer System:
7. Sinkholes:
 - a. New: None
 - b. Old:
 1. 800 Block E. Main Street: (Center turn lane of US422 in front of Sheetz)
 2. 223 S. Locust Street: (PASD failed injection well)
8. Stormwater Management:
 - a. Phase A Stormwater Management System: (north of railroad tracks - west of N. Grant St.): Revised permit information has been re-submitted to Norfolk Southern Railroad by the Borough Engineer.
 - b. MS4 Bio-Swale Project Update (west of S. Lingle Ave): The Borough Engineer is working on the metes and bounds descriptions for the easements. Once completed, the property owners will be invited to a meeting to update them on the project.
9. Street & Alley Maintenance:
10. Traffic Signals:
11. Other:
- g. Solicitor's Report: There was no report.
- h. Zoning & Codes Enforcement: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the April 2023 Zoning Officer/Codes Enforcement Officer Monthly Report.
- i. Borough Manager's Report:
 1. Cherry Street & Railroad Street Traffic Signal Warrant Study Proposal: Mr. Powl provided a Scope of Services proposal in the amount of \$3,500 from the Borough Engineer regarding a traffic signal warrant study for Cherry Street and S. Railroad Street intersection. Council discussed the need for the study and decided to move forward with the study to determine if the intersection can be made safer.

Motion: To approve the proposal for a traffic signal warrant study for the S. Railroad Street and Cherry Street intersection and pay for the study from the General Fund Special Engineering account. Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Beth Shearer. Motion passed by a 6-1 vote with William Garber voting against the motion.

Other Business

- President Shearer commented that several months ago she advised Council to remember that they represent the Borough when in public and need to hold themselves to a higher standard. She proceeded to reference a recent incident involving Councilor Catalani,

which led to his arrest by the Palmyra Police Department. President Shearer called for Councilor Catalani to resign his position on Council effective immediately. Councilor Catalani followed President Shearer's request with the following prepared statement:

"Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address this. I was in a bad situation, and I realize now that I could have made better choices. I'm embarrassed and disappointed in myself. I am facing this head on to learn from it, so I can grow and to continue to serve the people of Palmyra. I am deeply sorry and hope everyone finds it in their hearts to forgive me. I truly am."

- Councilor Tesche mentioned two situations that were brought to his attention only to learn that the first issue happened on private property and the second issue happened in North Londonderry Township.

Public Comment Period #2

- Bronaugh Houser, 134 E. Maple Street, inquired about abandoned vehicles parked behind apartment buildings. Chief Winters asked her to speak with him after the meeting.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct its next public meetings on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, and Tuesday, June 13, 2023 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jane Quairola, second by William Garber. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager