

Borough of Palmyra
Regular Council Meeting Minutes, 7:00 PM
Tuesday, February 21st, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting of February 21st, 2017 was called to order by Mayor Michelle Arnold at 7:00 pm

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Michelle Arnold, Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Gina Tait, Ms. Mindie Weiner, Mr. Lewis Yetter

Absent: President Tim Howard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led By Cub Scout Pack #9

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

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

- Posting written notice on the official bulletin board at the Palmyra Borough Hall on January 10, 2017.
- Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times, and the Courier Post Newspaper on January 10, 2017.
- Notice to All Council Members.

INVOCATION

Prayer was given by Mr. John Gural

APPROVAL OF MINUTES February 6th, 2017 Regular and Executive

Mr. Cosky made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes and executive meeting minutes from February 6th, 2017. Mrs. Russell seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll:

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Arnold acknowledged the following correspondence.

Thank you cards received from Mr. Ted Rosenberg, Mrs. Marva Jones and the YMCA.

A letter from NJ Department of Community Affairs Small Cities CDBG funding indicating we would not be receiving the Grant.

A letter from the James R Mitchell Estate which included a \$20,000.00 check bequeathed to the Palmyra Police Department.

A letter from the Burlington County JIF indicating Mr. John Gural has been selected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Burlington County JIF Program.

A letter from the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders requesting/ selecting Mr. Gural to represent the Municipal Managers/ Administrator on the Burlington County Development Program Reorganization Committee additionally Mayor Michelle Arnold has be selected to represent the Borough of Palmyra

A Press release from The National Foundation for Women Legislators indicating Mayor Arnold has been appointed to the 2017 International Outreach Committee for the National Foundation of Women Legislators.

PUBLIC PORTION

This public portion is for discussion on professional updates, resolutions and ordinances listed on the agenda. **Please sign in at the podium, 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.

Mr. Yetter made a motion to open the public portion, Mr. Cosky second the motion.

At the call of the roll.

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

No one from the public wishing to be heard, Mrs. Russell made a motion to close the public portion. Mr. Yetter seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll.

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

Ordinances on first reading with public hearing to be held on March 20th, 2017.

Ordinance 2017-1, An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Palmyra, County Of Burlington, State Of New Jersey, Establishing Policy for Property Tax Exemption on Dwelling House of One Hundred Percent Totally Disabled Veteran or Surviving Spouse.

A motion was made by Mrs. Russell to approve Ordinance 2017-1 as read. Mrs. Tait seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

Ordinance 2017-1 was introduced and passed on first reading on February 21st, 2017. A public hearing, and final adoption will be held at the March 20th, 2017 meeting of Borough Council.

Ordinance 2017-2. An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington, State Of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 90: Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the Borough of Palmyra Designating W. Charles Street and Park Avenue A Multi-Stop Intersection.

A motion was made by Mr. Cosky to approve Ordinance 2017-2 as read. Mrs. Russell seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

Ordinance 2017-2 was introduced and passed on first reading on February 21st, 2017. A public hearing and final adoption will be held at the March 20th, 2017 meeting of Borough Council.

RESOLUTIONS Consent Agenda

Resolution 2017-70 to Resolution 2017-82 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.

- **Resolution 2017-70,** Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Taxes for a Totally Disabled Veteran Located at Block 52.01 Lot 1.
- **Resolution 2017-71,** Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Municipal Certificate of Sale for Block 74, Lot 9
- **Resolution 2017-72,** Resolution Appointing William Lunemann as Electrical Sub-code Official, Effective January 1st, 2017 thru December 31st, 2017.
- **Resolution 2017-73,** Resolution Appointing Donna Condo as Public Agency Compliance Officer For the Borough of Palmyra
- **Resolution 2017-74,** Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Shared Service Agreement Between the Borough of Palmyra and the Township of Cinnaminson for the Purchase of Brine Solution
- **Resolution 2017-75,** Resolution Rejecting Bids Received January 24th, 2017 for Waterfront Park Project as all Bids Exceeded the Engineer's Estimate, Pursuant to Maser Consulting's Letter dated February 3rd, 2017.

- **Resolution 2017-76** Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for- Professional Engineering Services to Maser Consulting, P.A.
- **Resolution 2017-77** Resolution Authorizing the Funding of the Borough of Palmyra Share of the MACCS Contract with Central Jersey Waste & Recycling for Basic Service Solid Waste and Bulk Collection
- **Resolution 2017-78**, Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of \$1,000.00 as the Total Balance due the Borough of Palmyra for all Housing Rehabilitation Program Funding pursuant to the Short Sale of the property located at 448 Delaware Avenue, Palmyra, NJ.
- **Resolution 2017-79**, Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for Professional Consulting Services to V-Comm, LLC, pursuant to Solicitor and CFO's review and approval.
- **Resolution 2017-80**, Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Strategic Plan for the Borough of Palmyra Municipal Alliance Grant
- **Resolution 2017-81**, Resolution To Confirm the Governing Body's Council Committee Appointments for 2017
- **Resolution 2017-82**, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills for the Month of February 2017 In The Amount Of \$1,751,739.95.

Ms. Weiner requested Resolution 2017-77 be removed from the consent agenda for additional discussion.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-70 thru Resolution 2017-76 and Resolution 2017-78 thru Resolution 2017-82. Mr. Cosky seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll.

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

- **Resolution 2017-77** Resolution Authorizing the Funding of the Borough of Palmyra Share of the MACCS Contract with Central Jersey Waste & Recycling for Basic Service Solid Waste and Bulk Collection

Discussion was heard regarding Resolution 2017-77;

Ms. Weiner inquired as to what MACCS is. Mr. Gural indicated MACCS is Municipal Apartment Condominium Collection Services, a program which allows us to collect trash in the apartment and condominium communities like the Harbour, Riverfront Villas. The program is administered by Maple Shade Township and we sign a shared service agreement with them to participate in that program. The Municipal Services Act which was adopted some time ago requires Municipalities to pay for certain services; trash collection being one of those services. This is the most efficient way to pay for the service we must provide to those communities. Ms. Weiner asked, this is more efficient than having our regular trash service pick up that trash? Mr. Gural indicated that the regular trash company would not collect it as it is not part of their normal duties and would require us to bid that service separately. The pricing we get with MACCS by the way of this contract is much cheaper, because it is such a large group of

municipalities, than anything we could negotiate ourselves. Mr. Gural indicated we use to pay over \$80,000.00 for this service, thru this contract we are currently paying just over \$30,000.00, an almost \$50,000.00 annual savings thru participating in this program.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-77, Mr. Cosky seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2017. Mr. Yetter seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

Mayor Arnold then appointed Jason Furrer and Richard Dreby to the Land Use Board as alternate members.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Jessie from the Cub Scout Pack #9 spoke about their visit to the Police Department. He indicated they saw guns, the jail cells and other cool stuff. The Troop Leader accompanying them stated, tonight they are here for "Meet the Mayor and Town Council", part of a requirement they need to move forward in the Cub Scout Group. Many of these cubs' scouts will be moving up to Boy Scouts in about 3 weeks. Also in the fall of each year Cub Scout Pack #9 also participates in the Scouting for Food Program, collecting donations for Bread of Life Food Pantry. Additionally Cub Scout Pack #9 also put in over 1000 hours helping build the walls in the basement, the ceiling and floors of the Bread of Life Food Pantry at Epworth United Methodist Church.

During Palmyra Day May 6th, 2017 the Office of Emergency Management will be hosting a Free CPR Training program between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm at the Palmyra Fire House.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Mayor met with Brian McBride, Superintendent and Ken Holloway, Principal of Palmyra High School regarding the mural to be painted at Tony's Barber Shop. The Mayor would like to include the students from Palmyra High School in the project of painting the wall. They are currently gathering ideas for some sort of collage. The Mayor indicated we are moving forward with this project. Mr. Ventura indicated he has some ideas, possibly a now and then type of painting, something about the police, the fire house, maybe the history of the town, etc. Mayor asked Mr. Ventura to come up with some sort of theme, then we can schedule a meeting and go over the ideas and put this project together. Mayor indicated she would contact Mr. Ventura and set up a meeting next week.

Mr. Gural informed Borough Council that we received an offer from the New Jersey DEP, regarding the New Jersey Tree Recovery Program. This program would allow us up to 2000 trees seedlings, at no cost, which we would give out to those interested from our community. Mr. Gural told council this is not an easy program to administer and the Shade Tree Committee ran this program in the past. After much discussion regarding the program Mrs. Russell indicated the Shade Tree Committee would be willing to help with the disbursement. Council indicated they would like to participate in the program however would like to change the number of trees we receive to 500 if possible.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve resolution 2017-83, Resolution authorizing participation in the 2017 NJ Tree Recovery Program contingent on receiving 500 trees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cosky.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Gural indicated that Habitat for Humanity is meeting tonight to determine if they will purchase the Tri- Boro Vets property for one dollar. We should have more information tomorrow. After they purchase they will be coming before the Land Use Board for permission to sub-divide the property, so two houses could be built there. Also amendments were made to the agreement of sale that indicate they must have all approvals needed by June 30th, of 2017.

The Tree Service Bid is being work on by Mr. Rosenberg and Ms. Jackson. It should be completed soon and on our website shortly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lew Yetter indicated the Public Works and Sewer Committee met Friday February 17th, 2017. Mr. McGill is really on the ball and has some good ideas. We have a new 550 pick-up which be in next week. The committee would like to possibly place ash tray/ trash containers along the edges of Legion Park. Additionally they have a plan in place to secure the statue at the war memorial. The Green team also met and are looking to set up a table on Palmyra Day to hand out more information about the Green Team and what they are doing.

Bernadette Russell indicated she attended the school board meeting where recognition awards were being given to various teachers and students. She also told council that a feasibility study is being done to determine if the sixth grade students should also be going to the high school instead of Charles Street School. Mrs. Russell also wanted to acknowledge Mrs. Debbie Falcone, the teacher whose students

wrote and took the bill to the New Jersey Assembly, to ban NJ schools and colleges from using polystyrene food containers in their cafeterias. Mrs. Russell also indicated she would be meeting with Dave Austin of the Shade Tree Committee soon.

Mindie Weiner indicated she and the business and community development committee met on the 15th of February and talked about how they could make downtown Palmyra, “a place to talk about”. An appointment is scheduled for next week with Haddonfield to get information about their downtown and how they got started. Additionally they will be getting information regarding Haddonfield’s Farmers Market. The committee is also reaching out to the Director of Community Development in Collingswood to get information regarding their successes and challenges in community development. Mrs. Russell will also be reaching out to the Mayor of Cinnaminson Township to see how they are bringing new business into town. Ms. Weiner also attended the Palmyra Improvement Association meeting and is anticipating working closely with that association in the future to do some great things in the Borough.

Gina Tait indicated to council that we still have to wait a little while before we can evaluate the fields and buildings, once the weather breaks we will begin that process. Mrs. Tait also indicated she and the Mayor have to set a time to set the schedule for public events.

Frank Cosky indicated he will be scheduling a meeting with the construction department and the municipal court office this week.

Mayor Arnold stated she had information on a Farmers Market Program and had also spoken with the Mayor of Cinnaminson regarding their business development programs. She will be happy to share that information with the various committees. The Mayor will be meeting with the public safety committee soon. The Mayor also received a request from the Fire Chief and the Deputy Fire Chief regarding a meeting with the safety committee before the budget meeting; to discuss the presentation of the new fire truck; so that everyone will be up to speed when it is presented to the entire council at the budget meeting. Mayor Arnold indicated how the solicitor’s permit process works. She indicated there have been some concerns regarding people out soliciting in our neighbors. Chief Pearlman indicated all solicitors having permits have photo id’s which you can ask to see, if they cannot show you their ID or they do not have a soliciting permit, call the police. Mayor Arnold again noted the school resource officer, Mr. Kendall is doing an excellent job. Mayor Arnold also stated that if you are installing solar panels, please make sure that you obtain the proper permits and are not installing more than the area of the roof allows or can support. Mr. Gural and Mayor Arnold will be attending the 30 Mayors/30 Developers Network Exchange on March 15th, 2017 at Rowan College. Mayor Arnold also stated she will be attending the Sound off Legislative Conference at Resorts in Atlantic City on March 8th, 2017. Mayor Arnold indicated she was asked to be a speaker on the panel at the Annual Women’s Legislative Breakfast sponsored by the Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce, which will be held March 10th, 2017. Mayor Arnold stated she will be attending and will represent the Borough of Palmyra

on the panel. Mayor Arnold also announced that The “July for Jay” fundraiser will be held on March 11th, 2017 from 5 to 10 pm at the Delran VFW, and the tickets are \$25.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT Please sign in at the podium 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.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to open the public portion. Mr. Cosky second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

Mr. Rader – Harbour Drive – Mr. Rader inquired, shouldn’t the governing body have to advertise if they are taking action after closed session? Mayor Arnold explained what happens after the governing body comes back in open session after closed session. Mr. Rosenberg stated the governing body could do a better job of indicating what specifically is going to be discussed in closed session. Mayor Arnold stated most of the things which action is taken on after closed session usually have some time constraints associated with them, mostly all other things are held over to the next council meeting.

Ms. Jackson – Van Sant Drive –Ms. Jackson indicated that her daughter is a Girl Scout with troop #26165. Her daughter and another girl from that troop are in the process of planning their silver award project. For their silver award project they would like to build or buy a trophy show case for the community center or another building in the Borough where various trophies won by different groups or teams could be displayed. Mayor Arnold indicated it was a great idea and she should contact Mrs. Tait and set up a meeting so they can work out the details.

Mr. Casparro – Morgan Avenue – Mr. Casparro asked if the hours of solicitation could fluctuate depending upon the time of year. Mr. Casparro also indicated that the Palmyra Improvement Committee had a very good meeting with about 30 people in attendance, and about 40 to 50 people expressing an interest. They talk about things that they would like to see come to downtown Palmyra like a Farmers Market. Another idea they had was to have some of their members attend every Borough Council meeting, so they are more engaged and someone would be here to let Borough Council know what they are doing and what they are thinking. Mr. Casparro also indicated they are still trying to coordinate with Riverton for the cleanup day which we are trying to hold on April 29th, 2017, which is the weekend before Palmyra Day, May 6th, 2017. Mr. Casparro also said he is ready to meet with the Mayor and is hoping to do that soon.

No one else from the public wishing to be heard, Mrs. Russell made a motion to close the public portion. Mr. Yetter seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

NAYES: None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Tait suggested everyone look at the Palmyra School website, it keep you up to date with what the kids are doing and accomplishing in the school district. She also told everyone to sign up for the email blasts from the principle, Mr. Holloway. Mrs. Tait also notified council, that Liza Tait had received the Presidential Award for Volunteerism, representing the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Cosky thanked everyone for coming out and encouraged them to invite others to come out and learn how our government works.

Yetter said he has had many requests from bands who want to play for the summer concert series. He inquired if he could start booking now or does he need to wait? Mayor Arnold and Mrs. Tait indicated he could start booking them now.

Mrs. Russell indicated she heard wonderful things at the school board meeting and hopes that we continue selling the positive things the kids are doing in the community.

Ms. Weiner – No Comment

Mayor Arnold thanked everyone for coming out, especially the cub scouts and thanked council for really getting up and running with their committee assignments. She asked that when they hold meetings; would they send her an email with the date and time. Mayor Arnold also said, "Remember to be kind to one another and be good neighbors".

Resolution 2017- 84,

Resolution Excluding the Public from Certain Meetings Pursuant To Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act C. 231 P. L. 1975. Litigation, Contracts, Negotiations

Access agreement with NAI

Litigation with Fillit

Agreement with Riverfront for sewer operating services

Personnel matters regarding Public Works and Sewer Employees
Potential Litigation with rejection of the Riverfront Park Bids

Additionally action may be taken after Closed Session

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve resolution 2017-84 Excluding the Public from Certain Meetings Pursuant To Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act C. 231 P. L. 1975. Litigation, Contracts, Negotiations the motion was seconded by Mr. Yetter.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

Council went into closed session at 8:34

CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Russell made a motion to open the public portion. Mr. Cosky second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Council back in session at 9:40 pm

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-85, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor on behalf of the Borough of Palmyra to Execute the Access Agreement with National Amusements Inc. (NAI) and the Borough of Palmyra. Mr. Cosky second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Cosky, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter

Mrs. Russell made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Cosky second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:43

Respectfully Submitted

Doretha R Jackson

Acting Municipal Clerk