

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
 Tuesday November 27, 2018
 7:00 PM

Borough Council 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, Josh Holl, Tom Miller, Jane Quairoli, and Joe Templin. Also in attendance were Borough Manager Roger Powl, Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera, Chief Stan Jasinski, and Mayor Fred Carpenter. Carissa Mellinger was absent from the meeting.

Announcements

President Shearer announced that Borough Council held an executive session prior to this evening's meeting to discuss a personnel matter as permitted by the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. Any official action resulting from discussions held during the Executive Session will occur at a future public meeting.

Special Visitors

Representative Frank Ryan was in attendance to give Borough Council an update.

- The MS4 requirements from DEP continue to be challenged by Rep. Ryan and others. He commented that a University of Maryland report shows no benefit to the Chesapeake Bay from the MS4 requirements. The goal is to eliminate the MS4 requirements completely.
- Rep. Ryan commented that the economic condition at the Commonwealth is very bleak and he is working on a solution to eliminate wasteful spending. He does not believe the budget will be done on time this year.
- He announced a statewide fiscal crisis for ambulance services.
- He reported on his Act 77 legislation that will require Humane Officers to be certified.
- He also spoke about Act 79 which requires anyone with a Protection of Abuse Order to surrender all weapons.
- He mentioned that he is working on securing \$3-million to straighten Lingle Ave, and to make stormwater improvements to prevent the roadway from flooding in the future.
- He also mentioned that he would soon be introducing his property tax elimination bill for school taxes.

Public Comment Period #1

- Barb Brubaker, 144 N. Forge Road had questions regarding the new trash program, asked for panhandling to be eliminated in the Borough, and asked Council to require the manager and assistant manager to live in the Borough.
- Len Chimel, 1 N. Clearview Drive, Palmyra and Mike Blouch, 81 Augusta Drive, Annville, both were in attendance to ask Council for relief of the minimum number of units required for rental properties to contract their own refuse service. Additionally, they asked for Council to allow their rental properties to be considered commercial for billing purposes rather than residential.

Consent Calendar

The following agenda items will be acted upon by a single motion:

- a. Approve the minutes of the November 13, 2018 Borough Council meeting.
- b. Approve the Treasurer's Report for the period October 1 through October 31, 2018:

	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Refuse Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Special Sewer Fund	Liquid Fuels Fund
YTD Revenue	\$3,307,744	\$1,582,435	\$840,853	\$1,061,512	\$20,092	\$232,987
YTD Expenses	\$3,691,426	\$1,036,402	\$668,353	\$420,755	\$523,943	\$27,484
Difference	\$(383,682)	\$546,033	\$172,500	\$640,757	\$(503,851)	\$207,493
Fund Balance	\$1,545,902	\$766,936	\$440,265	\$1,717,373	\$1,786,293	\$732,818

	Library Fund	Police Health Care Fund	Town Square Reserve Fund	Joint Fire Apparatus Fund	Cemetery Fund	Employee Benefits Fund
YTD Revenue	\$28,626	\$40,072	\$43	\$53,231	\$1,079	\$107,252
YTD Expenses	\$28,500	\$31,717	\$940	\$0	\$473	\$78,112
Difference	\$128	\$8,355	\$(897)	\$53,231	\$605	\$29,139
Fund Balance	\$2,523	\$197,917	\$3,849	\$377,100	\$41,657	\$29,139

Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Tom Miller. Motion passed.

Action & Discussion Items

a. Road Closure Request: Lion’s Club Reindeer Night:

Motion: To authorize the Palmyra Lion’s Club to close South Railroad Street from Main Street to Cherry Street from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM on Saturday December 15, 2018 for the 2018 Reindeer Night event at the Town Square. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Don Barry. Motion passed.

b. 2019 Preliminary Budget Discussion: Mr. Powl reported that the Preliminary Budget was prepared with a maximum 0.50-mill tax increase as discussed at the previous meeting. Councilor Miller, Shearer, and Holl questioned several line items in the Preliminary Budget. Councilor Quairoli mentioned that she wanted to use 100% of the unappropriated funds from 2018 to balance the budget.

Motion: To authorize the Borough Manager to advertise the 2019 Preliminary Budget and to make the 2019 Preliminary Budget available for the required 10-day public review period pursuant to Section §1308(a) of the Borough Code for final consideration of the Budget to occur at the December 20, 2018 Borough Council meeting. Motion by Tom Miller, second by Joe Templin. President Shearer called for a roll call vote:

*Don Barry - Yes
 Josh Holl - No
 Tom Miller - Yes
 Jane Quairoli - No
 Joe Templin - Yes
 Beth Shearer - Yes*

The motion passed by a 4-2 vote.

c. Ordinance #790 – 2019 Real Estate Tax Ordinance:

Motion: To authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise Ordinance #790, the 2019 Real Estate Tax Ordinance, to set the real estate tax rate pursuant to Section §1310.1 of the Borough Code for the Year 2019 at the following rates: Real Estate Tax – 3.35 mills; Public Library Tax – .06 mills. Motion by Tom Miller, second by Beth Shearer. President Shearer called for a roll call vote:

Don Barry - *Yes*
Josh Holl - *No*
Tom Miller - *Yes*
Jane Quairol - *No*
Joe Templin - *Yes*
Beth Shearer - *Yes*

The motion passed by a 4-2 vote.

- d. Chapter 310 (Stormwater Management Ordinance) Section 310-16.A(7) – Fencing Requirements: Council discussed changing the stormwater management ordinance as it relates to fencing around stormwater detention basin facilities. Current language states a fence “may” be required. The proposed change provided five different options to require a fence, but Council could not come to a consensus on the requirements and decided against making a change at this time.
- e. Chapter 305 (Solid Waste) Section 305-15 (Alternatives for Collection from Apartments): Council discussed the request to revise the number of minimum apartments as requested during public comment. Consideration was given to the minimum number of units and agreed that eight or more units would be sufficient to allow property owners to contract their own refuse service.

Motion: To authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise Ordinance #791, an ordinance amending the minimum number of per property apartments required to eight or more before being eligible to contract refuse & recycling collection services from a private hauler. Motion by Jane Quairol, second by Don Barry. Motion passed.

Reports

- a. President’s Report: President Shearer thanked the police and public works departments for their assistance with the holiday parade.
- b. Library Report: Councilor Quairol was not at the Library meeting and will have a report at the next Council meeting.
- c. Police Department: Mayor Carpenter/Chief Jasinski
 - 1. Officer Shoemaker Probation Period:

Motion: To officially remove Officer Jennifer L. Shoemaker from probationary status effective November 29, 2018 and to retain her as a full-time Police Officer for the Borough of Palmyra Police Department. Motion by Jane Quairol, second by Don Barry. Motion passed.
 - 2. Mayor Carpenter also noted that the process to replace retiring Police Chief Stanley Jasinski will carry over into 2019. He recommended appointing Sergeant Peter J. Mathews to the position of Acting Chief until a new chief is hired.

Motion: To appoint Sergeant Peter J. Mathews to the position of Acting Chief as of December 30, 2018. Motion by Beth Shearer, second by Jane Quairol. Motion passed.
- d. Solicitor’s Report: There was no report.
- e. Zoning Hearing Board: No Hearings were conducted this month.
- f. Borough Manager’s Report:

1. 300 Block E. Cherry St / 100 Block S. Grant St Stormwater & Road Restoration Project: Mr. Powl reported the contractor is working on connecting the two injection wells between South Avenue and South Harrison Streets. Unfortunately, progress has been slowed because they encountered rock that requires hammering and removal.
2. New Public Works Garage Building Project: The garage is expected to be substantially complete by the end of 2018, and any punch-list items will be taken care of during January then the final payment will be made to the contractor.
3. Mr. Powl commented that more sinkholes have opened in Southeast Park on the east side of the detention basin outlet structure. He explained that the Public Works Crew recently repaired a sinkhole in this same area and there was no obvious cause, therefore, he reached out to the ARM Group, Inc. for a proposal to do geophysical testing to find out what options there may be for a long-term solution. Dr. Seaton submitted a proposal for \$6,500.00 and believes they will be able to conduct the study quickly.

Motion: To approve the proposal by ARM Group, Hershey, PA to conduct additional geophysical testing in Southeast Park at a cost not to exceed \$6,500, and to expense the cost in General Fund line item #01.408.313. Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Don Barry. Motion passed.

Other Business

President Shearer announced that the Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled for Friday, December 7, 2018 at 6 PM.

Public Comment Period #2

- Mike Blouch, 81 Augusta Drive, Annville, inquired if Council will be considering his request. Council asked Mr. Powl to work with Dale Shope to determine how changing rental units to commercial would impact the sewer fund.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct a public meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 and on Thursday, December 20, 2018 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Jane Quairolì, second by Joe Templin. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager