

**Borough of Palmyra**  
**Regular Council Meeting, 7:00 PM**  
**Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra is hereby called to order by Mayor Michelle Arnold at 7:03 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

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

\*\*Ms. Weiner returned at 7:05 pm

The pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT**

Mayor Arnold read the open public meetings statement into the record. 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 James Roberts, of Holy Spirit Cathedral located at Broad Street and Leconey Avenue. Minister Roberts indicated the Holy Spirit Cathedral moved to Palmyra in November of 2013 and worked with some local businesses to renovate the building both inside and outside. In three years Holy Spirit Cathedral held its mortgage burning ceremony and celebrated a debt free ministry. Minister Roberts indicated their commitment is not only to the Church but also to the community. The Cathedral is open to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays for prayer and community service for anyone in need. Minister Roberts indicated it is a pleasure to serve the community and the Cathedral welcomes any ideas on how to continue serving and improving Palmyra.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Arnold requested a motion for approval of the June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Mrs. Tait made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018. President Russell second the motion.

**At the call of the roll the vote was.**

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

**NAYES: None**

**ABSTAIN: Ms. Weiner**

Mayor Arnold requested a motion for approval of the June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 partial Executive Meeting Minutes.

President Russell made a motion to approve the minutes from the Partial Executive Meeting Minutes of June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

**At the call of the roll the vote was.**

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

**NAYES: None**

**ABSTAIN: Ms. Weiner**

Mayor Arnold requested a motion for approval of the June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 complete Executive Session Meeting minutes.

President Russell made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 complete Executive Session. Mr. Howard second the motion.

**At the call of the roll the vote was.**

**AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, President Russell**

**NAYES: None**

**RECUSE: Mrs. Tait, Mr. Yetter**

**ABSTAIN: Ms. Weiner**

## **PRESENTATION**

Mr. Joe Henry of Hardenberg Insurance Agency will be doing his presentation at a later date.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayor Arnold read Thank-you notes received both Carolyn VanArtsdalen and Madison Hartman recipients of the Palmyra Borough Council graduation awards

## **1<sup>ST</sup> PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to open the Public Portion. President 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. Howard second the motion.

**All members present voted in favor of the motion.**

**ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING      Public Hearing to be held August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Ordinance 2018-09**, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Providing for Various Capital Improvements and Related Expenses in and For the Borough Appropriating \$755,000.00 Therefore, Authorizing the Issuance of \$717,250.00 in General Improvement Bonds or Notes of the Borough to Finance the Same

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-09. President Russell made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-09. 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**

**Ordinance 2018-09 passed**

**Ordinance 2018-10**, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, County Of Burlington, State Of New Jersey Providing for Various Capital Improvements for the Borough's Sewer Utility Appropriating \$374,000.00 Therefor, Authorizing the Issuance of \$355,250.00 in Sewer Utility Bonds or Notes of the Borough to Finance the Same.

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-10. President Russell made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-10. 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**

**Ordinance 2018-10 passed**

**Ordinance 2018-11**, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Adopting the Redevelopment Plan relating to Block 24, Lots 1 and 2 in the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-11. President Russell made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-11. 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**

**Ordinance 2018-11 passed**

## **RESOLUTIONS Consent Agenda**

Mayor Arnold indicated Resolution **2018-178 to Resolution 2018-193** 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 2018-178**, Resolution Requesting Approval if Item of Revenue and Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159) Alcohol Ed Rehab Fund DWI in the amount of \$1,464.65

**Resolution 2018-179**, Resolution Requesting Approval of the Proposed Grant Management Plan for Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation Grant

**Resolution 2018-180**, Resolution Adopting the Citizen Participation Plan Developed by NJ Department of Community Affairs Small Cities CDBG Program

**Resolution 2018-181**, Resolution Appointing Doretha Jackson as Fair Housing Officer for Small Cities CDBG Grant Application in the amount of \$100,000.00

**Resolution 2018-182**, Resolution Authorizing the Borough of Palmyra to Apply to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) for a Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation Grant of App \$100,000.00 to carry out Programs to Address Code Violations in Homes of Low to Moderate Income residents

**Resolution 2018-183**, Resolution Adopting the Citizen Participation Plan Developed By NJ Department of Community Affairs Small Cities CDBG Program

**Resolution 2018-184**, Resolution Appointing Doretha Jackson as Fair Housing Officer for Small Cities CDBG Grant Application in the amount of \$400,000.00

**Resolution 2018-185**, Resolution Requesting Approval of the Proposed Grant Management Plan for Small Cities Public Facilities

**Resolution 2018-186**, Resolution Authorizing the Borough of Palmyra to Apply to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs NJDCA for a Small Cities Public Facilities Grant of Approximately \$400,000.00 to Make ADA Improvements Including Curb Cuts in the Northern Portion of the Borough

**Resolution 2018-187**, Resolution Approving Albert J Groff III as an Active Member of the Palmyra Fire Department

**Resolution 2018-188**, Resolution Endorsing Submittal and Certify Maintenance Commitment for the Borough of Palmyra's 2018 Transportation Alternatives Set- Aside Program (TAP) Application

**Resolution 2018-189**, Resolution Supporting Submission of the Application for New Jersey Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program

**Resolution 2018-190**, Resolution Appointing Allan E Berg to A Part-Time Public Works Laborer Position at \$16.38 per hour not to exceed twenty-eight Hours per Week.

**Resolution 2018-191**, Resolution Appointing Doretha Jackson as Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Palmyra for a Term of Three Year

**Resolution 2018-192**, Resolution Authorizing the Borough of Palmyra to Enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement

**Resolution 2018-193**, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills for the Month of July 2018 In the Amount of \$1,572,536.34

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve Resolutions 2018-178 thru Resolution 2018-193.  
President Russell made a motion to approve Resolutions 2018-178 thru Resolution 2018-193 as read.  
Mrs. Tait 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**

**Resolutions 2018-178 thru Resolution 2018-193 are approved**

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURERS REPORT**

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports of June 2018.  
President Russell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for June 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**

#### **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT**

Chief Pearlman indicated "National Night Out" is August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018.  
Mr. Yetter indicated the Summer Concerts Series is still on Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm at the Band Shell.  
Ms. Weiner indicated Mama's Cookies would like to sell cookies and drinks at the Summer Concerts if that is ok with Mr. Yetter. Mr. Yetter indicated he would not be in attendance tomorrow, President Russell would be handing it for him. After some discussion Ms. Weiner indicated she would help President Russell with the set-up of Mama's Cookies for the Summer Concerts.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **NEW Business**

Mayor Arnold noted the "Town Wide Yard Sale", with council approved will be held on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and public works will remain open until 5:00 pm that date. The rain date will be Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018. After some discussion noting that Grove Park maybe under construction it was agreed that the Yard sale would be held on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Mr. Yetter reminded all the "Summer Concerts" are on Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Gural indicated discussion was had regarding a public events trust fund, which would give us a better mechanism to take payments and donations for various public events and activities. Mr. Gural noted after some discussion with Ms. Condo, CFO and Mr. Nehila, our auditor, it was recommended we use the recreation trust fund which we already have in place, for public events funds as well. Mr. Gural noted all payment and donations can be deposited there and expenses can be paid from it also.

Mr. Gural stated we provide medical, dental and accidental death and dismemberment insurance to our volunteers up to twenty-five thousand dollars in total to those who may get injured while volunteering for the Borough. Mr. Gural noted we received the bill for the renewal of the policy which is about

\$400.00 for the next year. Mr. Gural requested the names of the students and adults who participate in the various programs otherwise they will not be insured. Mr. Gural noted if you have an event send him the names of the volunteers in a timely manner so he can make sure they are covered, also there are special instructions for student volunteers who must submit parent signed permission slips. Chief Perlman stated at "National Night Out" a shredder will also be available to residents.

Mr. Gural stated Mr. Berg was hired for the part-time temp workers positions in the Public Works department. Mr. Gural noted we had indicated we would hire two part-time workers however the employee who was out on disability returned to work today so it will not be necessary to hire another person. Mr. Gural indicated the ad will be removed tomorrow.

Mr. Gural noted the outdoor dining ordinance draft and the outdoor furniture ordinance draft were previously provided to all of the governing body and the committee for review. Mr. Gural stated we are awaiting their reviews and any recommendations.

Mr. Gural stated the Microsoft Office 365 migration project is an email management system which has become necessary for us to move into as we do not have proper control of all of our emails. Microsoft 365 is an archiving tool, retainage tool, which will give us the ability to gather up those emails which may be required for OPRA requests and or as discovery for litigation etc. without having to individually search each pc for the information. Mr. Gural indicated the cost is about \$13,000.00 with an additional monthly fee of a couple hundred dollars. Mr. Gural explained this is necessary and we are almost ready to move forward. Mr. Gural then explained how the program works and how it would interface with our current system.

Mayor Arnold explained in the Grove Park project design the entrance way is brick pavers. Mayor Arnold noted, discussion was had regarding customizing the brick pavers and allowing the public to purchase those pavers and have them engraved with names etc. Mayor Arnold indicated all should stay tuned as additional information will be forth coming.

Mr. Gural stated during the spring Mayor and Council gave permission to the PIA Palmyra Improvement Association to plant flowers, weed, etc. the planters and small flower beds along Broad Street. Mr. Gural indicated recently there has been discussion regarding the maintenance of those beds and other additional beds in front of Santander Bank. Mr. Gural noted when the proposal was submitted in the spring it indicated and the governing body approved the maintenance of the beds by the PIA. Ms. Weiner inquired why some of the flower beds have cobblestones and other do not. Mr. Gural indicated when the Broad Street was completed it was done, which was some time ago, it was completed with several grants and different designs were done in different areas. Ms. Weiner inquired if it were possible for all the beds to be completed with the same cobblestone block around the bed. Mr. Gural indicated he believed the cobblestone referred to is Belgian Block, and he and Mr. Hanes would look into it and come back to council. Mr. Gural noted if there is a change, the engineer's would become involved.

#### **OLD Business**

Mr. Gural indicated we have discussed the referendum question and interpative statement for a number of months and we have an impending deadline for submission to the County. Mr. Gural indicated the question and statement are in council's packet and the deadline for submission is August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 81

days before General Election. Mayor Arnold indicated she had spoken with several people, business and churches and she proposed a compromise of allowing the sales to begin at 12:00 noon and not do the referendum. President Russell indicated she disagreed with the proposal as it was not much of a compromise and only allowed for an additional half hour. Additional discussion was have amongst the council members regarding the hours, a compromise, changing the existing ordinance and if so when it would be effective. Mrs. Tait indicated she would like to see how the town feels about the proposed changes. Ms. Weiner asked if it was a way to have an open forum a Q and A maybe at the community center regarding it not at a council meeting. Mr. Howard indicated we have talked about this in several meetings, each of us with various residents, business owners and churches and there is a very mixed response. Mr. Howard stated he would like to see the referendum move forward. Mr. Yetter indicated he was in favor of the referendum and putting it out to the voters.

Mr. Rosenberg stated, A Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra Authorizing or Directing the Clerk of the County of Burlington to include the non-binding ballot question on this year's General Election Ballot. The Question and Interpretive Statement are as follows:

**Question.**

Do you approve extending the hours that plenary retail distribution and plenary retail consumption licensees in Palmyra can sell alcoholic beverages or permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages upon the licensed premises for the additional period from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sundays?

**Interpretive statement.**

Presently, the Code of the Borough of Palmyra permits plenary retail consumption licensees to permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages upon the licensed premises on Sundays from midnight 12:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. (the two hours immediately after Saturday night) and from 12:30 p.m. to midnight 12:00 a.m. Monday. Package goods however, are permitted to be sold on Sundays from 12:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. plenary retail distribution licensees are also permitted to sell alcoholic beverages on Sundays from 12:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2018-194 as stated by Mr. Rosenberg.

President Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-194 Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra Authorizing or directing the clerk of the County of Burlington to include a non-binding question on this year's general election ballot. Mr. Howard second the motion.

**At the call of the roll.**

**AYES. Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Mr. Yetter, President Russell**

**NAYES. None**

**ABSTAIN. Ms. Weiner**

Mayor Arnold indicated we spoke about the outdoor furniture ordinance earlier and the smoke-free and tobacco sales ordinance was referred back to committee.

Mr. Howard indicated he would like to speak about the Youth athletic organizations and field usage in committee. Mr. Gural stated we again had another series of incidents involving another of our Youth

Athletic Organizations subletting the fields to outside groups. Mr. Gural indicated the governing body needs to move forward and take action as this situations are continuing to occur. Mrs. Tait indicated the committee did meet with PAL/RIV baseball and softball and the committee does have a list of things we feel need to happen at the Legion Field which she forwarded to Mr. Gural for his review. Mrs. Tait also noted Ms. Sykes had some ideas to also be submitted in reference to the fields and what is required when using them to be submitted before it is sent to Mr. Rosenberg for inclusion in our current Legion Field Ordinance. President Russell inquired if this would help or stop the subletting. Mrs. Tait and Mr. Howard noted there would be consequences for those actions which would be spelled out and in writing by way of ordinance and would be enforceable. Ms. Weiner inquired if agreements were signed with the various athletic organizations. Mr. Gural indicated no, they fill out the application for reserved use of the various field and or concession stand. Additional discussion was had regarding field usage the concession stand, community center usage, fees, security deposits, subletting of fields, care of the fields and the potential use of other outside organizations using the fields. Mayor Arnold asked that once the committee has put their thoughts together, they forward it to Mr. Gural who in turn can forward it to the governing body for their comments prior to it going to Mr. Rosenberg for ordinance construction. Mr. Gural indicated he has not yet received the PCR EMS agreement. Mr. Rosenberg inquired if their new responsibilities who alter their performance within the Borough. Mayor Arnold indicated she has inquired and was told it would not affect the service to the Trio-Boro area and additionally there are three or four other EMS Squads with are covering the area also

•• It should be noted Mr. Allmond left the dais at 7:58 pm and returned at 8:01 pm

Mr. Gural indicated the vacant / abandoned properties ordinance need to be discussed in closed session. Mr. Gural stated that 703 Pennsylvania Avenue has been demolished and the fence will be removed on Friday. Ms. Weiner inquired if Liens would be placed on the property for cost. Mr. Gural noted the property owner has paid all the fees which we billed him for regarding the property. Ms. Weiner asked if that included of engineer and attorney fees. Mr. Gural indicated no, engineering fees do not qualify as lienable. Mr. Rosenberg stated it depends if litigation is necessary, in this situation the matter was resolved by consent without having to go to court. Mr. Rosenberg indicated soft cost may be recoverable if there is actual litigation. Mr. Gural indicated 400 Arch Street is in the process and the engineer has issued a draft report so is moving forward. Mr. Gural indicated the time line could be 30 to 60 days. Mr. Gural indicated the new phone system will go live on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and Borough Council will be receiving new mail box numbers which he will be forwarding to everyone along with instructions for use.

Mr. Rosenberg indicated there was question regarding whether the Borough should use others trade names without the expressed consent. Mr. Rosenberg indicated we should not use anyone's patented trade name without their permission. Mr. Gural indicated the governing body expressed concerns regarding the use and control of the Borough Logo. Mr. Rosenberg indicated the Borough logo is patented, and if the governing body wished to spend the money to do so, any logo could be patented, however it is expensive. Discussion ensued regarding the Farmer's Market Logo and use. It was decided there would be additional discussion at a later date.

Mr. Gural stated we want to apply for the TAP Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program grant, which is a grant program which funds projects which are supportive of transportation projects. The grant would not fund improvement to Temple Blvd., but accessory uses to Temple Blvd would be eligible. Mr. Gural stated he, Mr. Gerken and Mr. Kirchner looked over the plans for Temple Blvd. and they can up with the idea that on the peninsula (between Leconey and Second Street) we could build a "Rain Garden". Mr. Gural indicated the design in was included in council's packet. Mr. Gural the purpose of the peninsula was to increase traffic flow, public safety and it is the surface component of an underground storm drainage storage system. Mr. Gural explained how the stormwater retention system works and how it would enhance our application for funding. Discussion ensued regarding the plan, its unofficial release to the public before the entire governing body had the opportunity to review it, what it would look like without the park appearance as just land with retention basin, etc. Mr. Gural again noted this is a schematic rendering and not the final design of the project. Mr. Gural noted the design may not be placed on the website and or released to the general public.

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Gural indicated single stream recycling for multifamily complexes will be starting shortly. Mr. Gural stated this will mostly effect the Harbour however will also effect Palmyra Arms, River Villas and Willow Shores. The County is anticipating beginning the process with the Harbour and in the next week or so will begin an advertising program to let the residents know they will be single streaming soon. Mr. Gural noted the Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA recently had an employee who was arrested regarding allegations of child molestation. Mr. Gural indicated that employee did not work in Palmyra and just wanted Council to be aware and noted that the employee did not work in our program in Palmyra.

Mr. Gural indicated he wanted everyone to know that PSEG will be replacing gas mains on Broad Street in the upcoming weeks and it will be disruptive.

Mayor Arnold and Mr. Gural again reminded council that the NJLM Conference will be held November 13-15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in AC, NJ; anyone interested in attending please notify Ms. Jackson so arrangements can be made.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mr. Yetter – Public Works, Redevelopment and Negotiations** – Mr. Yetter stated the public works committee met earlier and public works is still working on hot asphalt repairs to potholes. Mr. Yetter stated a temporary part-time employee, Mr. A. Berg, was added to the public works staff. Mr. Yetter stated the green team has not met, but are still working towards certification and looking into composting for residents. Mayor Arnold indicated she needed the names of the members of the Green team so that they may be appointed.

**Mr. Howard – Youth and Recreation, Public Building, Grounds and Parks** – Mr. Howard stated we have already spoken about youth and recreation. Mr. Howard noted we again had some water head damage with the sprinkler system on Legion field which has been repaired. Mr. Howard also indicated the

public safety committee is working on some options to address the flooding issues in the Temple Blvd area.

**Mrs. Tait – Public Safety Director, Board of Education Liaison, and Public Events**– Mrs. Tait indicated there was not a Board of Education meeting this month Mrs. Tait indicated a Public Safety meeting will be held in the next couple of weeks.

**Ms. Weiner – Administration and Finance, Business and Community development, Homeowner Association** – Ms. Weiner indicated she attended the Riverfront Homeowners Assn meeting and shared information regarding the Borough's meeting dates, various other organizations and events in and around town. Ms. Weiner indicated they also have some trash issues which she spoke with Mr. Gural about. Ms. Weiner stated the Admin/Finance committee met last week and as chair of the Finance committee she is responsible for signing a number of purchase orders, and moving forward would like to share that responsibility with the other committee members. Ms. Weiner stated the Business/Community development committee took a class with NJ transit regarding working along the railroad and being certified. Ms. Weiner indicated she is frustrated with the process of trying to improve the visual of our town and if any one has any suggestions she would welcome them. Ms. Weiner indicated the committee is also working on holiday lights and handed out a map of the possible snowflake light locations asking council to go out and take a look and get back to the committee. Ms. Weiner indicated the snowflake pole lights are about \$300.00 a pole and there are a number of poles in the areas so perhaps this year we might only do half of the poles about 16 poles. Ms. Weiner explained the diagram she handed out to council. Some discussion was had regarding the lighting locations and where it would be placed, cost and proposals. Ms. Weiner indicated additional information will be coming regarding those items. Ms. Weiner indicated the committee is still working in the outdoor seating and furniture ordinances. Ms. Weiner indicated the Farmer's Market has some new vendors and would like to move into charging our vendors, beginning July 26<sup>th</sup>, including food trucks, \$10.00 a market for space. Discussion was had regarding how much should be charged, the cost of processing those payments, where the payments should be made if the fee ordinance would need to be changed etc., after much of that discussion it was decided we might accept donations to the trust fund from the Farmer's Market vendors. Additional information to follow.

**Mr. Allmond –Communications and Public Relations Committee**– Mr. Almond indicated the communications committee will be sending out in the next week or so requests for information for the next newsletter which will be September and October.

**President Russell – Construction, Housing and Code Enforcement Committee**– President Russell inquired how a complaint, where a Borough tree which was removed however the sidewalk was not repaired, get handled. Mr. Gural indicated sending various employees to look at the situation along with you speaking with the homeowner, he thought the situation was addressed. Mrs. Russell indicated the Shade Tree committee is working on the five year forestry plan with the hopes of having a working draft by December and a tree inventory of the entire Borough. President Russell indicated anyone with concerns regarding Borough trees can fill out the form on our website, return it and have those concerns

addressed. President Russell indicated she attended a meeting at the Palmyra Harbour Condo Association in which there were conversations regarding the status of Harbor Drive. President Russell stated they indicated the Borough would be taking over main Harbour Drive. President Russell indicated she was reaching out to Mr. Lamon in the hopes of that the Harbour residents get the correct information as she is not aware that the Borough is planning to take over main Harbour drive and it is not in any current Borough plan to do so.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to open the Public Portion. President 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**

**Mr. Casparro- Morgan Avenue-** Mr. Casparro stated he wished to address the stump in front of Manny's Restaurant. Mr. Gural stated the stump is coming out.

**Mr. Rader – Harbour Drive.** – Mr. Rader stated for the past three years there has been many accusations by various council members of ethics violations and conflicts of interests. Mr. Rader noted there have been extensive discussion regarding the alleged violations and whether government agencies and or public law firms should be used for investigations. Mr. Rader stated a motion was approved at the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 meeting to contact the Local Finance Board and an investigation ensued regarding ethical violations alleged. Mr. Rader stated no results of that investigation was ever made public. Mr. Rader stated now another investigation has been started by the current council and there have been 28 calendar days since council approved the services of an ethics attorney, with the potential cost to the taxpayers of \$3,000.00, will the results of the investigation also be made available to the public. President Russell indicated council has not presently received any information regarding the allegations. Mr. Howard stated when the information is received he would want it to be available to the public. Some discussion was had regarding information about the allegations and results being made public. Ms. Weiner and President Russell indicated we are still waiting for direction in regards to this matter. Mr. Rader inquired, has anyone contacted the attorney to find out what his finds are, twenty-eight days have passed since this was approved. Mr. Howard indicted we are waiting for the attorney to get back to us. President Russell stated, "He's taking your worlds and twisting them". We have no information we are waiting for the report from the attorney, as soon as he has completed his work he will report his finds. Mrs. Weiner conveying the same regarding the receipt of any information. Mayor Arnold indicated the attorney hired by council, is still looking thru things and when he is completed and presented his findings then her attorney will have his opportunity to review the findings, so this could be awhile, but it will come to a conclusion.

**Ms. Guglielmucci – Horace Avenue** – Ms. Guglielmucci thanked everyone for making our community better. Ms. Guglielmucci stated it is very discouraging to here all the bickering when people are trying to do positive things within the town. Ms. Guglielmucci inquired about what has to be done to allow the PIA to do the maintenance on the plots along Broad Street and for the county to address the stump in the

plot in front of Manny's. Ms. Guglielmucci indicated a lot of effort has gone into taking care of the plots be the PIA and is there a way to put ashtrays in the area. Mayor Arnold indicated the plot has already been addressed, the stump will be removed and if you want to remove the weeds that would be appreciated. Mayor Arnold indicated everything has a process and a proper manner in which it must be handled. Mayor Arnold stated the Borough is always open to ideas.

**Mr. Boden – Washington Avenue** – Mr. Boden stated he has been listening to the things which have been going on for far too long. Mr. Boden indicated he could not understand how the Mayor could be so anti-business. Mr. Boden indicated he owns a business but cannot afford to move it to Palmyra as the store rents are too high and the landlords don't want to fix them up. Mr. Boden asked council if they knew what time alcohol could be purchased in Cinnaminson at Shop Rite? He indicated 10:30 am. Mr. Rosenberg stated he takes no position however you cannot refer to others in the audience with negative comments nor should you be disrespectful to others.

**Mrs. Butler – Arch Street** – Mrs. Butler stated, if the government didn't provide laws this entire county would be in chaos. We are a country governed by laws which are sanctioned by the people. Mrs. Butler indicated Palmyra is a family town which has been here for many years it just didn't incorporate or come into existence in the last 10 to 15 years, we may not always agree but we work together for the greater good. Mrs. Butler indicated a compromise was injected into the conversation tonight however it was indicated that not enough of a compromise. Mrs. Butler inquired if the streets would be repaved when the water company has completed their project. Mr. Gural indicated they will repave but it won't be for some time after they have completed the project. Mrs. Butler inquired about 400 Arch Street. She stated council indicated it could take sixty to ninety days before it is taken down, however is there some way someone could cut the grass, weed and trim the trees which are extremely overgrown it would be much appreciated. Mr. Gural indicated it will be addressed this week.

**Ms. Russell- Firth Lane** – Mr. Russell stated she was glad someone was looking into and addressing the drainage problem finally. Ms. Russell stated her flood insurance does not cover damage when the drainage system backs up, it only covers damage when the river backs up and overflows into her yard. Ms. Russell inquired who wants a park in front of their home. Ms. Russell indicated that park would only take away her parking. Ms. Russell indicated she did not believe the park was a good idea. Ms. Russell stated her concerns about the park were in regards to maintenance, safety, parking and who will take care of it.

**Ms. Cummings – Washington Avenue** – Ms. Cummings inquired if one of the things stated was that only our own home town teams could use the fields. Mayor Arnold indicated when the ordinance was originally written it was written with that intent. Ms. Cummings inquired if one of the ways council wanted to handle, the organizations requesting the field for use and to allow someone else to use it in their place (sublet) the organization would be fined. Ms. Cummings stated that would only hurt the children. Mayor Arnold indicated someone from each various team/organization must be responsible for requesting the field and handling who is on that field. Mayor Arnold indicated that is not the

intention of the Borough to hurt any children but some control must be maintained over the fields. Ms. Cummings also inquired how you get the overgrowth of shrubs and trees on some of these vacant properties addressed, as there is a property on the corner of Wallace and Washington which has a shrub so overgrown it is hard to see around the corner. Mayor Arnold indicated she would notify code enforcement.

**Mrs. Nowicki- Morgan Avenue-** Mrs. Nowicki explained the voting process of council indicating the Mayor does not vote unless there is a tie, the six members of Borough Council cast votes. Mrs. Nowicki stated she felt Mr. Rader was trying to get some clarification with what is going on with the ethics investigation. Mrs. Nowicki asked was the attorney hired. Mayor Arnold indicated yes. Mrs. Nowicki stated she felt President Russel's comments were inappropriate and demeaning as he was not "twisting words" he was just trying to get information. Mrs. Nowicki stated the people of Palmyra use to work together, didn't matter what party affiliation you had, however that is no longer happening. The people of Palmyra elected people to serve and represent them. The residents thought these were good individuals who would put Palmyra first, last and foremost, how about some peaceful cooperation and be the people the residents of Palmyra elected.

**Mr. Tursi – Leconey Circle –** Mr. Tursi stated the new proposed park will be adjacent to his property. Mr. Tursi inquired what additional responsibility will he have and what damage will be done to his property. Mr. Gural stated the open street is Borough property currently and will remain Borough property so you will not have any additional responsibilities. Mr. Gural also noted if something on your property were damaged during construction the Borough would certainly be responsible for any damages. Mr. Tursi had some questions regarding the design. Mayor Arnold indicated the concept design in its current form would be posted on the website so that it could be viewed by everyone.

**Mrs. Rex – Leconey Circle –** Mrs. Rex asked how much water the reservoir under the park hold. Mr. Gural stated hundreds of thousands of gallons however could not give a specific number at present. Mrs. Rix asked how long the project would take and how disruptive it would be. Mr. Gural indicated it will be very disruptive.

**Mr. Smith – Van Sant Drive –** Mr. Smith inquired what has been going on at the sewer plant the past couple of months as the odor and insects have been bad. Mayor Arnold stated she would find out. Mr. Smith also noted in thinking about changing the hours of alcohol sales, everyone needs to consider Park Tavern is in a residential area. Mr. Smith stated your concerns with making the town look nicer and cleaning it up, someone need to look at Cinnaminson Avenue. Mr. Smith stated on Cinnaminson Avenue the trash cans go out and are not back in. Mr. Smith also inquired who was up for reelection in November. Mayor Arnold indicated two seats are open.

No one else 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 AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Lew Yetter** – no comments

**Timothy Howard** – no comments

**Mindie Weiner** inquired if letters could be sent to the Temple Blvd residents letting them know about the meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Mr. Gural stated yes.

**Gina Tait** – no comment

**Brandon Allmond** – no comments

**President Bernadette Russell** – no comments.

**Mayor Arnold** thanked everyone for coming and expressing their thoughts. Mayor Arnold indicated her door is always open. Mayor Arnold asked that everyone to be good neighbors and be kind to one another.

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve **Resolution 2018-195**. Mr. Yetter made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-195, Resolution Excluding the Public from Certain Meetings pursuant to section 89 of the Open Public Meeting Act C. 231 P.L. 1975 regarding **Litigation, Contracts**. 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

**Resolution 2018-195 is approved**

Borough Council went into closed session at 9:53 pm

**Closed Session**

Borough Council returned from closed session at 10:13 PM

President Russell made a motion to open to the public. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

**At the call of the roll, the vote was:**

**All voted in favor**

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

All voted in favor of the motion

**Meeting adjourned at 10:14 PM**

Respectfully Submitted

Doretha R Jackson  
Municipal Clerk