

Borough of Palmyra  
Borough Council  
Minutes- December 7, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER.**

**ROLL CALL OF BOROUGH COUNCIL.**

**PRESENT: President Dobbs, Mrs. Tait, Mr. Norcross, Ms. Arnold, Mr. Howard.  
ABSENT: Mayor Scheffler, Mr. Bostock, Mr. Gravano (student representative).**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE.**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT**

Public Notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given by the Borough Clerk in the following manner:

- A. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board at the Palmyra Borough Hall on January 7, 2015.
- B. Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times, and the Courier Post Newspaper on January 7, 2015.
- C. Notice to All Council Members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Mrs. Tait made a motion to approve the regular minutes from November 16, 2015, Mr. Norcross second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.**

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

- A. **Report of Tax Sale. Mr. Gural read the report into the record: Fourteen properties were sold at tax sale totaling \$33,472.21, six properties had no bidders totaling \$6,304.37 which are now Municipal Liens. Eight-four properties were sold for sewer tax sale totaling \$27,325.70, there was \$186,100 in premiums collected, total cost of sale was \$2,217.04.**
- B. **Letter from Isabella Deitz.**

Dear Mr. John Gural,  
first I hope I spelled your last name right and I don't think the turkey's should be removed from palmyra. The turkey's aren't hurting anyone and my family and I and all my friends like seeing them. I also have lots of pictures of them. They have been in my backyard many times and have never done anything wrong so I really think they should stay. There is also no more land for them to go to because everyone seems to think that we need more houses and big buildings but we could do other things too. For example we could build farms or plant trees. You should really think this over because I know the turkey's are happy here.

Sincerely,  
Isabella Deitz

**President Dobbs explained that Isabella is in the audience and that Mr. Gural did respond to her letter. The next council will take under consideration Isabella's request.**

C. **PROCLAMATION- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2015 year End Holiday**  
**Crackdown.**

Proclamation/Resolution Supporting the  
*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*  
*2015 Year End Holiday*  
*Crackdown*

**Whereas**, impaired drivers on our nation's roads kill more than 10,000 people each year and cost our society more than \$37 billion annually; and

**Whereas**, 27% of motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey in 2013 were alcohol-related; and

**Whereas**, an enforcement crackdown is planned to combat impaired driving; and

**Whereas**, the season at the end of the year is traditionally a time of social gatherings which often include alcohol; and

**Whereas**, the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway Traffic Safety, has asked law enforcement agencies throughout the state to participate in the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Year End Holiday Crackdown*; and

**Whereas**, the project will involve increased impaired driving enforcement from December 11, 2015 through January 1, 2016; and

**Whereas**, an increase in impaired driving enforcement and a reduction in impaired driving will save lives on our roadways;

**Therefore**, be is resolved that the Borough of Palmyra declares it's support for the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2015 Year End Holiday Crackdown* from December 11, 2015 through January 1, 2016 and pledges to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

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D. **Ordinance request from William O'Brien-chickens and fowl.** Mr. Gural explained that the Borough had received a sample of an ordinance this morning requesting an amendment to the livestock ordinance to allow chickens to be kept in the Borough. President Dobbs explained that due to the timing the ordinance request would have to wait till next year.

#### **PROFESSIONAL UPDATES.**

A. **ERM-John Hogue** reported that the primary activity is the emission investigation on the Palmyra Cove property. The other work in the same area will wait till access agreements are signed with National Amusements, allowing them to work on their property. No unexploded ordnances were found yet and that digging will start next week. Mr. Howard inquired if the berm is still there. Mr. Gural replied that the berm is one of the reasons that Mr. Hogue will be attending the executive session.

B. **ERI-William Kirchner** reported on the update of South Broad Street and that the storm drains have been installed parallel to the tracks. West Second Street has most of the curbing and sidewalks replaced. The community center generator pre-construction meeting was held. The actual generator is waiting for the manufacturer to ship in the next 6 weeks to 10 weeks. The bonding company for the Parry Avenue Phase II was notified by Mr. Rosenberg that there was additional work that needed to be completed. The contractor has now completed all of the work. The sewer plant tank had a leak and after investigation it was found to be located from a void in the original 1954 building and has now been repaired. Resolution 2015-237 cannot be awarded to ERI this evening as no official letter of award has been received by the Borough. Mr. Kirchner thanked Borough Council for the opportunity to serve the Borough this year.

C. **CGP & H-Dave Gerkens** updated council on the grants activity for the year. The Borough was awarded the NJ Dept. of Transportation Municipal Aid Grant in the amount of \$196,000 to reconstruct a portion of South Broad from Legion Field to Public Road, the application was funded by the Burlington County Bridge Commission, NJ Dept. of Community Affairs-Small Cities Housing Rehab, the Borough was awarded \$100,000 to continue the housing rehab program and the application as funded by the Burlington County Bridge Commission, Burlington County Parks Development Grant, the Borough will receive \$126,403 to increase passive recreational along the riverfront between Garfield and Morgan Avenues. The Borough has requested funding from the NJ Dept. of Transportation in the amount of \$453,325 to reconstruct a portion of Fourth Street between Delaware and Race Street, also a request to implement a traffic claiming measures within the Broad Street Corridor, \$407,066 was requested and the applications were funded by the Burlington County Bridge Commission. The Borough did not receive a grant from FEMA in the amount request of \$17,500 to conduct a program to provide free smoke alarms to residents. Mr. Gerkens informed council that total funds requested were \$1,282,794 and total funds awarded were \$422,403, funds denied were \$17,500 with \$860,391 in funds pending. Mr. Gerkens discussed the Council on Affordable Housing and that Mr. Rosenberg has submitted to the court the updated Housing element and Fair Share Plan which was prepared by CGP & H. Mr. Gerkens thanked council for the opportunity to serve this year.

D. **CME-Mr. Gural** reported that the plans for the fueling storage building and design have been submitted by CME to the construction office for review.

#### **ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING.**

A. **Ordinance 2015-15, An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Palmyra Amending Ordinance 2014-4 and Ordinance 2014-13, An Ordinance to Determine The Rates And Ranges Of Compensation Of Each Employee And Officer For The Years 2014 and 2015.** Mr. Norcross made a

motion to open the ordinance for a public hearing, Mr. Howard second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. No one from the public wishing to be heard, Mrs. Tait made a motion to close the public hearing, Mr. Norcross second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Mrs. Tait made a motion to adopt the ordinance on second reading, Mr. Norcross second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: President Dobbs, Mrs. Tait, Mr. Norcross, Ms. Arnold, Mr. Howard.

NAYES: None. The ordinance was adopted on second and final reading and will take effect after publication according to law.

**RESOLUTIONS. Consent Agenda-** Resolution 2015-223 Resolution 2015-237 will be enacted as a single motion, if any resolution needs additional discussion it will be removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately. President Dobbs read the titles into the record. Resolution 2015-237 was pulled from the agenda. Mr. Gural gave council the revised list for the cancellation of general capital appropriations. A total of \$106,060.79 was removed from the resolution. Mrs. Tait made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Mr. Norcross second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: President Dobbs, Mrs. Tait, Mr. Norcross, Ms. Arnold, Mr. Howard.

NAYES: None.

- A. **Resolution 2015-223**, Resolution of the Borough Of Palmyra Authorizing A Lien Be Placed On 1006 Cinnaminson Avenue Property For Failure To Comply With Obnoxious Growth And Property Maintenance Violations.
- B. **Resolution 2015-224**, Resolution of the Borough Of Palmyra Authorizing A Lien Be Placed On 1004 Cinnaminson Avenue Property For Failure To Comply With Obnoxious Growth And Property Maintenance Violations.
- C. **Resolution 2015-225**, Resolution of the Borough Of Palmyra Authorizing A Lien Be Placed On 515 Jefferson St. Property For Failure To Comply With Obnoxious Growth And Property Maintenance Violations.
- D. **Resolution 2015-226**, Resolution of the Borough Of Palmyra Authorizing A Lien Be Placed On 525 Front Street Property For Failure To Comply With Obnoxious Growth And Property Maintenance Violations.
- E. **Resolution 2015-227**, Resolution of the Borough Of Palmyra Authorizing A Lien Be Placed On 509 Kennedy Street Property For Failure To Comply With Obnoxious Growth And Property Maintenance Violations.
- F. **Resolution 2015-228**, Resolution of the Borough Of Palmyra Authorizing A Lien Be Placed On 501 Garfield Avenue Property For Failure To Comply With Obnoxious Growth And Property Maintenance Violations.
- G. **Resolution 2015-229**, Resolution of the Borough Of Palmyra Authorizing A Lien Be Placed On 406 Veterans Drive Property For Failure To Comply With Obnoxious Growth And Property Maintenance Violations.
- H. **Resolution 2015-230**, Resolution of the Borough Of Palmyra Authorizing A Lien Be Placed On 910 Washington Avenue Property For Failure To Comply With Obnoxious Growth And Property Maintenance Violations.
- I. **Resolution 2015-231**, Resolution Authorizing The Cancellation Of Taxes For A Widow Of A Totally Disabled Veteran For Linda Murray Located At Block 12.40 Lot 2186 Tax Year 2015 And Thereafter And Refunding Taxes Paid.
- J. **Resolution 2015-232**, Resolution Authorizing The Payment Of Debt Service for The Borough Of Palmyra And All Necessary Bills Required For December 2015.

- K. Resolution 2015-233, Resolution Authorizing The Chief Financial Officer To Make Budget Transfers To The 2015 Budget.
- L. Resolution 2015-234, Resolution to Cancel General Capital Appropriation Balances for Completed Projects.
- M. Resolution 2015-235, Resolution To Amend Resolution 2015-89-Resolution Establishing An Annual Rate Of Pay/Compensation For Borough Employees.
- N. Resolution 2015-236, Resolution Authorizing An Addendum To The 2013 Municipal Services Agreement With The Palmyra Harbour Condominium Association Dated April 1, 2013.
- O. Resolution 2015-237, Resolution Approving Engineering Services To Environmental Resolutions For Burlington County Park Project.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- A. PW/Sewer Superintendent-Mr. Gural discussed that the resumes have been narrow down to three candidates and that the committee will be scheduling interviews in the next week. President Dobbs requested that the committee let Mr. Gural know what dates they are available.
- B. Reorganization date and time-Ms. Arnold explained that the tentative date is January 2 at 1pm at the Charles Street School, the exact location is still being worked out.

#### ADMINISTRATOR REPORT.

- A. Riverside Shared Service-Mr. Gural reported that the shared services with Riverside for the tax collector was being worked on and that information has been going back and forth.
- B. Holiday Schedule-Borough Hall is closed December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 25<sup>th</sup>. It is open all day on December 31<sup>st</sup> and closed January 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Mr. Norcross reported that there was a meeting with the County about a defensive driving class and that further information will be available after the new year.

Public Events- Mrs. Tait thanked the Fire Department for putting up the Christmas lights throughout the town and Mrs. Nagle for decorating the tree and the community center. The next event for the committee will be finding service work for the students to perform for Martin Luther King Day. Mrs. Tait would like to hold a town-wide birthday party in February especially to recognize some of the older seniors.

Youth Events- Mr. Howard reported that the basketball league has 150 kids registered and that registration is closed except for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Mr. Howard discussed that the high school football team had a lot of support this year and especially in the championship games. Each year the team has built upon the incoming students and that is why it is important to have the feeder programs from the youth.

Construction/Board of Education-Ms. Arnold reported that the sign ordinance is being worked on. The Board of Education meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> will review the Strategic Plan for the schools.

Sewer/Public Works- President Dobbs reported that the committee reviewed the resumes for superintendent of public works/sewer and will begin interviewing. Leaf Collection ends on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT.** Mrs. Tait made a motion to open the meeting to the public, Mr. Howard second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. H. Norcross-Temple Blvd. congratulated Mr. Howard on the youth program and that the soccer teams are also in the play-offs. Mr. Norcross discussed that the youth programs are important as they build better high school teams. The high school football championship games was amazing and the amount of support was great. The Quarterback holds a state record.

Ms. Shipley-Highland Avenue discussed that the Board of Education meeting is at the high school not Charles Street School.

No one else from the public wishing to be heard, Mrs. Tait made a motion to close the public portion, Mr. Norcross second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

**Resolution 2015-238.** Resolution Excluding the Public From Certain Meetings Pursuant To Section 8 Of the Open Public Meeting Act C. 231 P. L. 1975. (Litigation, personnel). Mrs. Tait made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Howard second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

**AYES:** President Dobbs, Mrs. Tait, Mr. Norcross, Ms. Arnold, Mr. Howard.

**NAYES:** None.

Borough Council went into executive session at 7:18 pm.

Borough Council returned to public session at 8:00 pm

**ADJOURNMENT.** Mrs. Tait made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm, Mr. Howard second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.