

**BOROUGH OF PALMYRA
BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
November 7th, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Michelle Arnold, President Bryan Norcross, Mrs. Gina Tait, Mr. Edward Kearney, Mr. Tim Howard, Mr. Lewis Yetter

Absent: Ms. Shelby Tucker

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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.

INVOCATION

Mr. Abdul Rasheed gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Norcross made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 17th, 2016 with the change indicated by Mayor Arnold, and to approve the executive minutes from October 17th, 2016. Mr. Kearney seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll:

AYES: President Norcross, Mr. Howard, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

Abstain: Ms. Tait

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Arnold acknowledged thank you cards received from Sandra Endres and Family
Mayor Arnold acknowledged a thank you card received from the Yetter Family
Mayor Arnold acknowledged a thank you letter receive from the Palmyra Halloween Committee

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Arnold read the following proclamation for the Palmyra High School Class of 1966 class reunion:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: the members of the Palmyra High School Class of 1966 who graduated from Palmyra High School have gathered together to celebrate their 50th class reunion; and

WHEREAS: the members of the class of 1966 who live in Palmyra will be joined by fellow classmates from around the country who have made a special effort to be part of the celebration;

WHEREAS: for the past 50 years, the members of this class have been outstanding examples of community minded citizens who have served as important role models to the young men and women in their communities;
and

WHEREAS: although the reunion will be a time of joy in seeing old friends and remembering good times, it will be an opportunity to recall the past friendships of the members of the class of 1966 who are deceased; and

WHEREAS: the Borough of Palmyra hopes that this 50th year reunion of the Palmyra High School Class of 1966 will be memorable and enjoyable for the members and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Michelle Arnold by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Borough of Palmyra, in the State of New Jersey do hereby proclaim, October 22nd, 2016 as

“Palmyra High School Class of 1966 Reunion Day”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Borough of Palmyra to be affixed this 22nd day of October the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

Mayor Michelle Arnold

PUBLIC PORTION

This public portion is for discussion on 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 citizen may only speak once during each public portion.

President Norcross made a motion to open the public portion, Mr. Howard second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

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

RESOLUTIONS Consent Agenda- Resolution 2016-248 thru Resolution 2016-251 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.

- A. **Resolution 2016-248,** A Resolution Rescinding Resolution 2016-187 Authorizing The Purchase Of Two 2017 Ford F350 4WD Pickup Trucks From Winner Ford In The Total Approximate Amount of \$69,000.00 Pursuant To The 2016 Capital Ordinance Per State Of New Jersey Contract A88758, T2101.
- B. **Resolution 2016-249,** Resolution Awarding a Contract to Winner Ford of Cherry Hill For The Purchase of Two (2) 2017 Ford F350 4WD Pickup Trucks in The Total Amount of \$67,974.00 Pursuant to the Engineer's Recommendation of Award.
- C. **Resolution 2016-250,** Resolution Approving James D. Teesdale As Active Member Of The Palmyra Fire Department
- D. **Resolution 2016-251,** Resolution Awarding a Contract to ERI for the Evaluation of Main Harbour Drive Pursuant To Their Proposal dated October 11th, 2016, in the Amount Not to Exceed \$23,350.00.

President Norcross made a motion to approve the consent agenda Resolution 2016-248 thru Resolution 2016-251. Mr. Kearney seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll:

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

NAYES: None

MOTIONS

Approval of the Treasurers' Report year to date thru September 2016

Councilman Howard questioned if the security cameras were part of the public works project for the fuel tanks. Mr. Gural indicated they were for another project which is still in the works. Additionally Mr. Howard questioned the hand gun replacement and body cameras. Chief Pearlman noted the replacement was due to age of the fire arms and the old fire arms were traded in with payment for the new fire arms. Chief Pearlman also indicated the body cameras are in and currently being used.

President Norcross made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report year to date thru September 2016. Mr. Kearney seconded the motion

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

The Halloween Parade was unfortunately cancelled due to the rain storm however a "mini" parade was held the following Wednesday which even though it was not as long everyone still had a great time and the children enjoyed dressing up one more time. Great job by the Halloween Parade Committee.

Mayor Arnold congratulated the Palmyra Panthers Pop Warner Cheerleaders and their coaches on winning the State Champion Competition for the division of Jr. Varsity PW2 Small. Additionally they will be competing on Saturday November 12th at the Pop Warner Eastern Region Competition and if they place 1st or 2nd they will move on to Pop Warner National Championship in Disney World in December. Great Job and congratulations to : Lilly Bauer, Riley Bullen, Mackenzie Davis, Megan Dixon, Lily Dunn, Tara Freeland, Ashley Herman, Molly Jackson, Kaylah Latimore, McKenzie May, Juliana Rex, Erin Wolf and their coaches Gretchen Jackson, Robin Bullen, Gina Rex, and Diane Wolf.

Mr. McElwee indicated the Veterans Day ceremony will be held on Friday November 11th, 2016 at 11:00 am at the War Memorial. There will be a guest speaker and the dedication of the new statue will take place.

The Palmyra Police department will be graduating the first Citizen's Police Academy Class. The ceremony will be held in Borough Hall on Tuesday November 8th at 7:00 pm. The program ran for 9 weeks and will be graduating four people.

The St Paul UAME Church will be hosting a Jazz Gospel Concert on Friday November 25th, 2016 from 4:00 to 6:00 at 305 W 3rd Street, Palmyra, NJ. They will be hosting the Sounds of South 57th Street, admission is free.

The Riverton Library is having a Candlelight House Tour fundraiser on December 3rd, from 4:00 to 9:00 pm

The Boys varsity soccer team won their game and will be going to the finals in Asbury Park on thursday, additionally the girls' varsity soccer team is playing in Haddon Township, Mrs. Tait just want to note "for a small school Palmyra is always in the mix".

Mr. Howard congratulated the Palmyra little league football teams on moving to a new league and bring out so many children this year. Their season is over, and they did not make the playoffs however, the executive staff did a great job fundraising this season which allowed them to purchase new helmets and uniforms for the teams. Great Job!

Kathy Hartman of the President of the Palmyra PTA thanked the Mayor for coming out to talk with the children at the assembly they recently held regarding elections. Additionally the PTA is

selling Palmyra Spirit gear, anyone wishing to purchase can obtain a flyer from her or in the lobby of Borough Hall.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Meetings have been set up with two of the industrial area businesses. One meeting for Filmore is scheduled for this Thursday. The other meeting which was scheduled for the same date was postponed and we do not have a reschedule date as of yet. As soon as we have it reschedule, or have additional information it will be forwarded to Council to keep you aware of our progress.

Mayor Arnold requested approval from council for travel and one additional night lodging to attend the National Foundation of Women Legislators 2016 Annual Conference. Mayor Arnold applied for and received a scholarship for 3 of the 4 night stays including airfare and conference attendance fees, and is requesting approval for travel allowance for the conference. After much discussion regarding the conference, per diem and lodging accommodations, a motion was made by Mrs. Tait to approve the travel request of the Mayor to attend the National Foundation of Women Legislators 2016 Conference paying the per diem and one additional night stay. The motion was seconded by Mr. Yetter. All members present voted

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

Everyone has a copy of the Riverfront sewer operator/ maintenance contract proposal. This will be additional revenue to the Borough if approved. All private organizations which have sewer service are required to have a sewer operator. We will be trying to send out the proposal before the next meeting, so wanted to make sure that the governing body had a final look.

Chief Pearlman indicated they are looking get the process started to hire a new patrol officer, due to a recent retirement.

Discussion was had regarding the regulating of towing within the Borough limits. Chief Pearlman indicated, we are looking for an ordinance which will regulate tow operators in Palmyra. This was looked at in 2009, and we are hoping to have some type of ordinance in place to be able to enforce, by January of next year due to some recent incidents which have taken place in the Borough. President Norcross asked what we are trying to regulate. Chief Pearlman indicated the ordinance could regulate the rates tow companies can charge, the number of tow operators we have in town, how they operate, if criminal background checks are required, etc. Mr. Gural indicated that some of the conversation needed may have to take place in executive session. He inquired of Council that perhaps we would introduce by title tonight and have some further discussion at our next meeting prior to voting on the ordinance.

Mr. Gural then introduced by title Ordinance 2016-19 An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra Regulating Towing and Towing Operators in the Borough of Palmyra. (Public hearing to be held December 5th, 2016.)

President Norcross made a motion to approve Ordinance 2016-19 as indicated by Mr. Gural. Mrs. Tait seconded the motion

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: President Norcross, Mr. Howard, Mr. Kearney, Mrs. Tait, Mr. Yetter
NAYES: None

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

We have received operating agreements from The Seniors Program and the War Memorial Committee. We asked the organizations to return the agreements by returned by October 2nd, 2016, however are still waiting for the Halloween Parade Committee and the Community Center Program Board. We will be contacting the remaining organizations to get that wrapped up for this year.

We will be attending the new officers meeting at O'Conner's in Westhampton on March 29th 2017 of next year. Please remember for everyone at attends the Borough gets a 250.00 credit toward our insurance premiums. Please notify Marie so she can schedule you accordingly.

The above ground fueling bid opening was held on October 25th 2016. The bids came in higher than the engineer's estimate with the lowest responsible bid \$368,000.00. The engineer's estimate was for \$326,000.00 a difference of over 40,000.00. Gural indicated we simply do not have the funds available to do it. However in having some conversation with the Chief, Mr. Henry and Mr. McGill we reached out to the Burlington County Bridge Commission to see if they would be interested in a shared service agreement. There potentially seems to be some interest so we will further that conversation and on the next agenda will be a resolution rejecting the bids received. Mrs. Tait inquired if that shared service was also to include the school and if the shared service can be between three organizations. Mr. Gural responded, it was not a shared service on the construction side however when the project was complete we were hopeful that we would be able to bring the school district, fire dept. on board with use of the facilities.

The C.E.R.T. team which serves under the Office of Emergency Management was involved in and exercise held in Trenton, which CERT Teams from all over the state were as to participate in; when a State Police helicopter, taking pictures, flew to close to the ground and wreaked havoc. As a result many pieces of equipment were damaged and some individuals were hurt including one of our volunteers. The question then became who covers them for workmen's compensation. There is a state statue which indicates coverage for emergency responders of which CERT qualifies, however liability, responsibility has now come into question. Because our CERT team represents Riverton, Cinnaminson and Palmyra equally we need a shared service agreement to address this liability/responsibility issue. Be mindful that Cinnaminson and Riverton do not participate in the JIF. Moving forward this is something that needs to be worked out with the other municipalities.

The Fire Department is planning for the potential purchase of a new ladder truck in late 2017 or 2018. This purchase could exceed 940,000.00, provisions would need to be make in a budget for the capital purchase. Appropriations of a minimum of 5% for the down payment, would need to be included in the budget, approximately \$50,000.00. More discussion will be had when we do the 2017 budget, however just want to let you know what was being planned.

Chief Pearlman indicated the Safe and Secure Grant 2015/2016 is a grant we had for many years up until 2009 when we lost it because we did not have the appropriate staffing level required to receive the grant. After much discussion with the Division of Criminal Justice and it turns out we did hit the appropriate staff needed and we will be able to receive 2015/16 monies and that will being in the grant 39,485.00 and they are moving forward sending g the paper work for this year.

Mr. Gural indicated the staff was inquiring about the holiday schedule for the upcoming Christmas holiday. Because the holidays fall on a Sunday the holidays are celebrated on

Mondays. December 26th, 2016 and January 2nd, 2016 we will be closed all day both days. The staff is also entitled to a half day on Christmas Eve and on New Year's Eve, which falls on Saturday, which then moves to Friday. I am requesting that instead of one half day on Friday December 23rd, 2016 and a half day on December 30th, 2016 that the Borough be closed on December 23 all day and on December 30th we will open all day. Borough Council was in agreement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Yetter reported: The public works committee met on October 25th, 2016 and the jetter vac is up and running. In addition they discussed the fuel tank project and we were trying to understand why the bids are coming in so high. Mr. Yetter also indicated public works will be out picking up leaves for the next three months.

Mr. Howard reported: Mr. Howard attended the shade tree conference which was very informative. Currently the State of New Jersey is experiencing problems with the emerald ash bora beetle. Mr. Howard indicated in his next meeting with the shade tree committee he will be sharing that information with the committee and public works dept. before we purchase any new trees.

Mr. Kearney: no report

Mrs. Tait: no report

President Norcross reported: President Norcross notified Council that he attended the River Route Round Table on October 24th, 2016, which was very informative many of the close township were in attendance and the issues we are having with our business development many of the other municipalities are having the same problems. On November 14th, 2016 at 6:30 pm in Borough Hall we will be meeting with the business community and anyone who is interested regarding business signage, outdoor eating and other issues facing the business in town.

Mayor Arnold reported: Mayor Arnold and Marie attended the State of the County breakfast; where we were one of three municipalities doing a presentation regarding the wonders of Palmyra and the benefits of living and working here along with the redevelopment opportunities available in Palmyra. Mayor Arnold also attended the Fire Prevention presentation with the seniors at the community center. Dale Palmer did the fire prevention presentation and did a tremendous job which was very well received and enjoyed by the senior group. Additionally Mayor Arnold did a presentation at Charles Street School for the first graders regarding elections. The welcome packet committee did meet and has a lot of information and ideas. It was decided to allow the businesses an opportunity to also participate in the packet, so additional information will be gathered and the packet should be ready by the end of January.

Mayor Arnold then read the following proclamation into the record; a Proclamation Recognizing Liza Tait for her outstanding contributions to Palmyra High School Sports Programs, and the Palmyra Community.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, one of the privileges of the office of the Mayor is to recognize and honor outstanding citizens of our community; and

Whereas, today it is my pleasure to join with Borough Council in honoring a great role model of a student, who not only is the captain of our soccer team and recently broke the Palmyra High School record for most career shutouts in girls' soccer and currently has 33 shutouts; and

Whereas, she not only plays and excels in soccer, additionally she plays varsity basketball and softball; and

Whereas, because of her leadership, academics, and community service, she was inducted into the National Honor Society last year; and

Whereas, she is the treasurer of the student council, and very involved in her community; and

Whereas, she has volunteered her time at the Baptist Home by landscaping with flowers, has volunteered with the companion outreach program, has worked at the town wide festival, "Palmyra Day", also worked with young campers at the Palmyra Soccer Camp, and organized the blood drive and veterans' health screening at the Palmyra Community Center; and

Now, therefore please join me and the Council of the Borough of Palmyra in recognizing Liza Tait for her outstanding contributions to Palmyra High School Sports Programs, and the Palmyra Community, and also wishing her well in all her future endeavors.

Mayor Michelle Arnold

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 citizen may only speak once during each public portion.

President Norcross made a motion to open to the public for public comment, Mrs. Tait seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

John Casparro- Morgan Avenue - Mr. Casparro indicated the first month's billing on the Burlington County Energy Aggregation Program offered by TriEagle Energy; the rate is higher than P S E & G. would have been, can you explain why? President Norcross indicated that this was brought to his attention earlier and because it's a county run program he suggested we contact Eric Apart the public information officer of the county at 609-265-5020 because he would better be able to explain the program, how it works and give you direct information regarding the program. Mr. Casparro also inquired about the possibility of residents being able to purchasing pavers and or memorial benches for the grove and or the upcoming park on the riverfront. Mayor Arnold indicated he should stay tuned. Mr. Casparro indicated he had met with the president of Riverton's improvement association to get copies of their articles of incorporation for their 501 3 c and wanted some idea of how Council felt they should proceed. Mayor Arnold indicated they should sit down and have a conversation so we can figure out how to move this forward. Mr. Casparro also indicated he would like to know if the corner of 5th streets and Morgan Avenue could become a 4 way stop as many people do not stop at the corners. The Mayor indicated she and Chief Pearlman would have a conversation about that and get back to Mr. Casparro about it.

Bob Bostock – Morgan Avenue- Mr. Bostock asked if anyone knew who the committee for a better Palmyra is. Mr. Bostock indicated that when he was on council an ordinance was adopted regarding pay to play; he inquired if all of our professionals are compliant with our pay to play ordinance? Mr. Burns indicated he would have to look into it and get back to him. Mrs. Tait indicated that council should know if all our professionals are compliant, is that something John can look into?

Tonya Washington – Legion Avenue – Mrs. Washington wanted to thank the Palmyra Police Department, the Mayor and Council for the Meet and Greet at Ethel B Hardy Park in September. She inquired how she could find out who Ethel B Hardy was so she could educate her children regarding who and why the park is named as it is, after Ethel B Hardy. Mr. Gural indicated that Ms. Jackson would get that information to her. Mrs. Washington also indicated she was so thankful that the Halloween Parade was rescheduled it made her son so happy. Mrs. Washington also inquired if there was a way that the Police Academy which her son attended this summer could be extended to two weeks instead of just one week. Chief Pearlman indicated that that was based on the resources available within the police department as well as staffing availability. Chief Pearlman indicated he would look at it to see what could be done. Mrs. Washington also indicated that the June 6th minutes incorrectly indicate that she stated “the Borough and the school should make the children walk to school”. Mrs. Washington also indicated that in the meeting of July 18th, 2016 it was stated that a separate agreement was made with the YMCA regarding scholarships for resident children of Palmyra. Mr. Gural indicated \$10,000.00 was given to the YMCA to provide free camperships to Palmyra children. Mrs. Washington indicated she called Ms. Burke. Ms. Burke told her that Palmyra residents do not get to attend camp for free or a discounted price. She directed her to the website to get the full fee schedule. Mrs. Washington also indicated she was upset with some of the mailings which were being sent to her home. Mr. Gural indicated that the information regarding the \$10,000.00 given to the YMCA was correct,

the person whom you spoke with at the YMCA gave you the incorrect information. Those monies are used for free as well as reduced fee scholarship for Palmyra students.

William Mitchel for Millers Temple Church – Kennedy Street – Mr. Mitchel indicated that the Millers Temple Church was in the process of doing a feasibility study to determine if a 1500 sq. ft. addition to the current structure is plausible. Mr. Mitchel introduced some of the members of the church and indicated that the church had been part of the community for the past 70 years. The Church just became aware that the Vets property was available for purchase and they are aware and understand that Council had already agreed, by ordinance to sell the property to Habitat for Humanity for \$1.00. Millers Temple would just like to let Borough Council know that if something doesn't work out with that sale; Millers Temple would like to enter into talks with the municipality regarding the sale of the property.

Mr. McElwee – Columbia Avenue – Mr. McElwee indicated he spoke with Emily from the Palmyra Sun and an article will be in the paper regarding Veterans Day and the celebration we have scheduled. Mr. McElwee also indicated that for years the American Legion has decorated Morgan Cemetery with flags for Memorial Day and was surprised to find out that all the flags placed there were gone. When inquiring as to why the flags were removed, he was told that one week after Flag Day all flags must be removed, per a federal law. Mr. McElwee just wanted the public to know it's not the American Legions fault that the flags are not there.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Yetter – Mr. Yetter indicated he was glade we were able to reschedule the Halloween Parade.

Mr. Howard – Mr. Howard thanked the Riverton Fire Company and the church which gave the participants of the Halloween Parade shelter when it began to rain. Mr. Howard also noted that the new jetter vac/sweeper is on the streets and working great. Congratulations to Liza.

Mr. Kearney – Mr. Kearney indicated the mini Halloween Parade was great and the children really enjoyed it. Congratulations to the soccer teams and Liza.

Mrs. Tait – Mrs. Tait thanked Chief Perlman for all he and the police department did regarding the parade. Mrs. Tait also indicated she would like to have more people involved with the parade next year, as it is a lot of work.

President Norcross – Mr. Norcross congratulated Liza Tait on breaking the Palmyra High School record and wished her well in the future.

Mayor Arnold – Mayor Arnold indicated a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make things happen here at the Borough, she thanked the Borough staff and all those who volunteer to work on various projects for the great job they do. Mayor Arnold also noted, the public comments section is open to the public, anyone can come in and say anything and will be heard however politics should not enter in the Borough Council everyone has their own ideas and opinions, but when we sit at this table it is with one focus and one goal for the residents of Palmyra and to move them forward. We have made great progress with the step project outside the building, the step were sealed today and the railings and columns should be installed soon. We need to grow

together. Mayor Arnold indicated she tells people every day, “ I am Palmyra proud”, one thing which sets Palmyra aside from everyplace else is our heart, our hearts beat together, be kind to one another and please be good neighbors and thanks for coming night.

**President Norcross made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Kearney seconded the motion.
All members present voted in favor on the motion.**

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 7:47 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Doretha R Jackson
Acting Municipal Clerk