

**BOROUGH OF PALMYRA  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES  
JUNE 6, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER.**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG.**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE.**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT**

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

A. Posting written notice on the Official Bulletin Board at the Palmyra Borough Hall on January 10, 2016.

B. Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times, Courier Post newspaper on January 10, 2016.

C. Notice to all Council.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor Michelle Arnold, President Norcross, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Tucker, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Howard, Mr. Yetter.

Absent: None.

**INVOCATION:** Mr. Gural gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** President Norcross made a motion to approve the minutes from May 16, 2016, Mr. Howard second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Mrs. Tait abstain.

**APPOINTMENTS.** Mayor Arnold appointed Ms. Tucker, President Norcross, and herself to the River Route Regional Strategic Revitalization Committee.

**PROFESSIONAL UPDATES.-**

A. Environmental Resolutions-Mr. Gural gave the updates: South Broad Street Road program is nearly completed, there is still the telephone pole to be moved which is being work on by PSE &G and NJ Transit. There will be a small change order on the agenda next meeting for this program. The emergency generator at the center is completed except for a few punch list items. The accordion wall at the center is 95% completed and will be finished within the next two weeks. The sewer plants final punch list has been issued.

B. Maser Consulting-Mr. LaRosa gave the updates on: the brick steps quotes are due in by Monday and the award will be later this month. There is a letter of award request for this evening for additional work on the tank in back of Borough Hall. The structure with the tower equipment is in good condition and a report will be prepared. There is a concept plan for the riverfront park grant program. It will include bike and walking trails, a gazebo, bike rack and dog waste stations. Mrs. Tait inquired how contractors will be

informed about the brick work quotes for the steps. Mr. LaRosa explained that they send it out to the previous bidders that they work with and also to local contractors.

**PUBLIC PORTION-** This public portion is for discussion on professional updates, resolutions and ordinances listed on the agenda. Please sign in and state your name and address for the record. Council will give all comments appropriate consideration. Each citizen will be allotted up to five (5) minutes to speak, in order to allow everyone an opportunity to ask questions and express their opinions or concerns. Please direct all comments to the Mayor. Each resident may only speak once during each public portion. President Norcross made a motion to open the public portion, Ms. Tucker second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Rader-Harbour Drive inquired if Resolution 2016-152 just covered engineering and what environmental issues at Borough Hall. Mr. Rader also inquired if the riverfront park project was all public property. Mr. Gural responded that the environmental has to do with the underground storage tank in back of Borough Hall. Mayor Arnold discussed that the tank has been an ongoing project from previous years and that the correct paperwork must be submitted to the state. Mr. Rader inquired about the section of the park near Harbour Drive. Mayor Arnold explained that it has been determined that the state owns the property.

Mrs. Butler-Arch Street inquired as to why the Mayor was holding off the public hearing on Ordinance 10. Mayor Arnold explained that the public hearing for the ordinance is listed for ordinance on second reading.

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

**RESOLUTIONS. Consent Agenda-** Resolution 2016-149-Resolution 2016-157 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 Norcross made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Ms. Tucker second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: President Norcross, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Tucker, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Howard, Mr. Yetter.

NAYES: None.

- A. Resolution 2016-149, Resolution Authorizing A Handicapped Parking Space In Front Of 434 Horace Avenue.
- B. Resolution 2016-150, Resolution Amending Resolution 2016-84 Reimbursing Anthony Ventura Cost for Repairs In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,000. To An Amount Not To Exceed \$1230.00.
- C. Resolution 2016-151, Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87(Chapter 159) Clean Communities.
- D. Resolution 2016-152, Resolution Awarding A Contract To Maser Consulting For Investigation Of USTs And Related Environmental Service At Palmyra Borough Hall In The Amount Of \$14,000.
- E. Resolution 2016-153, Resolution A Contract To Maser Consulting For Design Of Riverfront Park Improvements And Related Engineering Services In The Amount Of \$20,500.

- F. **Resolution 2016-154, Resolution Authorizing To Execute An Agreement With YMCA Of Burlington And Camden Counties For The 2016 Summer Day Camp Program.**
- G. **Resolution 2016-155, Resolution Appointing Ernest McGill As A Full-time Public Works Department Employee Effective June 10, 2016 At The Hourly Rate Of \$17.50.**
- H. **Resolution 2016-156, Resolution Appointing Howard Roun As A Full-time Sewer Utility Department Employee Effective June 17, 2016 At The Hourly Rate Of \$17.50.**
- I. **Resolution 2016-157, Resolution Appointing Jonathon Petite As A Part-time Sewer Utility Department Employee Effective June 10, 2016 At The Hourly Rate Of \$17.50 And Not To Exceed 24 Hours Per Week.**

**ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING.** (public hearing).

**A. Ordinance 2016-10,- An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Palmyra, County Of Burlington, State Of New Jersey Amending Chapter 90 Section 90-100 Providing For Directional Change On West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Between Race Street And Delaware Avenue. Mayor Arnold read the ordinance into the record.**

WHEREAS, the Palmyra Board of Education and Palmyra School District officials including the Superintendent of Schools and former and current Palmyra School District Safety Officers advised the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palmyra of student safety concerns on West Fourth Street between Race Street and Delaware Avenue immediately behind Palmyra High School; and,

WHEREAS, the Palmyra Board of Education requested that the Mayor and Borough Council consider a modification to the current traffic pattern on West Fourth Street Between Race Street and Delaware Avenue in order to reduce motor vehicle congestion and increase pedestrian safety; and,

WHEREAS, the safety of students attending Palmyra Board of Education Schools is of paramount concern to the Mayor and Borough Council; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council studied and analyzed the traffic flow and patterns on West Fourth Street and adjacent streets; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council, taking into account the recommendations of the Borough's consulting Traffic and Professional Engineers, and placing student safety as the primary consideration, found that the Palmyra Board of Education's request to change the direction of traffic flow would decrease the risk posed to students attending Palmyra High School; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palmyra in an effort to protect students and pedestrians on W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street find that a directional change in traffic flow between Race Street and Delaware Avenue is warranted in order to minimize risks while increasing safety for students, Palmyra Board of Education employees, and the motoring public;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough of Palmyra that:

Section 90-10 One-Way Streets, of the Code of the Borough of Palmyra shall be amended to include the following:

The following described streets or parts of streets are hereby designated as one-way streets in the direction indicated:

<b>Name of Street</b>	<b>Direction of Travel</b>	<b>Limits</b>
West 4 <sup>th</sup> (Fourth) Street Avenue	Eastbound	Between Race Street and Delaware

**Mayor Arnold also read a letter from the Board of Education dated July 2015 concerning 4<sup>th</sup> Street. :**



**PALMYRA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PALMYRA, NJ 08065**

Brian J. McBride  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Administrative Office  
301 Delaware Avenue  
856-786-9300  
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William R. Blatchley  
*Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary*

July 21, 2015

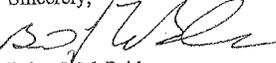
Mayor Karen Scheffler  
Borough of Palmyra  
20 W. Broad Street  
Palmyra, NJ 08065

Dear Honorable Mayor Scheffler,

Please accept this letter as a formal request for the Borough of Palmyra to consider a modification to the current traffic pattern on the 300 block of Fourth Street to a one-way direction. The purpose for modifying the flow of traffic to one direction is to reduce motor vehicle congestion while increasing pedestrian safety during student arrival and dismissal times at Palmyra High School.

Increased vigilance and tighter school security efforts necessitated district administration to reduce the number of access points for Palmyra High School. As such, students and visitors are now required to use door #18 as the primary entry/exit for the school facility. Because door #18 is located on Fourth Street it has created a perplexing challenge for motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic since they are now approaching the crosswalk zone in front of door #18 from opposing directions. Additionally, traffic congestion on Fourth Street is backing-up on to Delaware Avenue further complicating the flow of traffic in the vicinity of Palmyra High School and neighboring streets. By creating a one-way direction for motor vehicles it is proposed that traffic will move further down Fourth Street to multiple loading/unloading zones which should significantly decrease congestion while increasing pedestrian safety.

A collaborative effort between the Palmyra Police Department and the administration at Palmyra High School took place over the course of the past school year to evaluate conditions and reach this recommendation to request a modification to the current traffic pattern on Fourth Street. On behalf of the Palmyra Board of Education I thank you for considering this request, and I can certainly be available to answer any questions that you or members of the Governing Body may have about this request. As always, thank you for the continued support!

Sincerely,  
  
Brian J. McBride  
Superintendent of Schools

cc: N. Brett, BOE President  
Chief Pearlman, Palmyra Police Department  
R. Dreby, Palmyra School District Safety Officer  
J. Gural, Borough Administrator

*"Education Takes Teamwork"*

**Guest presentations:**

**A. Superintendent of Schools-Mr. McBride expressed his gratitude to the Borough for reviewing this issue and that excessive traffic congestion is a real problem along 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets. The Schools Safety Committee evaluated the problem in December of 2013 of the student arrival and departure. The Safety Committee met to review the issue. The traffic patterns around the school and also the parking lot has been looked at. Borough**

Council also conducted traffic studies previously. The street belongs to the Borough and not the school. The doors for entering and exiting are part of the security plan implement at the school. The current schedule of door openings does not meet the required security issues by the state. Mr. McBride explained that some of the staff resources are being used inside the doors and stairways to direct people in the morning to the Main Office. The direction of the buses entering and exiting has been changed over the years to try and help. There are also additional buses for out of district students. The schools are not much of a walking district anymore, after a tally was taken it showed that 60-70% of the students were driven to school. The highest amount in the morning. Mr. McBride explained that the school has tried to find alternative measures for the traffic congestion, but the safety of the students is a concern and after having two engineering firms review the issue, the best solution is to have 4<sup>th</sup> Street be made a one-way. Mr. Howard inquired about the safety of the school and the opening of the library doors in the morning, since the students exit the doors in the afternoon. Mr. McBride explained that all the doors were looked at and that only a few doors are allowed to be opened in the morning. Some of the doors enter into stairwells and there are no camera systems in that area.

B. School Safety Officer-Mr. Dreby explained that he was Chairman of the Safety Committee that reviewed the issue. The process was started before he was hired and that he has had many days to observe the traffic flow on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The traffic gets backed up on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and the students have a hard time crossing the street. The safety committee's recommendation was to make 4<sup>th</sup> Street a one-way. Mr. Dreby also discussed the request to open more doors. The security issue of the doors is that the less that can be opened the tighter the security. Mr. Dreby explained that Broad Street out front of Borough Hall was changed to a one-way after someone was hit and that he would like to see 4<sup>th</sup> Street become a one-way before that occurs there.

C. Maser Consulting-John Jar, traffic engineer discussed that he performed a study of the traffic and also reviewed the previous traffic engineers study. The safety of the pedestrians and motorist were taken into consideration. Mr. Jar explained that the majority of the parents were wonderful with allowing other vehicles to go and stopping for students in the crosswalks. Delaware Avenue is a narrow street and it is challenging for motorist and students. If all cars are brought up 4<sup>th</sup> Street vehicles could allow students to exit on the right side of the car and not worry about oncoming traffic. There will be a bypass lane and a curb lane signed for drop offs. New stripping and traffic control signage will be installed also.

D. Chief Pearlman explained that when he started to look at the one-way plan he realized that it would be the best plan for the traffic and pedestrians. The traffic count will stay the same and that the change will benefit the crossing guards. Also it will create smoother traffic for sporting events at the school. Chief Pearlman discussed changing the street to one-way resolves more issues that just the drop off and pick up of students.

Mrs. Tait made a motion to open the public hearing on the ordinance, President Norcross second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Resident- 4th and Arch Street discussed that she has worked at both the high school and Charles Street School and has concerns about changing 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Resident explained that all these years there has not been an accident in front of the school with a student and a vehicle so what has changed now. Also residents were not notified as promised at the last meeting. The school should have support staff outside the school in the morning. Resident discussed that school is only in session part of the year and that Broad being a one-way is an inconvenience for the West End of Palmyra.

Mayor Arnold explained that there was a discussion held about the street one-way for a period of time. Chief Pearlman explained that it would cause more confusion and people

would be looking at the signs to see when and where they could park and the time limits. Mayor Arnold discussed that sporting events are at different times than the school hours and that traffic effectively closes the street also. Mayor Arnold discussed that the notification of the public hearing was done on the website, it has been on the agenda and in the minutes. There was supposed to be a joint meeting with the Board of Education, but it was not held at the request of the school.

Mrs. Butler-Arch Street discussed that she is astonished that all this time council has been discussing how to live and where to drive in West Palmyra and no one from Council or the Board of Education lives there and has not come down to talk to the residents. Mrs. Butler discussed that Race Street has parking on both sides and that more two way traffic will now be on Race Street. Weart Blvd is the widest street in town and the Council should figure out how to use. Mrs. Butler discussed that the students should walk to school and that there were no accidents when she walked to school and that her children always walk to school. Mayor Arnold explained that Mrs. Butler should attend the meetings of the Board of Education and express her concerns to them. Mrs. Butler replied that she came to Council because Council are the ones making the change not the school. Mayor Arnold explained that the school submitted a request to the Borough about the street and that the Borough has to deal with the matter because it is a public street. Mrs. Butler discussed that the Council needs to hear the public and that they were told that someone would reach out to the residents and let them know about a public meeting and it was not done. Mayor Arnold explained that since the Board of Education did not want to hold a joint meeting, to save taxpayer money, it was decided to not hold a separate meeting. Mrs. Butler discussed that Council still should hold a separate meeting to hear the voices of the residents.

Mr. Flournoy-Arch Street inquired why the parents are allowed to park on both sides of the street now when picking up the kids. Parents should be required to park where the buses park now.

Mrs. Hunt-5<sup>th</sup> Street discussed that on her block she sits outside of her home and that cars drive like they are on a major street. The buses come through now and soon the parents will come down. Mrs. Hunt inquired as to how she and others would get out of their driveways or parking spots with all of the traffic. The parents drive the kids to the high school drive like it is a raceway. The Council should look at the safety for the entire community.

Mrs. Washington-Legion Avenue discussed that before the money was spent on the plan by the Borough the money should have been used by the school to open more doors. The teachers should be utilized to monitor the doors. Mrs. Washington explained that Race Street will have more traffic and will there be additional crossing guards added. The Borough and the School should make the kids have to walk to school.

Mr. Morris-discussed that he appreciates the professionals' discussion on safety and that a lot of money was spent. The safety in the school can be fixed with a security system. The money could have been better spent on reviewing security. Mr. Morris explained that no child has ever been hit in front of the school before and that high school kids can handle themselves crossing a street. Mr. Morris explained that the Board of Education did not want a meeting because they know they were wrong with the proposal.

Mrs. Bullock-Arch Street discussed that a few meetings ago she had asked the Mayor if the community would be notified about a public meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and the answer was yes. Mrs. Bullock explained that the homes on 4<sup>th</sup> Street were notified and no one else was notified. The main issue is that there was no notification. The teacher's cars also fly up and down the streets. The students drive down Arch and fly up 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Mrs. Bullock discussed that Council is creating more of a problem and is against the plan and upset that there was no notification. Mayor Arnold explained that other alternative measures were looked into and were not feasible. The regular meeting dates are published and are also on the website.

Resident-Riverton discussed that her children attend the high school and that her son was almost hit by a car leaving her vehicle. Riverton made the street at their school a one-way and it has helped. She drives her children to school due to them participating in athletics. Resident requested that Council consider the safety of the children first in making their decision. She explained that even though she is a resident of Riverton, she still pays taxes to have her children attend the high school.

Ms. Butler-Arch Street discussed that several times the question has been asked about why no notification to the residents and it has not been answer. Mr. Gural explained that the original concept was to include a joint meeting with the Board of Education at a joint meeting, but the Board of Education decided not to have the meeting. In an effort to save money and time, council introduced by title at the last meeting the ordinance and it was advertised in the newspaper just like all other ordinances, it was also listed on the website. Mayor Arnold explained that the engineers have given several presentations at the meetings on the concept plan.

Mrs. Jones-West 5<sup>th</sup> Street discussed that she walked to school when she was younger and that she is aware that there are more cars on the road now, but the schools in town are close enough to walk to. Mrs. Jones explained that she disagrees with the ordinances and that the high school should be closed, there are not enough students to justify the large expense. Mrs. Jones asked Mr. McBride, Superintendent of Schools why the Board of Education did not want to hold the meeting. Mayor Arnold explained that it was not the Superintendents decision, it was the Board of Educations. Mr. McBride explained that the Safety Committee of the Board of Education made a recommendation to the Board to change the ordinance and that the Board of Education feels that it is a Borough street and a Borough decision, not their decision. The discussions have been going on for over two years and that there have been many close calls. Mr. McBride explained that it is a different world now and that over 500 students attend the schools and that the security is a major issue.

Mr. Cheesman-West 4<sup>th</sup> Street inquired if all these changes are being made, why has no one come down to the area and talked to the residents who live there. The Council needs to look a little deeper and decide on another direction. Mr. Cheesman discussed that the residents are paying the same taxes and do not want the street change.

Mrs. Jones-West 5<sup>th</sup> Street inquired why the teachers and school staff can't be located at the various doors in the morning so that they can be opened. Mrs. Jones discussed that the Borough and the school need to sit down again and relook at the issue. Mrs. Jones requested that a decision not be made tonight, till all alternatives have been looked at and the heart of the community needs to be looked at. The parents need to be educated on where to drop off the children and the children need to be educated about crossing the street at the crosswalks.

Mrs. Holloway-Broad Street discussed that she sat on Council for a number of years and knows the traffic patterns. Mrs. Holloway explained that the problem is that if you live in town the kids should have to walk to school. She inquired if the engineers looked at 5<sup>th</sup> Street also, there are three entrances on 5<sup>th</sup> Street that could be used for students. The kids would be healthier if they walked. Mr. Jar, traffic engineer replied that as part of the investigation 5<sup>th</sup> Street was included as well as Race Street. Mrs. Holloway inquired if the engineers looked at 5<sup>th</sup> Street coming off of Weart since it is wider. Mr. Jar explained that all the streets surrounding the circulation area of the school were reviewed and studied for traffic. Mayor Arnold explained that the opening of the doors at the school are not the responsibility of the Borough, residents would have to voice their concerns to the Board of Education. Superintendent McBride explained that there are two doors opened on 5<sup>th</sup> Street now and that it is a challenge for school security. There is also a discussion about closing more doors at Charles Street School for security. Superintendent McBride explained that cameras will stop intruders, they will just be able to see them.

Mrs. Flournoy-Arch Street discussed that the main concern is the traffic when school is open and that she is concerned about Race Street with parking on both sides. It is hard to get out on Race Street now without adding traffic. Mrs. Flournoy also explained that the problem is that cars do not stop at the stop sign or crosswalks and that this ordinance will backfire with kids getting hit on other streets due to extra traffic and speeding.

Assemblyman Singleton-Riverfront Drive applauded neighbors and elected officials with the process and that he recognizes Council decision position. Assemblyman Singleton requested that the Mayor and Council weigh the comments from the residents tonight and hold off on any action till other alternatives are investigated. There needs to be a more thoughtful and meaningful discussion. Assemblyman Singleton also discussed that Council should extend the length of time before any action is taken. Not all ordinances affect a community as much as this one and that more input is needed from the residents. Assemblyman Singleton thanked everyone for their hard work on making a decision and that he is honored to be a part of the West End of Palmyra.

No one else wishing to be heard, President Norcross made a motion to close the public hearing, Mr. Howard second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

#### Council Comments-

Mr. Howard inquired from Superintendent McBride as to what is the schools plan if the ordinance is not passed. Superintendent McBride explained that the students and parents will be requested to follow the current rules with drop off and the safety committee would meet again on the issue.

Mrs. Tait discussed that she understands the need for safety of the students when dropping them off and picking them up and that she agrees with Assemblyman Singleton that Council should wait to see if something else can be done. The doors at the library are opened now in the morning and maybe they can be used for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders only to enter.

Mr. Yetter inquired if a study was done to see what age group gets dropped off the most and that the library is at the corner of Delaware Avenue. Mr. Yetter discussed that if the buses were direct to use Vine Street would it eliminate some of the congestion.

Mr. Kearney explained that when he first dropped off his daughter she went into the doors at 5<sup>th</sup> Street, then the doors were changed and now it is on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. This is when the problem with traffic and congestion started. There are a lot of students who jaywalk across the street and cause more traffic issues, also the teachers jaywalk across the street. Mr. Kearney discussed that he sees a lot of problems with this proposal and would like to look at other ways.

President Norcross thanked everyone for coming and their comments. He has listen to everyone and that the project was started prior to him sitting on council. The previous engineer as well as the new engineer studied the issue and both came to the same conclusion that 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Race to Delaware should be a one-way street. President Norcross discussed that now that the Borough has been made aware of the safety concerns, there needs to be something done. The Borough cannot sit back and let a student be injured by doing nothing. If a child gets hit by a car and the Borough has not taken any action to ensure the safety of the child after being notified there is a problem, the parents can sue the Borough. President Norcross discussed that the Borough handles the public streets and that the Board of Education is responsible for the doors at the school and that he has not heard anyone ask the Board of Education about opening more doors. Everyone has had multiple opportunities to listen to the plan and voice their opinions.

Ms. Tucker explained that she lives next to Charles Street School and has listened to everyone about their concerns. She has had a discussion with the 9<sup>th</sup> graders who stated that they are scared about the traffic at the high school. The situation can be fixed and that she

appreciates that it will effect a lot of residents. The process has been going on for a few years.

Mayor Arnold thanked everyone for attending and for their passion and enthusiasm. She and Council have asked many questions about the plan and that the main concerns is the student's safety. There will be curbside drop off if the street is a one-way. Mayor Arnold made a recommendation that the public hearing be continued till the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mayor Arnold discussed that the Borough is in a difficult position when presented with a request to protect all of the community and when it affects a portion of the community. Mayor Arnold explained that the Borough had been notified by the previous School Officer about the issue and that the engineers agree there is an issue.

President Norcross made a motion to continue the public hearing on the ordinance, Mr. Howard second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The public hearing is continue till the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7pm.

#### **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING. (public hearing June 20, 2016).**

A. **Ordinance 2016-11**, an Ordinance Of The Borough Of Palmyra, County of Burlington, State Of New Jersey Amending Chapter 90: Vehicles And Traffic Of The Code Of Palmyra Regulating Parking On West 4<sup>th</sup> (fourth) Street Between Race Street And Delaware Avenue. Mr. Gural explained that this ordinance will be needed if 4<sup>th</sup> Street becomes a one-way and that council is just introducing by title. Mrs. Butler-(from audience) asked questions about the ordinance. Mayor Arnold explained that there will be no parking on the North side of West 4<sup>th</sup> Street except for two spaces. Mrs. Butler inquired as where they will park during the games. President Norcross made a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, Mr. Kearney second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

**AYES:** President Norcross, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Tucker, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Howard, Mr. Yetter.

**NAYES:** None. The ordinance was adopted on first reading and will be heard on second and final reading at the Council meeting of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7pm.

#### **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT.**

A. Mayor Arnold encourage everyone to visit the community garden between the Community Center and Borough Hall.

B. New businesses-Franco's Café-818 Cinnaminson Avenue and Juanita' Mexican Cusine-307 W. Broad Street.

C. Mr. Howard announced that the high school track attended the Penn Relays and that they are doing very well this year. A soccer player from the high school is playing with the Philadelphia Fury team. Derick Holloway will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on June 28 in Glassboro.

D. Mr. Kearny announced that the girl scouts in connection with the veterans will be collecting old or worn flags for destruction. They can be dropped off at Borough Hall.

E. Mrs. Tait remind everyone that the Deborah Health Screening for Veterans is this Saturday at the Community Center.

Mayor Arnold discussed the need for operating agreements between the Borough and the groups that use the Community Center such as the War Memorial, Senior Program, Community Center Board and Halloween.

**ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING. (public hearing July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016).**

A. **Ordinance 2016-12, An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Palmyra Requiring Agreements With Non-Profit Organizations That Receive Funding From The Borough And Which Operate, Manage, Coordinate and/or Supervise The Use Of Borough-owned Facilities, Properties and Resources.** President Norcross made a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, Mr. Kearney second the motion. At the call of the roll, the vote was:

**AYES:** President Norcross, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Tucker, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Howard, Mr. Yetter.

**NAYES:** None. The ordinance was adopted on first reading and will be heard on second and final reading at the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting after publication according to law.

**PUBLIC COMMENT.** Please sign in and state your name and address for the record. Council will give all comments appropriate consideration. Each citizen will be allotted up to five (5) minutes to speak, in order to allow everyone an opportunity to ask questions and express their opinions or concerns. Please direct all comments to the Mayor. Each resident may only speak once during each public portion. President Norcross made a motion to open the public comment, Mrs. Tait second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mrs. Jones-West 5<sup>th</sup> Street gave Council a copy of a senior program flyer listing all of the activities and what they are all about. Mrs. Jones explained that the program uses the Roberts Rules of Order at their meetings and have by-laws. The first and third Wednesday there are over 50-60 seniors at the Community Center. Mrs. Jones requested that no other groups be scheduled for the first and third Wednesday as there is just not enough room. Mayor Arnold explained that she has addressed all of the concerns and some changes are being made.

Mr. Miller-Veterans Drive discussed that the businesses are parking along Ethel Hardy Park and that the kids cannot see to cross the road. The cars are parked on the right side of the street all week long. Chief Pearlman explained that the area is a mixed use and the cars are from business on route 73. He will take a look at the parking.

Ms. Butler-Arch Street explained that she is angry about the traffic and changing of the process for the ordinance on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Ms. Butler is also upset about Council worrying about someone getting hit in front of the high school and not considering all of the small kids on the other streets. The school should open the doors. Chief Pearlman explained that if the Borough is notified about a pothole and doesn't take any action they are liable if a car is damaged, the same way about 4<sup>th</sup> Street the Borough has been advised that there is a safety issue there and they need to take corrective action. President Norcross discussed that Morgan Avenue is terrible with traffic also and that he does not want to see a child get hurt that is why he made the motion to continue the issue to research other ideas. Ms. Butler (from audience) explained that Council should be concerned will all kids living in town.

Mrs. Butler-Arch Street discussed that if she knew that 4<sup>th</sup> Street was being discussed a few years ago her comments would have been the same. She appreciates that everyone is listening to the comments from the residents and that the Mayor and Council need to do what is best for the community and listen to the residents.

Mrs. Holloway-Broad Street requested Council think of alternatives and that they pass an ordinance requiring everyone to walk to the schools.

Ms. Veitenheimer-Rowland Street informed council that there is a raccoon in her neighborhood and that she called Animal Control and they do not pick up wild animals. Mr. Gural explained that their contract is only for dogs and cats unless the animal has rabies.

Mrs. Washington-Legion Avenue discussed the new curb line across the street from her and that there is a sewer line that has a lot of water lying on it. There is also a pothole at the corner with a lot of water laying in it. Mrs. Washington informed Council that a house near her is vacant and the grass is cut all the time, but there is another home at 116 Arch Street and the grass is too high. Mr. Dreby (code enforcement) explained that the homes have been cited and that if someone notices something they can call him at the office.

Mr. Dreby discussed that he understands that the ordinance and discussion about 4<sup>th</sup> is very emotional and impacts a lot of residents, but there was no reason for the public to treat the resident from Riverton with such disrespect and abuse. The resident did not have to come here, but her children were almost hit when they were crossing the street at the high school.

Mrs. Butler(from audience) explained that it was not correct for that resident to come here as she does not live in the town and that she should of reported the incident to the police, not come to Palmyra's meeting to talk about it. Mrs. Butler stated that if she attend a Riverton Council meeting, they would not allow her to speak.

Superintendent McBride thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers for their time and for listening to the safety committee. He will take back the discussion and see if the safety committee wants to meet on the issue.

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

#### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Mr. Yetter discussed that the public comments are a lot to take in and that it is wise to continue the ordinance so that there is more time to think about alternatives.

Mr. Kearny inquired if the three members of council rule applied if they were to attend a Board of Education meeting. Mr. Burns replied that they can attend but should only attend as parents and sit separately. Mrs. Tait explained that several members have children in the school and that have joint activities. Mr. Burns explained that they have the right to attend functions but that it is fine line that they have to be aware of.

Mayor Arnold discussed that there have been many complaints about bulk trash, brush and regular trash. Residents need to be aware of the rules and that information is shared on the website or call Borough Hall. CO's are required for any change of occupancy and renting of rooms is not allowed. Mayor Arnold reminded the committees that they are to email her as well as the entire committee when the meetings are to be held. The Community Center is to be scheduled through the Borough and no one is to use it without Borough permission. All meetings and events at the center are to be located on the calendar. Mayor Arnold explained that it also includes the Community Center Board with scheduling their programs. Mayor Arnold discussed there was information discussed in the last executive session that has been given out to the public, all information should be considered executive and private and not discussed in public till made available. Mayor Arnold encouraged everyone to vote tomorrow.

**ADJOURNMENT.** President Norcross made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Tucker second the motion. All members present voted in favor on the motion. Council adjourned at 10:05 pm.