

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
Tuesday October 8, 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, Nancy Fleegle, Jane Quairoli, Marcus Riddell, and James Tesche. Also in attendance were Borough Manager Roger Powl, Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera, Mayor Fred Carpenter, and Western Lebanon County Regional Police Chief Andrew Winters. Anthony Catalani was absent from the meeting.

Announcements

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

Special Visitors

- Frank Pulli, of the Palmyra Lions Club, was in attendance to discuss the planned Holiday events. He highlighted Trick-or-Treat on the Square, the return of Santa Claus, the Tree lighting, and Reindeer night.

Public Comment Period #1

- Maddie Reed, 233 E. Hazel St, had questions about the new refuse contract.
- Don Barry, 711 N. Grant Street, inquired if he can keep his old 33-gallon cans for yard waste.

Consent Calendar

- a. Approve the minutes of the September 24, 2024, Borough Council meeting.

Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Marcus Riddell, second by James Tesche. Motion passed.

Action & Discussion Items

- a. Ordinance #833 – Amend Chapter 59 (Police) of the Palmyra Borough Code of Ordinances:

Motion: To authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise Ordinance #833, an ordinance to amend Chapter 59 (Police) of the Palmyra Borough Code of Ordinances to officially disband the Palmyra Borough Police Department and name the Western Lebanon County Regional Police Department as the official police department for Palmyra Borough. Motion by James Tesche, second by Nancy Fleegle. Motion passed.

Reports

- a. President's Report: President Shearer did not have a report.
- b. Financial Report:
1. The financial statement will be available at the October 22nd meeting.
 2. Delinquent Sewer & Refuse Account Report: Ms. Pera presented the September 2024 report.
- c. Fire Department / EMS Report:
1. Fire Department: Mr. Powl shared a copy of the Citizens Fire Co. No. 1 September 2024 report. Chief Dugan reported that the fire department applied for a FEMA grant but was not awarded the grant in the first round. They plan to reapply.

2. EMS Report: Mr. Powl shared a copy of the August 2024 Life Lion Monthly EMS Report
- d. Western Lebanon County Regional Police Department: Chief Winters spoke on the training that took place in September 2024. He also mentioned that the department will be getting an officer certified to conduct truck inspections beginning in 2025.
- e. Planning Commission: The Commission did not meet in September.
 1. Share Park, LLC (Caring Cupboard) – Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan:
Motion: To grant a 90-day extension of time for the review of the Share Park, LLC Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan, expiring January 20, 2025.
Motion by Marcus Riddell, second by Nancy Fleegle. Motion passed.
- f. Public Works Department:
 1. Superintendent's Monthly Report: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the September 2024 report.
 2. Borough Properties:
 - a. Municipal Building – 325 S. Railroad Street:
 - Camera replacement project update: Mr. Powl commented that the cameras have been installed and staff will be trained on the software on Friday, October 11th. Ms. Pera made an announcement that the cameras in the parks will be used to identify anyone causing damage or mischief and the plan is to fully prosecute offenders regardless of their age.
 - b. Public Works Department – 910 E. Broad Street:
 - c. Town Square: The clock is not functioning. The Public Works Superintendent has verified that the electric to the clock is not compromised, so the issue must be inside the clock. He does not have the special tool to open the clock but will be working to obtain a replacement tool if necessary.
 - d. Vacant Lot – 40 E. Front Street:
 - e. Vacant Lot – Northeast corner of the intersection of N. Lingle Ave and W. Main Street:
 - f. Vacant Lot (Shaffer-Erb Tract) – south side 900 Block East Cherry Street:
 3. Cemetery:
 4. Parks: (Heritage Park, Palmyra Memorial Park, and Southeast Park) Mr. Powl informed Council that a meeting was held with Dr. Seaton, ARM Group, Inc. regarding the sinkholes at Southeast Park. Dr. Seaton determined through a geophysical review of the park that the sinkholes require a basic repair consisting of excavation, stone, and clay. He did not believe there is a need for compaction grouting or flowable fill due to the large rock formations in the area.
 5. Refuse & Recycling: Mr. Powl reported that Casella Mid-Atlantic, LLC is preparing to deliver the 96-gallon curb carts during the week of October 28th. Any unwanted old containers will be collected at that time by the cart vendor and eventually recycled.

6. Sewer System:

- a. Pump Station #3 (located west of W. Broad St & N. Locust St) – The pump station is sending repetitive alarms that need to be addressed by Public Works. The alarms are annoying, and efforts are being made to determine the cause to eliminate the need to continually respond.

7. Sinkholes:

- a. New:
 1. Southeast Park detention basin
- b. Old:
 1. 156 N. Railroad Street – Mr. Powl contacted PennDOT to determine if they plan to remediate this sinkhole before the cutoff date for asphalt.
 2. 528 S. Franklin St (NE corner of S. Franklin St & E. Birch St)

8. Stormwater Management:

- a. Phase A Stormwater Management System – Basin Improvement Project Update:
 - The process to bore a stormwater pipe under the railroad began on Monday October 7th as scheduled and is supposed to continue 24-hours per day until completed. However, one of the overnight crews was involved in a motor vehicle accident and the boring had to be shut down until a replacement overnight crew could get onsite. The intent is to complete the boring project by October 11th.

9. Street & Alley Maintenance: Mr. Powl reported that the 2025 Street Paving Bids were advertised and are due on Tuesday November 5th.

10. Traffic Signals:

- g. Solicitor's Report: There was no report.
- h. Zoning & Codes Enforcement: Mr. Powl provided a copy of the September 2024 report.
- i. Borough Manager's Report:
 1. East Ridge Road – Melrose (Phase #1) – Off-Site Stormwater Update: Mr. Powl updated Council on a meeting that was held with the residents of the Borough and North Londonderry Township (NLT) that are affected by the off-site E. Ridge Road stormwater issues. The Borough Engineer was included in the meeting. The outcome of the meeting was for the residents of NLT to discuss the outstanding issues with the NLT officials to determine why they will not cooperate with the proposed resolution.
 2. Mr. Powl reported that the vehicle replacement schedule shows that two of the 10-ton dump trucks are due to be replaced in 2026 and 2027. He commented that to meet the replacement schedule, the new trucks will need to be ordered now. No deposit will be required, however, escalation costs may be applied between the time of order placement and actual delivery. It will take at least a year to receive the new vehicles, and potentially an additional year for the upfitter to install the dump body on the trucks. The cost of a new dump truck is around \$250,000. According to current federal regulations, the 2027 model year will be the last year to buy a traditional diesel-powered truck before all electric mandates are applied, or, additional emissions equipment will need to be installed at a cost of \$20,000 per vehicle. Council agreed that the trucks should be ordered now.

Communications

Mr. Powl provided a copy of the PA Auditor General Liquid Fuels Fund Audit 2022-23.

Other

There was no other business.

Public Comment Period #2

- Dave McCloskey, 212 E. Ridge Road, asked Borough Council to extend an invitation to North Londonderry Twp (NLT) officials to attend the next Borough Council meeting to continue discussing resolutions to the off-site stormwater issue. Borough Council agreed and asked Mr. Powl to contact NLT.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct its next public meetings on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, and Tuesday, November 12, 2024, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Marcus Riddell, second by James Tesche. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager