

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting  
Tuesday July 22, 2025  
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, Jane Quairoli, Marcus Riddell, and James Tesche. Also in attendance were Borough Manager Roger Powl, Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera, Western Lebanon County Regional Police Chief Andrew Winters, and Mayor Tom Miller.

Announcements

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

Public Comment Period #1

- Dave McCloskey, 212 E. Ridge Road, explained that he had recent discussions with the Hackett's, who own the property on the south side of E. Ridge Rd east of N. Grant St, and they told him they are no longer agreeable to granting any stormwater easements on their property for solving the stormwater problems along E. Ridge Rd. He spoke on his desire for a resolution to the stormwater issues and expressed that he believes this is the Borough's problem to solve.
- Bill Zeiders, 333 E. Main Street, complained about the following:
  - The water ponding on E. Ridge Road will be icy during the winter.
  - Paying for services residents are not receiving. Leaf piles were never collected along E. Maple St near Forge Rd.
  - The condition of the alley beside Lazzaro's Restaurant on N. Railroad Street
  - Kids hanging out at Sheetz in pick-up trucks playing loud music.
  - No police officers visible in Palmyra
  - The streetsweeper drives down the center of the street.
  - Loud Motorcycle gangs driving on Main Street.
  - Drag racing on E Main Street.
  - Fireworks need to be illegal, and the police need to be more pro-active in responding to illegal fireworks.He also predicted that the next big sinkhole will occur near the intersection of Forge & Arch. He concluded by stating "this town has never been so sorry."
- Mary Smith and Dave Koch, 137 N. Railroad Street, were in attendance for an update on paving the alley (Division Street) beside their residence. They explained the alley was dug out and prepared for paving last year and then was never paved. The alley contains several large potholes that constantly needs repairs. They asked what the plans are for the alley to finally be paved.

Consent Calendar

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025 Borough Council meeting.
- b. Approve payment of all bills listed on the June 2025 Detailed Check Listing Report.
- c. Approve the Treasurer's Report for the period June 1 through June 30, 2025:

	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Refuse Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Special Sewer Fund	Liquid Fuels Fund
YTD Revenue	\$3,418,658	\$915,196	\$773,893	\$14,510	\$21,747	\$223,608
YTD Expenses	\$2,255,111	\$648,335	\$683,675	\$64,891	\$391,874	\$230,000
Difference	\$1,163,547	\$266,860	\$90,218	\$(50,381)	\$(370,126)	\$(6,392)
Fund Balance	\$1,468,095	\$487,872	\$181,958	\$633,600	\$2,051,999	\$35,653

	Library Fund	Joint Fire Apparatus Fund	Cemetery Fund	Employee Benefits Fund	Fire Protection Tax Fund
YTD Revenue	\$28,304	\$151,367	\$336	\$1,795	\$323,999
YTD Expenses	\$23,000	\$0	\$20	\$9,158	\$175,760
Difference	\$5,304	\$151,367	\$316	\$(7,363)	\$148,238
Fund Balance	\$5,820	\$329,044	\$45,292	\$238,750	\$177,114

*Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Marcus Riddell, second by Nancy Fleegle. Motion passed.*

Action & Discussion Items

a. Road Closure Request – 2025 Holiday Parade:

*Motion: To authorize the closure of the roads necessary to assemble and conduct the Palmyra Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 15, 2025 from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM utilizing the following parade route beginning at 11:00 AM:*

- *Beginning at the intersection of W. Cherry Street and South Mark Street for the parade to line up, continuing in front of the Palmyra Area Middle School on West Cherry Street; continue east on E. Cherry Street; north on South Green Street; west on East Main Street; south on S. Locust Street and disbanding at the Palmyra Area Middle School.*

*Motion by James Tesche, second by Marcus Riddell. Motion passed.*

Reports

- President’s Report: President Shearer mentioned that the weather is to increase in temperature by the end of the week and advised everything to stay cool and hydrated.
- Mayor’s Report: Mayor Miller commented that the reports being discussed at each Council meeting are provided to Council about a week prior to the meeting for review. The perspective that Council breezes through the reports is incorrect because a great deal of review and consideration is made by Council prior to the meeting. He also commented that he appreciates the attendance and public comments from the residents.

- c. Financial Report: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the June 2025 financial report.
- d. Fire Department: There was no report.
- e. Library Report: Councilor Quairolì provided a copy of the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- f. Police Report – Western Lebanon County Regional Police Department: Sergeant Stickler was available to address any questions on the report. He also responded to Mr. Zeiders stating that the police department responded to 3 calls made by residents for fireworks and addressed five incidents of fire works that they found while on patrol. Councilor Catalani asked the status of other municipalities joining the regional department and Sgt. Stickler responded that is a question for the Chief to answer.
- g. Recreation Commission: The Commission did not meet in July.
- h. Solicitor’s Report: There was no report.
- i. Zoning & Codes Enforcement:
  1. Zoning Hearing Board: (Hearings scheduled for Monday August 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM).
    - a. 740 W. Main St – Gellato & Co.:
      - Seeking a Special Exception for substitution or replacement of a non-conforming use under Section 380-128.A & 380-139.B of the Palmyra Borough Zoning Ordinance to establish a proposed multi-vendor indoor antique, flea market, bazaar style farmers market in the main building and vender overflow storage in the garage building within the Highway Commercial (HC) & Town Residential (TR) District.
    - b. 633 W. Walnut St – Dareck & Samatha Caroway:
      - Seeking an appeal of the Zoning Officer’s interpretation regarding the method of calculating impervious cover or a variance of the total permitted impervious cover per Section 380-14.G.
      - Seeking a variance of Section 380-76.B(1) to allow a 6’ high fence in the front yard when only 3’ is permitted.

Council reviewed and agreed to take no position on these applications.

- j. Borough Manager's Report:
  1. N. Grant Street Bridge Sinkhole Update: Mr. Powl reported that the depression has been filled in by PennDOT and the Borough will keep watching it to let them know if it sinks again.
  2. Non-Uniform and Police Pension Compliance Audit (Dept of Auditor General): January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024. Ms. Pera stated that the audit was for the period of 2021 through 2024, and another audit will not take place for at least two years and will no longer include the police pension plan. The audit reported no issues with either the non-uniform or the police plans.
  3. Pear Alley & Plum Alley (between W. Cherry St & W. Maple St and S. Lingle Ave & S. Windsor Ave): Mr. Powl explained about an area of wasteland that has been plaguing the Borough for years. The original Pear Alley turned off the north side of W. Maple Street and ended at Peach Alley (which is now named Plum Alley). Plum Alley continued west then north to W. Cherry Street. He found maps dating back to 1956 verifying this. The current configuration has Pear Alley coming straight south off E. Cherry Street to an east/west unnamed alley that connects to S. Lingle Ave to the west and to the original Pear Alley to the east, creating a rectangular wasteland area in what used to be the original Pear Alley that is now grass, which the Borough must maintain. The original Pear Alley contains a sewer main, and the new straight Pear Alley is the location for a stormwater pipe that dead-ends and does not connect to the inlet/drainage grate at the alley intersection with S. Lingle Ave. Mr. Powl explained that the current alignment

appears on maps from the 1970's but there is no information in the Borough archives about this reconfiguration and missing link stormwater pipe. He could not identify a tight enough timeline to research through the meeting minutes and there is no corresponding subdivision plan that sheds any light on the current configuration. Therefore, Ms. Pera has researched and pulled all the surrounding property deeds dating back to the early 1900's and provided them to the Borough Solicitor for her review and possible solutions to the situation.

#### Other Business

- Councilor Catalani complained about the lack of sidewalk for pedestrians at 616 E. Main Street. He complained about this area previously, so the Borough requested the property owner, Klick-Lewis, paint designated lines for pedestrians. Councilor Catalani believes this is still unsafe for pedestrians. President Shearer asked all Councilors to look at the area before the next meeting.

#### Public Comment Period #2

- Bill Zeiders, 333 E Main St, complained about the following:
  - The old shoe factory located at Arch and Harrison Streets needs to be torn down.
  - The sidewalk at 616 E Main St should be in the parking lot.
  - Advance Auto looks like a dump.
  - The Borough should not allow more apartments. There are already too many that do not have off-street parking.
  - Klick-Lewis only painted one white line for the sidewalk 616 E. Main St.
- Mary Smith, 137 N. Railroad Street, said the parking for the Caring Cupboard is overflowing onto N. Railroad St within the yellow curb no parking zone areas and the police need to address this issue.
- Todd Gottshall, 511 E. Cherry St, commented that the stormwater issues in the Borough far outweigh Mr. Catalani's complaint about the pedestrian area at 616 E Main Street. He asked Council to focus on better priorities.

#### Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct its next public meetings on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, and Tuesday, August 26, 2025 beginning at 7:00 PM.

#### Motion to Adjourn

*Motion to adjourn the meeting by Marcus Riddell, second by James Tesche. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl  
Borough Manager