

Borough of Palmyra
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 20th, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra was called to order by Mayor Michelle Arnold at 7:00 pm

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Brandon Allmond, Mr. Timothy Howard, Mrs. Gina Tait, Ms. Mindie Weiner, Mr. Lewis Yetter, President Bernadette Russell, Mayor Michelle Arnold

Pledge of Allegiance followed by a 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, 2018.
- Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times, and the Courier Post Newspaper on January 10, 2018.
- Notice to All Council Members.

INVOCATION

Prayer was given by Minister Jimmy Lindsay from Evergreen Baptist Church

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Arnold requested a motion for approval of the February 5th, 2018, Council Caucus Meeting Minutes:

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the minutes from the Council Caucus meeting of February 5th, 2018. Mr. Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was.

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES: None

Mayor Arnold requested a motion for approval of the February 5th, 2018 Executive Session Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the minutes from the Entire Executive Session meeting of December 5th, 2018. President Russell second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, President Russell

NAYES: None

Recuse: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the minutes from the beginning half of the Executive Session meeting of December 5th, 2018. President Russell second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES: None

Having no correspondence currently, Mayor Arnold read the following proclamation into the record:

**PROCLAMATION
AMERICAN HEART HEALTH MONTH**

Whereas, diseases of the heart and the circulatory system are responsible for over one-half of the deaths occurring annually; and

Whereas, research has contributed to methods of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the cardiovascular diseases; and

Whereas, substantial progress in combating those diseases is being made by comprehensive educational and community programs which have brought about swift, wide dissemination and use of such improved methods; and

Whereas these programs of research and education have resulted largely from the teamwork between the American Heart Association, its chapters and affiliates, and the Federal Government, particularly the Public Health Service through the National Heart Institute and the Heart Disease Control Program;

Now, Therefore, I, Michelle Arnold, Mayor of the Borough of Palmyra do hereby proclaim the month of February as American Heart Month; and I invite Citizens of the Borough of Palmyra to give heed to the nationwide problem of the heart and blood-vessel diseases, and to support the programs required to bring about its solution.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand....Mayor Michelle Arnold.

Mayor Arnold then asked for a motion to open the Public Portion. Mrs. Russell made a motion to open the public portion for comments. Mr. Howard second the motion

All members present voted in favor of the motion

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

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Arnold asked if any item needed to be removed from the consent agenda. Council consensus was no.

Resolution **2018-093** to Resolution **2018-96** 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 2018-93, Resolution Authorizing a Refund of Tax Overpayment on Block 152.40 Lot 2195 in the amount of \$425.65

Resolution 2018-94, Resolution Appointing Dave Austin to a part-time position in Public Works for shade tree and other efforts at \$22.00 per hour from zero to not-to-exceed fourteen hours per week.

Resolution 2018-95, Resolution Authorizing the Local Construction Permit Fee Waiver for Habitat for Humanity for construction of new homes on Block 127 Lots 10 & 11

Resolution 2018-96, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills for the Month of February 2018 In the Amount of \$1,928,271.96

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as read. President Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-93 thru Resolution 2018-96. Mr. Howard seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES. Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES. None

Resolutions noted in motion were approved

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports from December of 2017 and January of 2018. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports dated December 2017 and January 2018. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

At the call of the roll:

AYES. Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES. None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Gural indicated at the last meeting we had a discussion regarding the repayment of the FEMA Grant and we discussed the potential of reaching out to our representatives, to see if the grant repayment could be waived. Mr. Gural stated we have a new emergency generator at the community center, we have currently applied for another grant from FEMA and are always looking at opportunities for available grants from FEMA. Mr. Gural stated that by having our representatives' reach out to FEMA we risk the chance of possibly not receiving another grant from FEMA. Mr. Gural indicated we owe the \$22,000.00 and we should just pay it back. Mrs. Tait stated we have received a lot more from FEMA

than that \$22,000.00. Mrs. Weiner indicated, what was done down there regarding the flooding needed to be done anyway, we should just pay it. Mr. Howard indicated that council was all in agreement that we should return the money. Mr. Gural indicated he will notify FEMA we will be returning the funds and we will discuss it and put it in the budget at our budget meeting.

Mr. Gural stated he spoke with the Eric Nooney from the Burlington County Mosquito Control, who has indicated as soon as he can confirm it with his supervisor he will be happy to come to the Borough and speak with Council. Mr. Gural stated he is just awaiting confirmation of date.

Mayor Arnold requested approval for overnight stay in Atlantic City for the New Jersey Annual Spring Conference of Mayors which is being held April 25th, 2018 thru April 27th, 2018. Ms. Weiner stated education is always wonderful when you can bring information back to the Borough. Mr. Howard and Mr. Almond indicated it was ok.

Mr. Gural stated Mr. Rosenberg had the opportunity to review the lease from the Fire Company, it can be discussed in detail at the work session in two weeks as it is a work in progress.

Mr. Rosenberg and Ms. Jackson look for an ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra which addresses Junior Firefighters and/or Auxiliary. Mr. Gural stated unfortunately the Borough does not have one. Mr. Gural stated that before the children can be signed up to be volunteers and ordinance must be adopted which allows for it. Mr. Gural stated he check with our insurance company regarding the junior firefighters and they are ok with it as long as we have an ordinance and we abide with the state statutes regarding the junior firefighters. Mr. Gural also noted that those members must be appointed just like other fire fighters. Mayor Arnold asked Mr. Rosenberg to prepare the ordinance for our next meeting. Mr. Gural stated Mr. Rosenberg prepared a permission slip for our student volunteers who wish to participate in projects within the Borough. Mr. Gural indicated he spoke with the insurance consultant regarding the permission slip and they have no issues regarding it or insuring the children. Mr. Gural stated we already have volunteer insurance however it is for those 18 and older. Mr. Gural stated the insurance company is willing to rewrite the policy to included 14 year olds and up however it would be necessary for the Borough to list all the programs which they might participate in. Mr. Gural asked if anyone has a program which they would like to have added to the listed please email it to him so he can send it to the insurance company. Mr. Rosenberg stated the Borough does background checks on all of our employees to make sure they have no disabling record, don't we own the same obligation to the children to make sure no person with whom they are volunteering with falls within prohibited restrictions. Ms. Weiner inquired that council members, anyone who comes out to volunteer who would be in contact with the children would need a background check. Mr. Rosenberg stated if someone has a record and has contact with the children in our community based upon an Official Borough function and the question is raised if the Borough vetted the adults who were supervising the children, what then. Ms. Weiner asked Chief Pearlman if the police department could do something like that. Chief Pearlman stated for what Mr. Rosenberg is recommending they would have to go to **Morpho**. Mr. Gural stated the cost is about \$45.00, whomever would have to pay for it out of pocket then submit a voucher and the Borough would reimburse them the cost as long as there were no records indicated Mrs. Russell stated anyone who is involved with kids and is over the age of 18 is well aware of these types of background checks. Chief Pearlman stated background checks are not transferable, so if it was done for another organization it could not transfer here, they would need to be done again. Mr. Gural stated if

you would like to do that the necessary paperwork can be obtained from Chief Pearlman and or Mr. Gural. Mr. Rosenberg stated we should establish as policy.

Mayor Arnold indicated she had questions regarding the permission slips and community service credit. Mrs. Tait stated the community service credits are handled by Mrs. Foster at the high school. Mrs. Tait indicated Palmyra High School does not have a community service requirement to graduate, however the children are wanting to get community service for resumes and college entrance profiles.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mayor Arnold noted that the Tri-Boro Vets building has been demolished.

Mr. Gural stated the Solid Waste/Trash collection bids are due back March 7th, 2018. This is a major part of our budget and we won't know till they are in what day or days trash collection will be. Mr. Gural indicated many companies wanted to know if they could pick the bulk trash day, so he wanted to know how council felt about changing the day. Council indicated due to the numerous items which would need to be accomplished to change that date they wanted to keep bulk trash on Monday.

Mr. Gural indicated code enforcement, public works and the administration are looking at a significant outreach efforts to educate the public regarding trash days, what our code enforcement efforts are, and who our new code enforcement officer is.

Mayor Arnold noted the PPA CBA contract has been signed by all the representatives and is now in place.

Mr. Gural reminded Council and the Mayor of the BURL CO JIF Elected Officials Liability Seminar coming up on March 28th, 2018 at O'Connor's in Easthampton at 6:00 pm, and again noted that the Borough gets a \$250.00 credit towards their insurance premium for every elected official who attends.

Mr. Gural stated the New Jersey American Water Company is just opening so many streets we can keep up, we just found out they are now going to be working on Race Street, Vine Street, Weart Blvd., Fifth Street and Sixth Street almost 4,300 ft. that's about three quarters of a mile of a mile of additional damaged streets.

Mr. Gural noted the DCA Small Cities Housing Rehab Mid-point hearing was held for the 2016 housing rehab grant we received. Mr. Gural indicated we need three more obligations to satisfy the funding, and we are actively extending our outreach services to the public to let them know this funding is available.

Mr. Gural stated the security camera project is up and running. All cameras have not yet been installed as we have encountered a few issues in the field with having to install some poles, electric etc. Mr. Gural stated there are a few change orders coming, so that we can finish the project, possibly four however we are still be under budget.

Mr. Gural sent the draft budget for 2018 to Council and the Mayor to look over and suggested if in the next three weeks the various committees would like to sit down, meet and review it he is available.

Additionally Mr. Gural suggested also meeting with your various department heads to understand their various needs would help with understanding the budget. Mr. Gural reminded all the Budget Workshop will be held on March 17th, 2018 at 8:00 am in Boro Hall.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Mayor Arnold reminded everyone the Panther Con is February 23rd, 2018 at 5:30 at Palmyra High School in the gym, and tickets are still available.

Mayor Arnold indicated the Relay for Life, cancer fundraiser is at Park Tavern on Saturday March 24th, 2018 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm with advance tickets being sold for \$20.00.

Mayor Arnold indicated the Grand Opening for Personal Space Cat Lounge on Market Street. Mayor Arnold indicated the railroad lights are still being worked on at Cinnaminson Avenue. Mayor Arnold thanked Mr. Austin, Mr. Kaluhiokalani and Ms. Jackson for the completion of the Community Forestry Program Annual Accomplishment Report. Mayor Arnold thanked code enforcement, Mr. Lunemann and public works for their responsiveness to concerns of our residents. Mayor Arnold indicated she attended a council meeting with Willingboro Township and shared information regarding the Energy Aggregation Program and vacant/ abandon properties issues. Mayor Arnold indicated she had meetings last week with Governor Murphy and members of the State Assembly regarding our COAH obligations possibly becoming regionalized instead of each municipality having their own obligation. Additional conversations were had regarding business development, infrastructure and the conditions of the roadways. Mayor Arnold stated she received a call from a representative of the governor's office indicating that we were being awarded \$250,000.00 towards the reconstruction of Temple Blvd. Mayor Arnold indicated there are proposed changes to the state laws regarding the use of marijuana. Mayor Arnold indicated she attended a Regional Chamber meeting with Virtua, which is expanding in Westhampton. Mayor Arnold attended the Firemen's Fisherman's Flea Market which was a great success. Mayor Arnold stated she attended the Palmyra Harbour Condo Association meeting. Mayor Arnold indicated they are currently in the budget process and being self-managed they should be better able to control their costs. Mayor Arnold indicated some questions were asked regarding Main Harbour Drive and Mayor Arnold stated she would get back to them with additional information at a later date. Mayor Arnold indicated the Harbour Condo Association is also preparing for board member elections. Mayor Arnold stated the Boys Scout Troop 70 held a fundraiser which she also attended. Palmyra Senior held their Pot Luck Lunch which Mayor Arnold also attended. Mayor Arnold thanked Mr. Kirchner for his quick response regarding the roads conditions where utility companies are working and is hopeful that the work should be completed by second week in March with final restoration to take place in April or May. Mayor Arnold stated the Neighborhood Chat with the Mayor will be held Monday February 26th, 2018 at Evergreen Baptist Church from 6:00pm to 8:00 pm, and the Mayor's business meeting with the business owners in the Borough will be Tuesday February 27th, 2018 at the Community Center at 10:00 am.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Howard – Youth and Recreation, Public Building, Grounds and Parks – Mr. Howard indicated the committee met earlier this month and a report was given at that time.

Mrs. Tait – Public Safety Director, Board of Education Liaison, Public Events– Mrs. Tait indicated she attended the Board of Education meeting highlighting the report regarding sending the 6th grade

students to the High School in place of Charles Street School. Mrs. Tait noted nothing has been decided and many options are still being looked at. Mrs. Tait stated that if the 6, 7, and 8th grade students all go together to the same school, our test scores and state funding for grants are looked at differently than with them split between two schools. Mrs. Tait indicated there was a lot of the conversation also regarding the PARCC Test the effects to the district when students “opt-out” and attendance in the district. Mrs. Tait stated she sent out the list for public events and if changes were need please contact her.

Ms. Weiner – Administration and Finance, Business and Community development, Homeowner Association – Ms. Weiner stated the finance committee will be meeting tomorrow February 21st, 2018. Ms. Weiner stated she attended the Harbour Condo Association meeting last week and the new management appears to be doing well without the managing company and it appears they will be saving about 85,000.00 a year in their budget due to the change. Ms. Weiner stated the business and community development committee will be meeting on Monday.

Mr. Allmond –Communications and Public Relations Committee– Mr. Almond stated the communications committee will be meeting next week.

Mr. Yetter – Public Works, Redevelopment and Negotiations – Mr. Yetter stated the public works committee met earlier and all of council will be receiving the department s monthly report so that all can keep aware of what is going on. Mr. Yetter indicated the winter has been kind and we have plenty of salt and brine. Mr. Yetter also noted Mr. Haines informed the committee about Stormwater and pointed out the maps of the town are completely out of date. Mr. Haines is also implementing a process to keep track of everything so that we won’t have any problems with the DEP inspections. Mr. Yetter indicated they are still working on pothole repairs, and the Green Team will be meeting tomorrow. Mayor Arnold indicated there was some conversation regarding adding an extended day for bulk trash during the spring and summer.

President Russell – Construction, Housing and Code Enforcement Committee– President Russell stated the Shade Tree Advisory Board met on February 7th, 2018. President Russell thanked Mr. Austin, Mr. Kaluhiokalani and Ms. Jackson for completing the Tree City USA application and indicated they are working on another item with Barry Emends. President Russell asked council to think about what types of trees we would like to plant to replace the trees at Legion field. President Russell also indicated they were looking into the tree planting at the end of Broad Street by Market Street. President Russell indicated a meeting was held on February 11th, 2018 with Mr. Gural, Mrs. Kilmer, Mr. Yetter and Mr. Allmond where they had a lengthy conversation regarding the sign ordinance. President Russell indicated that perhaps the committee needs to address the ordinance in a manner which is area specific instead of town wide. Some additional discussion was have regarding size and various types of signs. Mr. Rosenberg stated when the Land Use Ordinance was last revised it was done principally by one person. Mr. Rosenberg stated there are professional experts who do this type of work and council should consider hiring a professional planner to handle this type of undertaking. Mr. Gural stated the

Land Use Board is in the process of the ten year reexamination of the Master Plan which Mr. Gerkens of C GP & H is working on, perhaps council could come up with the structure of the various areas for signage and it could be given to our professionals including Mr. Gerkens and it could be written into the land use and or zone ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Arnold then asked for a motion to open the Public Portion. Mrs. Russell made a motion to open the public portion for comments. Mrs. Tait second the motion

All members present voted in favor of the motion

Mr. Boyell –Cinnaminson Avenue/Moorestown – Mr. Boyell expressed gratitude to the Mayor and Council regarding the appearance of Borough Hall. Mr. Boyell stated one of the Mayor's priorities was to improve the appearance of Borough Hall, it has gone from drab to spiffy. Mr. Boyell stated the improvements are appreciated by the residents and property owners.

Mr. McElwee – Columbia Avenue- Mr. McElwee asked to have the War Memorial added to the list for student volunteers. Mr. McElwee also stated that during the pledge of allegiance at the last meeting he noticed that the reporter for the Sun Newspaper sat in her chair, if she can't rise for the pledge of allegiance she should not be here.

No one from the public wishing to be heard, Mr. Yetter 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

Gina Tait notified council of the passing of Mr. Brian Minnix, the President of PAL/RIV AA and volunteer in the community.

Brandon Allmond had no comment

Lewis Yetter had no comment

Mr. Howard had no comment

Mindie Weiner had no comments.

President Russell stated in regards to what just happened in Florida, keep your love ones close and give them a big hug, as we are unaware of what's going to happen each and every day. President Russell thanked everyone for coming and stated they should have a good week.

Mayor Arnold thanked everyone for coming and sharing their thoughts and reminded everyone to be good neighbors and be kind to one another.

Mayor Arnold asked if there was something for closed session. Mr. Gural indicated yes, two contractual matters and one litigation matter.

President Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-97 Resolution Excluding the Public from Certain Meetings Pursuant To Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act C. 231 P. L. 1975. Litigation, Contracts. Mr. Yetter second the motion

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES: none

Borough Council went into closed session at 8:25 pm

President Russell made a motion to open to the public. Mrs. Tait second the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Borough Council returned from closed session at 8:53 PM

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-098, Resolution Authorizing the payment of Larry Metzler Attorney Fees in the amount of \$20,830.74. Mr. Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll.

AYES. Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES. None

President Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

All voted in favor of the motion

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Doretha R Jackson

Acting Municipal Clerk