

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
Tuesday May 28, 2024
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 Matthew Andrews, Anthony Catalani, Nancy Fleegle, Marcus Riddell, and Jane Quairoli. Also in attendance were Mayor Fred Carpenter, Borough Manager Roger Powl, Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera, and Police Chief Andy Winters. James Tesche was absent from the meeting.

Special Visitors

Keith McMinn, Director of Life Lion, and Joel Hocking from Penn State Health were in attendance to discuss the proposed Ground Ambulance Service Provider Agreement with Council. They outlined the highest budget items for emergency services to be personnel, the cost of an ambulance, and the cost of fuel. They originally proposed a five-year contract with a \$7 per capita fee (7,830 pop. x \$7 = \$54,810) for the first two years increasing to \$9 (\$70,470) per capita for the final three years. Borough Council had asked to cut that amount in half. Mr. McMinn suggested they split the difference at \$5 (\$39,150) per capita for the first two years increasing to \$7 for the final three years.

Public Comment Period #1

President Shearer opened public comments to include questions of the Penn State Health representatives.

- Dave McCloskey, 212 E. Ridge Road, thanked Life Lion for taking care of his in-laws when they were needed and inquired what their average cost per call is now. Mr. McMinn explained that it costs \$1.2 million per ambulance per year to operate and 65% of their patients are Medicare/Medicaid covered patients, which only reimburses Life Lion \$388 plus mileage per emergency call/transport. Mr. McMinn also explained that 99.4% of the EMS coverage in Palmyra Borough is handled by Life Lion EMS with a response time average of 8-minutes.
- Greg Reed, 233 E. Hazel St, inquired about any reimbursement the ambulance service receives from the patient's private insurance.
- Rebecca Zalit, 411 E. Main Street, thanked everyone for a successful Memorial Day parade that had 40-units participating. She also explained that they are planning the Holiday Parade for Saturday November 16th beginning at 11:00 AM utilizing the same parade route. She requested roads to be closed from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Council requested this to be placed on the next meeting agenda.
- T C Medford, 77 Macintosh Drive, asked how much money is lacking in order to continue to cover Palmyra Borough, and Mr. McMinn explained that he was unable to provide or share profit/loss type information.
- Sharon Schappell, 991 E Maple Street, had questions about the EMS contract.
- Laura Smith, 716 W Main Street, expressed her concern for the cost of a grass and weeds ticket. She owns six rental units and cannot afford to pay for the three tickets she received for all her properties.

Consent Calendar

The following agenda items were acted upon by a single motion:

- a. Approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024, Borough Council meeting.

- b. Approve payment of all bills listed on the April 2024 Detailed Check Listing Report.
- c. Approve the Treasurer’s Report for the period April 1 through April 31, 2024:

	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Refuse Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Special Sewer Fund	Liquid Fuels Fund
YTD Revenue	\$2,059,609	\$773,061	\$551,643	\$226,107	\$4,491	\$223,052
YTD Expenses	\$1,237,439	\$362,262	\$374,992	\$461,973	\$0	\$0
Difference	\$822,170	\$410,799	\$176,651	\$(235,866)	\$4,491	\$223,052
Fund Balance	\$1,408,800	\$605,575	\$278,021	\$1,219,929	\$2,238,085	\$270,812

	Library Fund	Police Health Care Fund	Joint Fire Apparatus Fund	Cemetery Fund	Employee Benefits Fund	Fire Protection Tax Fund
YTD Revenue	\$21,800	\$0	\$733	\$221	\$5,104	\$253,127
YTD Expenses	\$0	\$5,697	\$129,716	\$0	\$60,390	\$38,110
Difference	\$21,800	\$(5,697)	\$(128,983)	\$221	\$(56,287)	\$215,017
Fund Balance	\$25,410	\$291,223	\$31,929	\$44,525	\$613,832	\$248,241

Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Nancy Fleegle. Motion passed.

Action & Discussion Items

- a. Ordinance #830 – Amend Chapter 314 (Streets & Sidewalks):
Motion: To enact Ordinance #830, an ordinance to update the regulations and make technical corrections to Chapter 314 (Streets & Sidewalks). Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Beth Shearer. Motion passed.

- b. Ordinance #831 – Create a new Chapter 247 (Panhandling & Loitering):
Motion: To enact Ordinance #831, an ordinance to insert a new Chapter 247 (Panhandling & Loitering) into the Palmyra Borough Code of Ordinances. Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Marcus Riddell. Motion passed.

Reports

- a. President’s Report: President Shearer did not have a report.
- b. Financial Report: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the April 2024 financial statement.
- c. Fire Department: There was no report.
- d. Library Report: Councilor Quairolì provided a copy of the May 2024 report. She will add Palmyra’s Library service numbers to her next report.

- e. Police Department: Chief Winters provided a copy of the April 2024 report. He also announced that the new regional department is up and running as of May 27th. Councilor Andrews inquired how the monthly reports will change with the regional department starting. Chief Winters indicated that he is still working out those details on how to break out reports for each municipality.

Council discussed the issue of the School Crossing Guards now that the regional department is commencing. According to the Borough Solicitor, there are three options to consider for the crossing guards:

- 1) Keep the school crossing guards under the regional police department and continue to share costs with the school district.
- 2) Contract the service to an outside vendor and share costs with the School District.
- 3) Put the crossing guards under the control of the Mayor and share costs with the School District.

Council will revisit this discussion in a subsequent meeting, but now they want to just finish out the school year.

- f. Recreation Commission: Councilor Quairoli commented that the May report will be forthcoming.
- g. Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Cleary provided an email dated May 20, 2024, concerning boarding house/rooming house registration/inspection. The information was dispersed to Borough Council for their consideration. After initial discussion, Borough Council asked for more clarification between a property owner with a roommate versus a rooming/boarding house rental.
- h. Borough Manager's Report:
1. Municipal Building HVAC Controls Replacement Project Update: Mr. Powl reported that the new control system installation is set to begin on May 29th. It should take a couple of weeks to finish the project.
 2. Mr. Powl commented that the parking lot had been sealed and the lines have been re-painted. The contractor neglected to finish the west end of the building in front of the garage doors, so they will have to return.
 3. Mr. Powl stated that an individual has contacted the Borough to donate a public dog waste container for Southeast Park. Council liked the idea and expressed their gratitude to the donor.
 4. Mr. Powl shared a letter from the Borough Solicitor concerning the upgrade of the Borough's property maintenance ordinance. The Borough currently uses the 2006 version of the International Property Maintenance Code, and the Solicitor is recommending the Borough upgrade to the 2024 version. Mr. Powl will provide a .pdf version of the 2024 code for Council to review.

Communications

Mr. Powl provided a letter dated May 17, 2024, from Jigar Patel, 116 E. Broad Street, requesting Council consider paving Shellbark Alley and to lower the speed limit on E. Broad Street from 35 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h. Council did not desire to conduct the traffic study necessary to change the speed limit and asked Public Works to check the alley in question and see if improvements can be made.

Other Business

- Councilor Catalani asked for an update on the clock repair at the Town Square.

Public Comment Period #2

- Don Barry, 711 N. Grant Street, asked for an update on the Melrose development.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct its next public meetings on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, and Tuesday, June 25, 2024, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Marcus Riddell, second by Jane Quairolì. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager