

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
 April 28, 2015
 7:00 PM

Borough Council President Jane Quairoli called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Palmyra Municipal Center, located at 325 S. Railroad St. Council members in attendance included Pat Hennessy, Beth Shearer, Ralph Watts, Brian Craig, Gary Laudermilch and Joe Templin. Also in attendance were Mayor Fred Carpenter, Police Chief Stan Jasinski, Borough Manager Roger Powl, and Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera.

Public Comments

- Greg Reed, 221 E Hazel St, requested that any funding for the new fire company building be assessed as a per capita tax rather than a property tax.
- Maddie Reed, 221 E Hazel St, asked 1) when the intersection of Main and Grant Street is going to be cleaned up, 2) is it permissible for Borough employees to attend Council meetings, 3) inquired about the pedestrian crossing signals, and 4) advised Council that the pine tree planted in front of the new building will grow too large for the space planted.
- Ryan & Nicole Reitz, 26 Campbelltown Road (North Londonderry Township), expressed their dissatisfaction with 1) the location of the new fire company building, 2) how it will be funded, 3) how it fits within the whole issues of sinkholes, injection wells, and the other problems in the community.
- Fern Steckman, 2504 Blarney Drive, Harrisburg, expressed her concern that the location of the fire house is the worst possible spot to build when considering safety.

Consent Calendar

The following agenda items were acted upon:

- a. Approve the minutes of the April 2, 2015 Special Emergency Borough Council meeting.
- b. Approve the minutes of the April 13, 2015 Special Borough Council meeting.
- c. Approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015 Borough Council Workshop meeting.
- d. Approve the minutes of the March 24, 2015 Borough Council meeting.
- e. Approve payment of all bills listed on the March 2015 Bill's List.
- f. Approve the Treasurer's Report for the period March 1 through March 31, 2015:

	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Refuse Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Special Sewer Fund
YTD Revenue	\$357,843	\$385,378	\$196,770	\$1,199	\$3,061
YTD Expenses	\$508,250	\$150,583	\$170,700	\$18,144	\$20,330
Difference	\$(150,407)	\$234,795	\$26,069	\$(16,945)	\$(17,269)
Fund Balance	\$919,752	\$782,977	\$396,142	\$1,498,089	\$2,130,987
	Liquid Fuels Fund	Library Fund	Police Health Care Fund	Town Square Reserve Fund	Joint Fire Apparatus Fund
YTD Revenue	\$184,161	\$2,210	\$108	\$9	\$159
YTD Expenses	\$1,778	\$0	\$9,599	\$0	\$0
Difference	\$182,384	\$2,210	\$(9,490)	\$9	\$159
Fund Balance	\$307,272	\$3,292	\$132,371	\$12,234	\$201,920

Motion: To approve the Consent Calendar. Motion by Pat Hennessy, second by Beth Shearer. Motion passed.

Action Items

a. Ordinance #762 - Motor Vehicles & Traffic - Handicap Parking Spaces:

Motion: To authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise Ordinance #762, an ordinance to update the following sections of Chapter 15 (Motor Vehicles & Traffic): Section 37 (Special Purpose Parking Zones) to update the list of handicap parking spaces:

*Add - 114 E. Cherry Street
Add - 45 N. Lincoln Street
Add - 126 N. Harrison Street
Add - 22 N. Franklin Street*

Motion by Beth Shearer, second by Ralph Watts. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote with Pat Hennessy abstaining due to one of the properties being his personal property.

Reports

- a. President's Report: President Quairoli reported that she called the Chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board to discuss the recent conduct of their Solicitor. He plans to speak with the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor and the other members regarding the request of Council to consider replacing the Solicitor.
- b. Financial Statement: Council reviewed the financial statement as of March 31, 2015.
- c. Fire Services Commission Report: Did not meet this month
- d. Library Board Report: President Quairoli provided a copy of the report to Council.
- e. Police/Mayor's Report: Mayor Carpenter provided a copy of the March 2015 Monthly Police Report. He also issued a public apology to Councilor Laudermilch and his mother concerning his behavior at the March 24, 2015 Council meeting.
- f. Planning Commission: Did not meet this month. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- g. Recreation Commission Report: Vice-President Hennessy provided a copy of the report to Council.
- h. Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Cleary provided a letter to Council outlining the next steps for the new fire company building. Mr. Powl explained that Council will need to decide if they intend to lease the lot to the fire company through a long term lease or convey the building to the fire company with a required reverter clause that gives the property back to the Borough should the fire company disband. He mentioned that a long term lease will allow Council to include stipulations, such as parking requirements.

The Borough and Township cannot be involved in the financing of the building if the project is going to proceed without the requirement of prevailing wage. The Solicitor recommends that any contribution to the fire company for the building project be paid out of the general fund and not a fire tax which can be construed as a tax for construction of the new building, which would subject the project to pay Prevailing Wage Rates, which would add approximately 30% to the cost of the project.

The Borough and Township will need to sign an inter-municipal agreement to guarantee the loan for the fire company. Both municipalities will need to officially recognize the Citizen Fire Company #1 as the fire company for each community. Mr. Powl informed Council that the Borough has already done this with the enactment of Ordinance #583 on June 28, 1993. However, the Township will need to pass a resolution.

Bond counsel has advised that tax exempt loans are available to volunteer fire companies. Mr. Powl informed Council that Brad Remig, Public Financial Management, Inc. will be contacting lending institutions for financing of the project on a 20 and 30 year loan.

Councilor Laudermilch inquired as to who owns the fire equipment. Mr. Powl responded that the equipment is owned by Citizens Fire Company No. 1. Councilor Laudermilch then asked what happens to that equipment if the fire company should fail and disband. Mr. Powl explained that he would pose that question to the Solicitor for a correct answer.

Mr. Powl also informed Council that Ron Fouche, Chairman of the North Londonderry Township Board of Supervisors, would prefer the fire company to construct a single-story building fronting on South Railroad Street. This would utilize the lot already dedicated for construction of the new firehouse and the lot that Borough Council made available to the public library. Councilors agreed that the library has already been given this lot and things should not be changed simply because the library has not yet made a decision on their future expansion plans.

- i. Zoning Hearing Board: (No Zoning Hearings were conducted this month)
- j. Borough Manager's Report:
 1. New Municipal Building Project Status Update: Mr. Powl informed Council that staff is still waiting for the commission agent report regarding the HVAC system. He also mentioned that the landscaping has been completed. Councilor Laudermilch asked how long staff will wait to get the landscapers back and finish the areas that were not done properly.
 2. Southeast Park – Mr. Powl provided a letter from a volunteer group requesting permission to spruce up Southeast Park by painting, building new seating, and maintaining the shrubbery. Council considered their request and did not like the idea of the tire or baby swings from trees, or the balance beam due to liability concerns. Otherwise, they gave Mr. Powl authority to contact the volunteers and give them permission to help in the park.
 3. General Code Publishers - Re-Codification Project – Mr. Powl provided a copy of Change Order #1 from General Code to include the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, the Zoning Ordinance, and all other ordinances passed since 2012. The cost of the update, along with the amount still outstanding is \$14,093.

Motion: To approve Change Order #1 for the recodification project to include the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, the new Zoning Ordinance, and all ordinances that have been passed by Council since the project commenced. Motion by Ralph Watts, second by Pat Hennessy. Motion passed.
 4. Zero-Turn Riding Mower Purchase for Cemetery – Mr. Powl presented Council with a proposal to purchase an eXmark Lazer Z S-Series 52" zero-turn riding mower for the purpose of using it in the cemetery. The cost of the mower, minus the trade-in of the Borough's Howard mower and John Deere zero-turn mower, would be \$4,624. This purchase would make it easier to mow grass between the tomb stones. Councilor Laudermilch advised Mr. Powl that the X-Series is a better mower and the Borough should consider upgrading this purchase.

Motion: To authorize the Borough Manager to research the cost of the eXmark Lazer ZX-Series 52' zero-turn mower and use his discretion to either purchase this mower at a reasonable higher cost or purchase the eXmark Lazer Z S-Series 52" zero-turn mower at a cost of \$4,624. The funds for the purchase are to be taken from the cemetery fund. Motion by Gary Laudermilch, second by Ralph Watts. Motion passed.

5. Mr. Powl informed Council that he met with Dennis Sloand from the Lebanon County MPO. Mr. Sloand is assuming the position of Tom Kotay upon his retirement. The discussion pertained to the use of the federal funds the MPO receives towards improvements at Railroad and Cherry Streets. Mr. Sloand advised Mr. Powl that if the Borough pays for a traffic study at this intersection any improvements could be paid for through the funds the MPO receives for western Lebanon County. Mr. Powl presented a proposal from RETTEW regarding the traffic study at a cost of \$6,300 and asked Council if they felt to project was worth pursuing. Council discussed the idea of studying the intersection and decided against the study on the basis that the community knows how difficult it is to get through this intersection and they take steps to avoid it whenever possible.

Communications

President Quairolì called attention to a letter dated 4/10/15 from the Lebanon County Community Action Partnership inviting members of Council to serve a one or two year term on the LCCAP Board. She mentioned that the meetings for this organization conflict with the Council meeting schedule.

Announcement

President Quairolì announced that Borough Council will conduct a public workshop meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 beginning at 6:00 PM and the regular monthly public meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Other Business

- Councilor Hennessy asked President Quairolì, as the representative on the Library Board, if the Board answers to the Executive Director or if the Executive Director answers to the Library Board. Discussion followed about the Library using the lot on the corner of Railroad and Walnut Streets. President Quairolì explained that the Library is not ready to make a decision and is planning to survey a random sample of residents in the North/South Londonderry Townships and the Borough to determine the best location to place the Library for the future.
- Councilor Watts asked Chief Jasinski if anyone can purchase the pedestrian crossing signs and give them to the Borough.
- Councilor Templin inquired if anyone saw the Municipal Center parking lot on Sunday afternoon as it was parked full of cars.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Beth Shearer, second by Joe Templin. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager