

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting  
 Tuesday, December 26, 2017  
 7:00 PM

Borough Council President Mark Smith 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 Brian Craig, Josh Holl, Jane Quairoli, Beth Shearer, and Joe Templin. Also in attendance were Mayor Fred Carpenter, Police Chief Stan Jasinski, Borough Manager Roger Powl, and Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera. Carissa Mellinger was absent.

Public Comments

- Greg Reed, 233 E. Hazel St, expressed his concern with higher taxes.
- Maddie Reed, 233 E. Hazel St, expressed her opposition to the new public works garage.
- Gary Laudermilch, 30 W. Ridge Rd, questioned the need for a new public works garage.
- Bill Zeiders, 333 E. Main St, accused Borough staff of a conspiracy and using their power against residents unfairly, complained about the refuse dumpster to the rear of 401 E. Main Street that is always over-flowing, shared his opposition to the new public works building, complained that the Borough wasted money on a new leaf vacuum truck, threatened a lawsuit over the new injection well located on S. Harrison Street, and recommended Gary Laudermilch be appointed to Council.
- Matthew & Deann Silks, 27 N. Harrison St, were in attendance to complain about the zoning violation notice they received to remove the junk from their yard. The items in their yard are part of their business of removing junk from properties.

Consent Calendar

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the December 12, 2017 Borough Council meeting.
- b. Approve the Treasurer’s Report for the period November 1 through November 30, 2017:

	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Refuse Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Special Sewer Fund	Liquid Fuels Fund
YTD Revenue	\$3,196,402	\$1,320,773	\$997,010	\$466,399	\$96,484	\$221,450
YTD Expenses	\$2,738,429	\$1,499,450	\$926,450	\$560,876	\$73,086	\$14,532
Difference	\$457,972	\$(178,677)	\$70,560	\$(94477)	\$23,398	\$206,918
Fund Balance	\$1,972,255	\$363,232	\$335,306	\$1,189,982	\$2,281,411	\$527,882

	Library Fund	Police Health Care Fund	Town Square Reserve Fund	Joint Fire Apparatus Fund	Cemetery Fund
YTD Revenue	\$28,858	\$44,091	\$11	\$40,691	\$674
YTD Expenses	\$28,000	\$25,279	\$0	\$0	\$0
Difference	\$858	\$18,813	\$11	\$40,691	\$674
Fund Balance	\$2,516	\$190,411	\$4,745	\$323,710	\$41,043

*Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Beth Shearer. Motion passed.*

Action & Discussion Items

a. 2018 Final Budget:

*Motion: To approve the 2018 Final Budget. Motion by Mark Smith, second by Beth Shearer. Motion passed by a 5-1 vote with Jane Quairoli voting against the motion.*

b. Ordinance #781 – 2018 Real Estate Tax Ordinance:

*Motion: To enact Ordinance #781, the 2018 Real Estate Tax Ordinance, to set the real estate tax rate pursuant to Section §1310.1 of the Borough Code for the Year 2018 at the following rates: Real Estate Tax = 2.85 mills; Public Library Tax = .06 mills. Motion by Mark Smith, second by Beth Shearer. Motion passed.*

c. Ordinance #782 – 2018 Sewer Rates:

*Motion: To enact Ordinance #782, an ordinance to amend Chapter 288 (Sewers) of the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of Palmyra to increase the rates charged for domestic sewage from the current base rate of \$73 per quarter to \$88 per quarter for residential customers, and from the current \$7.30 per quarter for each 1,000 gallons of water used in excess of 10,000 gallons for commercial customers to \$8.80, effective January 1, 2018. Motion by Mark Smith, second by Joe Templin. Motion passed by a 5-1 vote with Beth Shearer voting against the motion.*

d. Lebanon County Treasurer's – Tax Collection Agreement Amendment:

*Motion: To approve the amendment to the inter-municipal agreement between the Borough and the Lebanon County Treasurer's Office, raising the cost of collection from \$0.45 to \$0.50 per each tax bill. Motion by Jane Quairoli, second by Mark Smith. Motion passed.*

e. Personnel – Public Works Department – Retain Full-Time Employee:

*Motion: To officially remove Andrew J. Stoak from probationary status effective December 18, 2017 and to retain him as a full-time employee for the Borough of Palmyra Public Works Department. Motion by Beth Shearer, second by Jane Quairoli. Motion passed.*

Reports

a. President's Report: President Smith did not have a report.

b. Library Report: Councilor Quairoli presented the December 2017 report.

c. Police Department: Mayor Carpenter presented the November 2017 Mayor's report.

d. Recreation Commission Report: Councilor Quairoli did not have a report.

e. Solicitor's Report: Mr. Powl provided a copy of Resolution 2017-27 for the sale of Borough property located at 210 N. Forge Road. Council approved Resolution 2016-26, which terms included the Borough retaining possession of the property until June 30, 2017. Mr. Powl indicated that the new resolution is a housekeeping requirement to update the dates of settlement to be on or before April 30, 2018.

*Motion: To approve Resolution 2017-27 which updates settlement dates for the sale of property identified as 210 North Forge Road to on or before April 30, 2018. Motion by Mark Smith, second by Joe Templin. Motion passed by a 4-2 vote with Jane Quairoli and Josh Holl voting against the motion.*

- f. Zoning Hearing Board: Mr. Powl shared the results of the hearings conducted December 18<sup>th</sup> -
1. 984 E. Walnut Street - Steven & Gloria Mann: (Results of December 18<sup>th</sup> hearing)
    - Variance Sec. 380-76.B(1) (Maximum Fence Height) - To construct a 6-foot high fence in a front yard area where the maximum fence height is 3-feet.

Approved – conditioned upon:

    - 1) Fence must be clear of any public or utility right-of-way.
    - 2) Fence must terminate at driveway (driveway entrance cannot be gated shut).
- g. Borough Manager's Report:
1. 300 Block E. Cherry St / 100 Block S. Grant St Stormwater & Road Restoration Project: Mr. Powl reported that the contractor has begun excavation on the new stormwater basin.
  2. Phase A Stormwater Management System: (north of railroad tracks - west of N. Grant St.) Ridge Road Park Wetlands – Mr. Powl informed Council that Representative Frank Ryan is in contact with The Hershey Company to discuss options for the stormwater project. He is also pursuing a grant extension for the Borough's Growing Greener grant. More information will be forthcoming on the effort to keep this project in play.
  3. Refuse Route Changes: Mr. Powl presented a new collection route map for the refuse/recycling service. The changes were requested by Jim Teahl to make the routes more efficient. The Borough will implement the new changes on April 1<sup>st</sup> and take the next three months to inform the residents affected by the new route. Council reviewed the map provided and agreed to the changes with an emphasis on resident education.
  4. Zoning Officer's Report – Website: Mr. Powl asked Council to revisit the plan to place the Zoning Officer's report on the website due to potential privacy concerns. Council agreed that the concerns are legitimate.
  5. Memorial Park Field Lighting: Mr. Powl solicited an estimate from Musco Lighting for the cost of installing new LED lights at Memorial Park for the football and softball fields. The Musco design team came up with an estimate of \$375,000 if Musco is to perform the complete job. The estimate is COSTARS pricing so, no bidding would be necessary. The price would be much lower if the Borough just bought the lights and installed them, but how much lower is not known. Mr. Powl is scheduled to meet with the Musco Lighting representatives on January 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the project further. Mr. Powl will also search for grants that may help pay for the lighting, otherwise, his efforts are merely for pricing so that fund raising can be conducted to purchase the new lights.
  6. Mr. Powl reminded Council that they need to fill 2 vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board – 1 regular member and 1 alternate. They also have a vacancy on the Planning Commission. Councilor Craig agreed to hold the position of Vacancy Board Chair for the Borough.

#### Other Business

- Councilor Quairoli asked if the request for more capacity from ASK Foods is resolved. Mr. Powl stated the Borough is waiting for more information from North Londonderry Township.
- Councilor Craig read the following into the minutes:

As a lifelong resident of Palmyra serving on Borough Council has been one of the greatest honors and responsibilities of my life. The opportunity that I have had to affect my town, and work with the great servants and leaders of our community has taught me incredible lessons that I will never forget. Further, I

have enjoyed the honor of working with everyone here. Palmyra can be proud of its Council. We have not always agreed on everything, but I believe that each of us has always acted out of concern for our community and neighbors. This is exactly how democracy is supposed to work. Additionally, the dedication each of you shows to our town in this chamber, and your volunteerism and service beyond it in the community is commendable. Thank you for your service and friendship.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Borough staff, the Police Department, and all the volunteers and employees on all our boards and organizations. You make the best of the limited resources that you have, you give more than you are compensated for, and you continue to do good work. Palmyra is a small town in the middle of much bigger and wealthier areas, but everywhere I go I hear good things about our town, our residents, and our organizations. I am honored to be a small part of this team, and will always be proud to be from Palmyra.

I will be swearing in as the Lebanon County Register of Wills/Clerk of Orphans Court on January 2nd, and can only hold one elected office, therefore please accept this notice as my resignation from Palmyra Borough Council and the Palmyra Borough representative to the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority effective midnight January 1, 2018.

Best Wishes,  
Brian Craig  
Member of Palmyra Borough Council

Announcement

President Smith announced that Borough Council will conduct the Biennial Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday January 2, 2018 at 7:00 PM and a public meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 and on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn

*Motion to adjourn by Jane Quairola, second by Beth Shearer. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl  
Borough Manager