

**BOROUGH OF PALMYRA**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10:00 AM**

The Annual Reorganization Meeting of Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra was called to order by Mayor Michele Arnold at 10:00 am.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence

Mayor Arnold then read the following open public meetings statement into the record.  
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 December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- B. Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times, Courier Post newspaper on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- C. Notice to all Council Members.

The invocation was given by Reverend Jimmy Lindsay, Associate Minister of Evergreen Baptist Church

New Council Members where then sworn in

**Gina Tait was sworn in as Councilmember of the Borough of Palmyra** for a 3 year term by Assemblyman, Troy Singleton and was accompanied by Liza Tait, Patrick Tait and Nicholas Tait her children.

**Brandon Allmond was sworn in as Councilmember of the Borough of Palmyra** for a 3 year term by Ted Rosenberg, Esq. accompanied by Lauren Allmond his wife and Frances Allmond his daughter.

**The new Council was then convened with a roll call.**

**PRESENT:** Brandon Allmond, Timothy Howard, Bernadette Russell, Gina Tait, Mindie Weiner, Lewis Yetter, Mayor Michelle Arnold

**ABSENT:** none

**Mayor Arnold opened the floor for nominations for Council President.**

Mrs. Tait nominated Bernadette Russell for Council President. Mr. Howard seconded the nomination.

Hearing no more nominations, Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to close the nominations. Mrs. Tait made a motion to close the council president nominations, Mr. Howard second the motion.

**Mayor Arnold then asked for a vote to approve Bernadette Russell as Council President.**

At the call of the roll the vote was:

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

**NAYES: Mr. Yetter**

Congratulations to Mrs. Russell our new Council President.

**Mrs. Russell was sworn in as Council President of the Borough of Palmyra** by Assemblyman Troy Singleton and accompanied by Mark Russell her husband.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DIGNITARIES**

Mayor Arnold acknowledged special guests in the audience, Assemblyman Troy Singleton and wished him the best of luck in the State Senate, new Freeholder Balvir Singh, Palmyra School Board President, Mark Russell, Chief of the Fire Department Rick Dreby, Riverton Councilman Jim Quinn, Burlington County Undersheriff Brian Norcross and our Chief of Police Scott Pearlman.

#### **STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS –Mayor Michelle Arnold**

Mayor Arnold stated, once again we are looking back on another year reviewing our accomplishments while considering improvements and at the same time looking forward to new year, filled with hope and promise. Mayor Arnold stated she wished to take a moment to recognize the members of Borough Council. Mayor Arnold indicated she wanted to describe each of them with one word. Mayor Arnold stated we are now a new group would worked together this past year and had some bumps in the road, but am confident we can work together cohesively.

Mr. Allmond (**Brandon**), our newest member although we haven't had much time to work together, the time we have, I can say he is energetic. During the Holidays he stepped right in and helped with the Holiday Event and we are looking forward to many more adventures.

Ms. Weiner (**Mindie**), Mayor Arnold stated her word to describe Mindie was creative. Ms. Weiner has the ability of seeing things differently and bringing a new perspective.

Mrs. Russell (**Bernadette**), Mayor Arnold stated her word to describe Bernadette is passionate. Mrs. Russell has strong beliefs and convections and is willing to share.

Mrs. Tait (**Gina**), Mayor Arnold stated her word to describe Gina is "soccer mom". Mayor Arnold indicated that is with great respect as Gina is the one who is always in tune with the youth, shares their accomplishments and when she talks about them it is as if they are all her own children.

Mr. Howard (**Tim**), Mayor Arnold stated her word to describe Tim is supportive. Often assisting others on council to see things differently or supporting their point of view.

Mr. Yetter (**Lew**), Mayor Arnold stated her word to describe Lew is steadfast. Mayor Arnold stated you can count on Lew to be the same each and every day, he's has the same temperament, he's that guy that everyone can count on.

Mayor Arnold noted, this is the group of individuals she is proud to serve with.

Mayor Arnold then went on to recap some of the highlights and features of the governing body in 2017 and some of the goals and expectations for 2018.

Mayor Arnold shared some of the activities she participated in during 2017, such as:

Insights to Redevelopment goals

Brownfields and Economic Development

40 Mayor and 40 Developers

Networking

Boy Scout Troop 9 Celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Solar Eclipse viewing at Boro Hall

Race Marshall for the Riverton Historic Criterion, where all proceeds went to Bread of Life Pantry in Palmyra

Visited the Meditation Center and participated in their Tree Lighting Ceremony.

On Memorial Day Mayor laid a wreath on behalf of Palmyra

Attended at forum for the Fairness Formula equals full funding and property Tax Relief

Mayor Arnold then took a moment to remember people we lost in 2017; Jim May and JoAnne Leasure.

Mayor Arnold indicated the finance department of the Borough of Palmyra is exceptional. The Borough currently has an AA Bond rating. We scored 100% on our Best Practices, which means it puts us in excellent position for borrowing funds and doing whatever we may need to do financially. Mayor Arnold thanked the Finance department for keep the Borough on track.

The Borough of Palmyra is an active member of the Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce, giving us the opportunity to participate in various training opportunities.

Mayor Arnold spoke about the partnership with Habitat for Humanity; the old Vets building on Front and Arch Streets has been sold and transferred to Habitat for Humanity with the expectation that two new homes will be built on that site. Additionally for the first six months those new homes, thru Habitat for Humanity, will be exclusively offered to Veterans. Mayor Arnold also welcomed the Acevedo Family to Palmyra, who with Habitat for Humanity built the new home on W.6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mayor Arnold indicated we have successfully negotiated a settlement of our COAH obligation, defining our requirement and avoiding potential costly litigation.

Mayor Arnold thanked all who served on the Land Use Board, Bobbie Locke, Chairman; Tim Beck, Vice Chairman and Marie Nagle, Secretary. Mayor Arnold noted the Land Use Board heard many applications this year ranging from sheds to the reconstruction of the WAWA. Mayor Arnold stated, currently the Board is working on the Master Plan which will include an Arts District overlay and changes to signage. They are also currently reviewing outdoor dining. Mayor Arnold thanked Mr. Dreby and Mr. McGill for their efforts with code enforcement and welcomed our new Code Enforcement Officer Mr. Lunemann who will be informing the public of the Borough's Ordinances when a violation is identified and making sure the violation is corrected. Mayor Arnold indicated we are building a "relational approach" to code enforcement. Mr. Lunemann will also be responsible for creating and maintaining the abandoned property list. Mayor Arnold noted the addition of a Housing Inspector, Mr. Opalski, to the Construction department, to help with getting housing inspections done more quickly. Mayor Arnold noted that the new FEMA flood maps went into effect on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and can be found in the Construction department. Mayor Arnold thanked the department for all its efforts in getting those new flood maps.

Mayor Arnold stated in business development we have been working on finalizing the welcome packet, signage, incentives, parking, an information brochure, advertising and promotion. Mayor Arnold stated we will be having monthly meetings with business owners and we will be building alliances and partnerships with other municipalities to share ideas for attracting businesses to our area. Mayor Arnold stated there are fourteen new business in the Borough, and she conducted 14 weddings last year. Mayor Arnold noted we have successfully rented existing space on our cell tower and are considering a second location which will improve service to our residents and will increase Borough revenue. Mayor Arnold stated positive changes were made last year with the community center. The governing body hired three new team members to help with control of access to the building. They assist groups scheduled to use the building, assuring the safety of those individuals and other visitors to the building and help protect the property. Mayor Arnold indicated more changes are coming as we move forward to complete the transition to secure the building, promote its positive use and expand the benefits to our residents.

Mayor Arnold stated the Farmer's Market got off the ground, it was a great success, very well attended and a wonderful gathering of friends and neighbors. Mayor Arnold thanked everyone involved.

Mayor Arnold indicated the mural is now installed on Tony's Barber Shop and depicts different locations within the Borough.

Mayor Arnold noted the Borough is making some improvements at Legion Field and it will be ready for spring sports.

Public works, Mayor Arnold noted has a new supervisor, Mr. Haines and they are very responsive to the residents' concerns. Mayor Arnold explained that this we will be color coding the zones and putting signs out to help people understand what their zone and schedule are.

Mayor noted additionally, during the summer we will be adding one evening of extended hours for access to public works.

The Municipal court now has new video equipment and has completed one year of bail reform. Mayor Arnold indicated she is still a member of the River Route Advisory Committee, contributing to the improvements along the Rt. #130 corridor.

Mayor Arnold remembered the Clarence B Jones events which inspired the Institute for Social Advocacy.

Mayor Arnold stated the Palmyra Promenade was complete with grant funds received from the Burlington County Freeholders. The official dedication and raising of the flag will be held in April of 2018.

The Palmyra Seniors group has been under new leadership this year and are very active.

Mayor Arnold stated she attends and or serves with the following organizations; Palmyra Harbour Condominium Association, New Jersey Conference of Mayors Board of Directors and serves on the Anti-opioid Committee, New Jersey League of Municipalities as Burlington County Representative, the National Foundation of Women Legislators as NJ Delegate, and serves on the International Outreach Committee.

Mayor Arnold stated a back-pack give a way was completed last year with the help of the Palmyra Police Department. One hundred-fifty backpacks were donated by The Office Depot Foundation and with the help of the Palmyra Police Department those back-packs complete with supplies were distributed to Palmyra students.

Mayor Arnold stated we have successfully negotiated the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Police Department, which has four new officers. Community outreach is a priority with the department and the SRO program also has been a tremendous success in the school district. In 2017 the Police Department held Senior, Youth and Citizen Academies. In November of 2017 the Police Department was permitted to not shave for a period of time for donations which went to Cancer Research. Mayor stated the Police Chaplin program has also been a great success and she thanked everyone who participates in that program. Mayor Arnold noted the Borough has been requalified for the Safe and Secure Grant and we are also receiving credit from past years which totals about \$120,000.00.

Mayor Arnold indicated the fire truck purchase is ahead of schedule and perhaps will be ready in June. The fire department did Palmyra Day in 2017, which was a great success, they also headed a relief fund for a sister company in Texas helping with donations after devastating Hurricane Harvey in south Texas. The Fire Department and the CERT Team also participated in Wreaths Across America at the Beverly National Cemetery where they help place over 4,600 wreaths at the gravesites of our fallen soldiers.

The public events committee was very busy, so of the things they worked on were the Easter Egg Hunt, spring clean-up, Memorial Day Celebration, Summer Concerts and movies, Town wide Yard Sale, Veterans Day Celebration, and the Holiday Tree Lighting/ Santa Visit.

Mayor Arnold noted some real estate trends and property value of the homes in the Borough of Palmyra. In 2017 the Mayor stated residential sales were 151 units with the average sales price

of \$133,123.00, an increase of 16% over the 2016 statistics additionally three multi-family units were sold, one commercial and fifty-two rentals reported.

Mayor Arnold stated we are making progress with the redevelopment areas. We have been meeting with prospective redevelopers, and continuing to strengthen our relationship with the New Jersey DEP and EPA, additionally we have been engaging local, county and the State for assistance. Mayor Arnold noted we have scheduled Redevelopment meetings each month so that everyone is aware and on top of what is being done. Mayor Arnold announced the Borough has reached a settlement with one of the property owners which has put us in position to acquire that property, which is our intent.

Mayor Arnold noted some things we are looking forward to in 2018, working with a student work group so that they may gain some work experience, building a network of assistance in neighbor helping neighbor possibly utilizing the help of the interact club from the high school, fire department, boy scouts, local churches and the explorer group. We are looking at the possibility of having an ice skating rink at the basketball court at Legion field, also a Holiday Tree decorating contest where trees would be donated and decorated during the holidays along Broad Street then planted thru out the community. The Mayor's wellness campaign is kicking off and we have submitted the application for healthy communities' certification, more information to follow. Mayor Arnold noted on the third Tuesday of each month she will be holding Neighborhood Chats with the Mayor at various locations. Mayor Arnold indicated the desire to have a "Citizen of the Year" award, to recognize the efforts and work of individuals thru out the community, additionally we would like to bring back the Neighborhood Watch Program.

The Mayor thanked the organizations and individuals who volunteer their time and talents to make Palmyra a great place to live and work, but also a hometown to be proud of. Mayor Arnold thanked the employees and staff which handle the day to day business of the Borough and interact with our residents, businesses and taxpayers. Thanks were given to our first responders, the police department, fire department, CERT team, and emergency squad you are the personification of service. Mayor Arnold thanked the business owners who have invested in Palmyra, you are considered part of the family and we do our best to support you. A special thanks to the Burlington County Bridge Commission was given by the Mayor for their vested interest in the Borough of Palmyra, it is much appreciated. Mayor Arnold thanked our professionals who are not afraid to think outside the box and allow us to explore various options, all the while making sure we don't take a miss-step.

To the residents of Palmyra, some of the most passionate individuals you are likely to find any were, Mayor Arnold expressed thanks for sharing their thoughts and ideas and asked them to continue to share those ideas, so the quality of life in Palmyra can be improved for all of the residents. Mayor Arnold stated she was humbled and proud to serve as your Mayor and each and every day she is mindful of her duties and responsibilities and with every opportunity she proclaims her Palmyra Pride.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Arnold acknowledged a letter received from Scott A Coffina, Burlington County Prosecutor regarding a civil forfeiture to the Borough of Palmyra Police Department.

Mayor Arnold also acknowledged a letters received from Sister Dolly of the Meditation Center and Alethia Sampson of the Burlington County Board of Health extending words of appreciation and gratitude.

Mayor Arnold additionally acknowledged at letter received from Mary Part Robbie, of Board of Chosen Freeholders of Burlington County, returning the fully executed copy of the 2016 Municipal Park Development Program Agreement.

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.**

**Mrs. Rix – Harbour Drive–** Mrs. Rix inquired if Resolutions listed on the agenda as 2017-35 and 2017-36 were typos and should be 2018-35 and 2018-36. Mayor Arnold indicated yes. Mrs. Rix also inquired, what is the last name of Stacy mentioned in Resolution 2018-55. Mayor Arnold indicated Brugler.

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

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

## NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Arnold began to speak about the Council Committee Appointments and indicated there were very few changes to the committee appointments she wished to make, she indicated Mayor Arnold would be Public safety Director, Mr. Allmond would step into the committees which Mr. Cosky was on and a few other changes as other people had desired. Mr. Howard stated as council president he had some recommendations for council regarding the council committee appointments. Mr. Howard handed those recommendations to council, Mayor Arnold, Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Gural and Ms. Jackson. Mayor Arnold indicated she would continue however Mr. Howard made a motion to accept the council committee appointments as indicated on the handout. President Russell seconded the motion. Mayor Arnold asked for discussion. Mr. Howard stated Council committees are run by council and selected by council. Mr. Howard indicated he created groups and put teams together. Mayor Arnold indicated she was disappointed as she reached out to each individual of council and she heard back from Mr. Allmond, Ms. Weiner and Mr. Yetter. Mayor Arnold indicated that in the past the Mayor has always submitted the council committee appointments. Mayor Arnold stated she was not informed, included nor made part of the process. Mayor Arnold stated she would hate to think things are being done differently than in the past for political and or personal reasons. Mayor

Arnold asked who is being recommended as the chairperson of the various committees. Mr. Howard indicated as Council President his job was to make recommendations to council for committee appointments. After some additional discussion, Mr. Rosenberg indicated as a councilperson Mr. Howard could make recommendations to council for committee appointments however there is no special power of council president to do so. Mayor Arnold then stated the following was suggested by Mr. Howard;

**Group A** – Administration and Finance; Construction, Housing & Code Enforcement; Communications & Public Relations; Business Community & Development

Members – Mrs. Russell, Ms. Weiner, and Mr. Allmond

Alternates – Mr. Howard and Mr. Yetter

**Group B** – Public Works & Sewer; Youth & Recreation; Public Buildings, Parks & Grounds; Redevelopment & Negotiations; Public Events

Public Works Director – Mr. Yetter

Members – Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait and Mr. Yetter

Alternates – Mrs. Russell and Ms. Weiner

**Group C** – Public Safety & Municipal Court

Public Safety Director – Mrs. Tait

Members – Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait and Mayor Arnold

Alternates – Mr. Allmond and Mrs. Russell

**Group D** – Green Team

Members – Mrs. Russell, Ms. Weiner and Mr. Yetter

Alternates – Mr. Howard and Mr. Allmond

**Homeowners Association Liaison** – Mrs. Russell and Ms. Weiner

**Board of Education Liaison** – Mrs. Tait and Mr. Allmond

**Shade Tree Advisory Board** – Mrs. Russell

Each committee chairperson will be selected by each various committee once they meet.

Mayor Arnold asked for a vote on the motion made by Mr. Howard, to approve the council committee appointments as submitted by Mr. Howard.

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

**AYES: Mr. Almond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter**

**NAYES: None**



Mayor Arnold then read the Mayor's Annual Appointments, the Annual Citizen Appointments and the Annual Borough Council Caucus and Regular Meeting Dates for 2018 which are as follows:

**Mayor's Annual Appointments**

Borough Administrator	John Gural
Board of Health Secretary /Deputy Clerk	Marie Nagle
Tax Search Officer/Deputy Administrator	Tanyika Johns
Municipal Lien Search Officer/Fair Housing Officer	Doretha Jackson
Police Records Clerk	Renay Montgomery
SLEO II Officer/Court Officer	John Quigg
Crossing Guards	All names on resolution
Fire Chief	Richard Dreby
Deputy Fire Chief	Howard Roun
1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Chief	Allan Zimmeriman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Chief	Michael Stokes
Police Matron	Geraldine Bright
Emergency Management Coordinator	Richard K. Dreby
1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy Emergency Mgmt.	Tracy Kilmer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Deputy Emergency Mgmt.	John Skowronski
Storm Water Coordinator/Tree Officer	John Haines
Clean Communities Coordinator/Recycling Coordinator	John Haines
CERT Team	All names on resolution
Fire Police/Fire Department Captain	William Quigg
Fire Police/Fire Department Lieutenant	James Teesdale
Fire Police/Fire Department	Leo Bankowski
Fire Police/Fire Department	Teresa Bankowski

**Annual Citizen Appointments**

**LAND USE BOARD**

Lew Yetter, Council Rep.	1 year	01/01/18	12/31/18
John Gural, Borough Official	1 year	01/01/18	12/31/18
Timothy Beck	4 year	01/01/18	12/31/21
Jason Furrer Alternate #1	2 years	01/01/17	12/31/18
Richard Dreby Alternate #2	2 years	01/01/17	12/31/18

**SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD**

John K Haines (tree officer)	1 year	01/01/18	12/31/18
Dave Austin	1 year	01/01/18	12/31/18
Tim Kaluhiokalani	1 year	01/01/18	12/31/18

**Notice of Annual Borough Council Caucus Meeting and Regular Meeting Dates**

All such meetings to be held on the first Monday (**Caucus Meeting**) and third Monday (**Regular Meeting**) of each month, unless otherwise noted due to a holiday. Meetings shall be held at 7:00 P.M., unless indicated with \*\*, in which case those meetings shall begin at 6:30 P.M. All meetings will be held in Borough Hall at 20 West Broad Street, Palmyra, New Jersey 08065. Any and all business involving the Borough may be discussed. Formal official action may be taken at such meetings.

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Tues)

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 \*\*

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018\*\*

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Mayor Arnold then proceeded to the Consent Agenda. Council President Russell requested Resolutions 2018-1, 2018-8, 2018-11, 2018-14, 2018-15 and 2018-19 be removed from the consent agenda for additional discussion and to be voted on individually.

**Consent Agenda– Resolution 2018-1 to Resolution 2018-73 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.**

1. Resolution 2018-01, Resolution to Confirm Council Committee Appointments
2. Resolution 2018-02, Resolution to Confirm Mayor's Annual Appointments
3. Resolution 2018-03, Resolution to Confirm Mayor's Annual Citizen Appointments

4. Resolution 2018-04, Resolution Approving the Borough of Palmyra Official Caucus and Regular Monthly Public Meeting Dates for the Borough Council for 2018
5. Resolution 2018-05, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Ted Rosenberg, Esq., as Borough Solicitor.
6. Resolution 2018-06, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Thomas Hastie, Esq. of Capehart & Scatchard as Special Counsel/Bond Attorney.
7. Resolution 2018-07, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Armando Riccio, Esq. as Special Counsel/Labor Attorney.
8. Resolution 2018-08, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of William Burns, Esq. of Capehart & Scatchard as Special Counsel/Conflict Attorney.
9. Resolution 2018-09, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Andrew Brewer, Esq. of Maraziti Falcon, LLP as Special Counsel/Redevelopment Attorney.
10. Resolution 2018-10, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Robert P. Nehila Jr., of Bowman & Company LLP, as Auditor
11. Resolution 2018-11, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of William Kirchner of Environmental Resolutions Inc., (ERI) as Borough Engineer
12. Resolution 2018-12, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of William Kirchner of Environmental Resolutions Inc., (ERI) as Sewer Engineer
13. Resolution 2018-13, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of John Hogue & Valdimir Raskin of Environmental Resources Management (ERM), as Environmental Engineer/Consultant and LSRP.
14. Resolution 2018-14, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Anthony LaRosa of Maser Consulting as Special Projects Engineer
15. Resolution 2018-15, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Gregory R. Valesi of Consulting & Municipal Engineers (CME) as Special Projects Engineer
16. Resolution 2018-16, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of David Gerkens of Community Grants, Planning and Housing, (CGP&H) as Borough Planner/Grants Coordinator.
17. Resolution 2018-17, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Community Grants, Planning and Housing, (CGP&H) as Affordable Housing/RCA Administrator.
18. Resolution 2018-18, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of James D. Fattorini, Esq., as Public Defender.
19. Resolution 2018-19, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment Stephen J Wenger, Esq. as Municipal Prosecutor.
20. Resolution 2018-20, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of any/all other Municipal Prosecutors In Burlington County, as Substitute Prosecutor
21. Resolution 2018-21, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Christopher Fifis of Hardenbergh Insurance Group as Insurance Consultant/ JIF Risk Management Consultant and Authorizing JIF Risk Management Consultant Agreement

22. Resolution 2018-22, Resolution Authorizing The Mayor to Execute Contracts with All Appointed Professionals After Review and Approval by the Solicitor and the Chief Financial Officer.
23. Resolution 2018-23 Resolution Appointing John Gural as Administrator for The Borough Of Palmyra
24. Resolution 2018-24, Resolution Appointing John Gural as Burlington County JIF Fund Commissioner.
25. Resolution 2018-25, Resolution Appointing John Gural as Burlington County JIF Claims Coordinator
26. Resolution 2018-26, Resolution Appointing John Gural as Hearing Officer For Non-Uniformed Employees
27. Resolution 2018-27, Resolution Appointing Scott Pearlman as Burlington County JIF Alternate Fund Commissioner.
28. Resolution 2018-28, Resolution Appointing Robert Verry as Hearing Officer for Uniformed Employees
29. Resolution 2018-29, Resolution Appointing Tracy Kilmer as Burlington County JIF Safety Coordinator.
30. Resolution 2018-30, Resolution Appointing Tracy Kilmer as Housing Official for The Borough Of Palmyra
31. Resolution 2018-31, Resolution Appointing Tracy Kilmer as Zoning Officer for the Borough of Palmyra.
32. Resolution 2018-32, Resolution Appointing Donna Condo as Chief Financial Officer for the Borough of Palmyra
33. Resolution 2018-33, Resolution Appointing Donna Condo as Public Agency Compliance Officer For the Borough of Palmyra
34. Resolution 2018-34, Resolution Appointing Tanyika Johns as Deputy Administrator for the Borough Of Palmyra
35. Resolution 2018-35 Resolution Appointing Tanyika Johns as Deputy Registrar for the Borough of Palmyra
36. Resolution 2018-36, Resolution Appointing Doretha R. Jackson As Fair Housing Officer For The Borough of Palmyra
37. Resolution 2018-37, Resolution Appointing Marie Nagle as Board of Health Coordinator for the Borough of Palmyra
38. Resolution 2018-38 Resolution Appointing John K Haines as Storm Water Coordinator for the Borough of Palmyra.
39. Resolution 2018-39, Resolution Appointing John K Haines as Recycling Coordinator for the Borough of Palmyra.
40. Resolution 2018-40, Resolution Appointing John K Haines as Clean Communities Coordinator for the Borough of Palmyra.

41. Resolution 2018-41, Resolution Appointing John K Haines as Tree Officer for the Borough of Palmyra
42. Resolution 2018-42, Resolution Appointing the Crossing Guards for The Borough of Palmyra for 2018.
43. Resolution 2018-43, Resolution Appointing John Quigg as SLEO II Officer for the Borough of Palmyra Police Department.
44. Resolution 2018-44, Resolution Appointing the Borough of Palmyra Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) Members
45. Resolution 2018-45, Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Richard K. Dreby as Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough of Palmyra and Executive Coordinator of the Joint Emergency Management Council for the Boroughs of Palmyra and Riverton
46. Resolution 2018-46, Resolution Appointing Paul Opalski as part-time Housing Inspector and RCS Building Inspector, per the Terms of his offer of Employment dated December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017
47. Resolution 2018-47, Resolution Appointing Ernest McGill as part-time Code Enforcement Officer for the Borough of Palmyra.
48. Resolution 2018-48, Resolution Appointing Michael Lunemann as part-time Code Enforcement Officer per the Terms of His Offer of Employment Dated December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017
49. Resolution 2018-49, Resolution Appointing Michael Lunemann as Abandoned Property List Public Official for the Borough of Palmyra
50. Resolution 2018-50, Resolution Appointing Charles Soper, Wesley Allen, Tristan Shin and Ella Graham as Chaplains for the Borough of Palmyra Police Department
51. Resolution 2018-51, Resolution Appointing Dale Palmer as part-time Supervisor for Public Buildings and Grounds Department
52. Resolution 2018-52, Resolution Appointing George Moore part-time to Public Buildings and Grounds Department
53. Resolution 2018-53, Resolution Appointing Michele Wright-Sykes as part-time Community Center Scheduling Coordinator For the Borough of Palmyra
54. Resolution 2018-54, Resolution Appointing Selina Korab and Christiana Quinton as part-time Community Center Scheduling Assistants for the Borough of Palmyra
55. Resolution 2018-55, Resolution Appointing Stacey Brugler as part-time Payroll Clerk and Finance Assistant
56. Resolution 2018-56, Resolution Approving Edward A Duba as an Active Member of the Palmyra Fire Department
57. Resolution 2018-57, Resolution Designating the Burlington County Times and the Courier Post as the Legal Newspapers and GovDeals.com as the Legal Auction Site for Vehicles and Property.

58. Resolution 2018-58, Resolution Authorizing the 2018 Temporary Budget Appropriations.
59. Resolution 2018-59, Resolution Authorizing The Payment Of Debt Service for The Borough of Palmyra and All Necessary Bills Required for January 2017.
60. Resolution 2018-60, Resolution Approving a Cash Management Plan for The Borough Of Palmyra.
61. Resolution 2018-61, Resolution Fixing the Rate of Interest to Be Charged On Delinquent Taxes, Sewer Payments and Assessments
62. Resolution 2018-62, Resolution Authorizing The Tax Collector to Cancel Debits and Credits of \$10.00 or Less for Tax and Sewer Payments
63. Resolution 2018-63, Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Shared Service Agreement with Willingboro Township for 2018 Animal Control Services in the amount of \$14,000.00.
64. Resolution 2018-64, Resolution Awarding 2018 Generator Preventative Maintenance Contract to Industrial Diesel Power, Inc. in the amount of \$8,920.00, subject to the solicitor's review and the Chief Financial Officer's certification
65. Resolution 2018-65, Resolution Awarding a Contract to ERI for the 2017 NJAWC and PSE&G Road Opening Restorations Project per their proposal dated November 30, 2017 in the amount of \$41,500.00, subject to the Solicitor's and CFO's Review and Approval
66. Resolution 2018-66, Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract to TrashPro per their proposal dated December 19<sup>th</sup>,2017 in the amount of \$2,640.00., subject to the Solicitor's and CFO's Review and Approval.
67. Resolution 2018-67, Resolution awarding a contract to CGP&H for the 2018 Housing Inspections per their bid dated 12/21/2017, subject to the Solicitor's and CFO's Review and Approval.
68. Resolution 2018-68, Resolution Awarding 2018 Maintenance Contract for Sewage Treatment Plant to Municipal Maintenance Company in the amount of \$139,120.00, subject to the Solicitor's review and Chief Financial Officer's certification
69. Resolution 2018-69, Resolution Awarding 2018 On-Call Contracting Services Contract to Neri's Construction & Rentals, Inc. in the amount of \$395,483.00 subject to the Solicitor's review and the Chief Financial Officer's certification
70. Resolution 2018-70, Resolution Awarding 2018 Sewer Treatment Plant and Pump Station Debris Removal Contract to FRANC Environmental in the amount of \$33,600.00 subject to the Solicitor's review and the Chief Financial Officer's certification
71. Resolution 2018-71, Resolution Authorizing The Mayor to Execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Palmyra Police Association for the period January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
72. Resolution 2018-72, Resolution Setting the Fee For Rental Unit and Resale Certificate of Occupancy Inspections

**73. Resolution 2018-73, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills for December of 2017  
in the Amount of \$1,411,266.32.**

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as read. President Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-02 thru Resolution 2018-07; Resolution 2018-09 thru Resolution 2018-10; Resolution 2018-12 thru Resolution 2018-13; Resolution 2018-16 thru Resolution 2018-18 and Resolution 2018-20 thru Resolution 2018-73. 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**

The Mayor then went back to: Resolution 2018-1. President Russell indicated it may not need to be pulled and stated the committees were structured as previously mentioned to make it easier to schedule committee meetings for the remainder of the year.

The Mayor then on to: Resolution 2018-8, **Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of William Burns, Esq. of Capehart & Scatchard as Special Counsel/Conflict Attorney.** President Russell indicated she disagreed with the appointment. Mayor Arnold inquired who is it you suggest fill that position as there was only one other reply to the RFP for that position. President Russell indicated she didn't agree with the appointment and that decision could be made at a later date. Mayor Arnold asked why. President Russell indicated she would prefer to move forward with the other candidate instead of this one. Mayor Arnold again asked why. President Russell indicated she did not need to discuss it at this time however she was not satisfied with their work in that position. After some additional discussion among council, Mr. Rosenberg indicated that if the resolution was not confirmed today the existing counsel would be used in a holdover capacity until that decision is made, which could be later today or at another time; also no one has to give a reason as to why they don't want to confirm an appointment. Mayor Arnold explained, she chose William Burns of Capehart & Scatchard because we had a history with them and in the review of Eric Bernstein & Associates although they are a reputable firm and do a lot of work with other municipalities, they are located in Somerset County which is 73 miles away. Mayor Arnold then asked for a motion to approved Resolution 2018-8 as read. President Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-8 as read. Mr. Howard second the motion.

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

**AYES: Mr. Yetter**

**NAYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, President Russell**

**Resolution 2018-8 was defeated**

Mayor Arnold went on to Resolution 2018-11, **Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of William Kirchner of Environmental Resolutions Inc., (ERI) as Borough Engineer**. President Russell indicated with the bandshell project coming up she would like to see a change. Mr. Yetter asked if that would not fall under special projects not the Borough Engineer. Mayor Arnold indicated yes. Mr. Yetter stated he was very satisfied with Mr. Kirchner's work and ERI is familiar with the Borough. Mayor Arnold explained to council that in reviewing the RFP's presented for Borough Engineer she noticed the difference in rates schedules and could not understand why we would go with a company which could cost more. After some additional discussion, Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approved Resolution 2018-11 as read. Mr. Yetter made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-11 as read. Mr. Howard second the motion.

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

AYES: Mr. Yetter

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

**Resolution 2018-11 was defeated**

Mayor Arnold went on to Resolution 2018-14, **Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Anthony LaRosa of Maser Consulting as Special Projects Engineer**

President Russell stated we should limit the number of engineers we are using. Mayor Arnold inquired if it was possible to be both the Borough Engineer and a Special Project Engineer. Mr. Gural indicated it was redundant; it is not necessary to be appointed Special Project Engineer if you are the Borough Engineer. Mayor Arnold stated Maser Consulting is the company which completed the grant process for the 2016 Municipal Park Development Program Grant for the Bandshell, so we should continue with them for that project. Mayor Arnold then asked for a motion to approved Resolution 2018-14 as read. Mrs. Tait made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-14 as read. Mrs. Russell second the motion.

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

AYES: Mr. Yetter

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

**Resolution 2018-14 was defeated**

Mayor Arnold went on to Resolution 2018-15, **Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Gregory R. Valesi of Consulting & Municipal Engineers (CME) as Special Projects Engineer**. Mrs. Russell indicated this went along with her earlier thinking regarding the appointment of Borough Engineer vs Special Project Engineer. Mr. Gural stated ERI will continue to serve as Borough Engineer until such time a new Borough Engineer is appointed. Mr. Gural indicated CME is presently one of our Special Project Engineers and is currently working on a major



project, if they are not appointed as Special Project Engineer now, then they would not serve in any capacity with the Borough, which could cause some level of consternation. Some additional discussion was had and Mr. Rosenberg explained the need or not to name a Special Project Engineer and the role of the Special Project Engineer. Mayor Arnold then asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2018-15 as read. President Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-15 as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Howard.

**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 2018-15 was approved**

Mayor Arnold went on to Resolution 2018-19, **Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Stephen J Wenger, Esq. as Municipal Prosecutor**. President Russell stated we utilized Malamut & Associates, LLC, as Municipal Prosecutor last year which she was happy with and didn't see a need to change. Mayor Arnold agreed Malamut did do a good job however they have also taken on more municipalities. Mayor Arnold indicated she chose Stephen Wenger for continuity of service each court session as opposed to have a different prosecutor in court every session. Mr. Yetter stated he was looking forward to having a prosecutor as opposed to a firm which we never know who is going to show up for court. Mayor Arnold then asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2018-19 as read. President Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-19. The motion was seconded by Mr. Yetter.

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

AYES: Mr. Yetter

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

**Resolution 2018-19 was defeated**

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. 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

**Motion approved**

**COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY**

**Gina Tait** thanked everyone for coming out and thanked everyone, family, friends and the community for helping her out over the last six months.

**Brandon Allmond** thanked everyone for their support thru out the last few weeks and he is looking forward to the next three years.

**Lewis Yetter** stated he recalled two years ago when he was sworn in, Mr. Singleton was in attendance and he stated now that the elections are over we are no longer politicians, we are now councilmen and councilwomen and all politics should be left behind. Mr. Yetter stated he is still looking forward to that day.

**Mr. Howard** thanked everyone for coming out, add thanked the employees for the great job they do, especially Rita with all that we went thru the past couple of days. Mr. Howard stated, from the outside it may appear that there is collective agreement on certain things, however we all are individuals and we make our own choices and represent our beliefs. Mr. Howard stated once you have put in the work, you should be antagonized or not feel like to have to justify why you voted in a particular manner. Mr. Howard stated he looked forward to working with Mr. Allmond. Mr. Howard indicated he structured the council committees so that the same team is working with the same committee, so the same people are working together. Mr. Howard wished everyone a Happy New Year and indicated he is looking forward to working with the new council.

**Mindie Weiner** had no comments.

**Bernadette Russell** stated she agreed with what Mr. Yetter stated. Mrs. Russell indicated she does not sit here as a politician but as someone who wishes to make a difference in their town. Mrs. Russell indicated there is a difference e between politics and doing what is right for the town and the people who reside here. Mrs. Russell stated with the council committee, last year we saw the problems which occurred with the council committees; the inconsistency of meetings, the Mayor throwing up road blocks with us trying to meet, that is why the committees are structured the way they are. . Mrs. Russell stated we want positive things for this town. Amazing things are happening and we want them to continue. Mrs. Russell wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Mr. Allmond to Council. Mrs. Russell indicated she is happy Mrs. Tait is doing well, and we have some awesome people on this team.

**Mayor Arnold** stated running for office and serving in public office is not easy. Mayor Arnold stated she has served for about five years. When she came to council there were things being done which she did not feel were right so she made some adjustments. Mayor Arnold stated she has reach out, sent emails, text messages, which are not responded to. Mayor Arnold stated the Borough of Palmyra elected her as Mayor and also elected each one of you as councilmembers, there is a place for everyone at the table and all ideas should be taken into consideration. Mayor Arnold stated to eliminate her from the committees with the work she has completed is

unconscionable. If everyone respond to her requests for communication regarding professional appointments and council committee seats all this could have been avoided today. Mayor Arnold stated this is not the impression she wanted to leave on our professionals, the public nor the residents of the Borough. Mayor Arnold indicated she was hoping with the campaign slogans of working together and working across isle, things would be different. Mayor Arnold stated, "Many things are your choice as a council, I hope you realize what you are doing, and I certainly hope what I'm feeling right now, none of you will ever have to feel, because it is hurtful." Mayor Arnold also inquired of Mrs. Tait, Mr. Howard and Mr. Allmond if the professionals you are proposing contributed to your election campaign. Mr. Allmond responded, "Not that he was aware of". Mayor Arnold indicated hopefully this meeting does not set the tone for the year. Mayor Arnold thanked everyone and indicated she represented all of Palmyra not just specific groups or interests.

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.**

**Mrs. Lindsay- Front Street** – Mrs. Lindsay stated she was speaking for the Senior Program which meets at the Community Center twice a month for lunch. Mrs. Lindsay indicated on behalf of their safety they should not be charged with taking out their trash and or setting up tables and chairs for their meetings. Mrs. Lindsay stated Resolution 2018-51 indicating Dale Palmer was in charge and she wished to know if council or the Mayor would consider having someone take out their trash and set up and break down the tables and chairs when they have their lunch meetings, the first and second Wednesday of every month. Mayor Arnold indicated she would take it into consideration, talk with other individuals and would get back to her.

**Mr. Norcross – Morgan Avenue** – Mr. Norcross congratulated all the newly appointed council members. Mr. Norcross indicated has been sitting in this meeting and was upset to see what is going on up there and the way people are treated. Mr. Norcross indicated at this local level there should be no party political affiliations, you should run and win on who you are and what you stand for. Everyone up there should respect one another, we know everyone has different personalities but everyone should be treated with respect and I don't see anyone up there showing anyone any respect. Mr. Norcross stated it's a shame you all represent us as taxpayers, and you can respect one another. Mr. Norcross stated, Mr. Allmond "you are new, so I'll excluded you out", everyone else has been sitting up there for at least a year. Mr. Norcross told Mr. Allmond at the end of the day he hopes you will respect every person that sits up there whether you like them or not. Mr. Norcross stated, "The way you treat each other is appalling". Mr. Norcross told Ms. Weiner she does a great job and the Mayor's description of "creative" could not have been more point on. Mr. Norcross told Mrs. Tait he applauded her for

continuing to maintain her seat because he was sick, he probably would have stepped aside. Again the Mayor could not have picked you better as “Soccer Mom” because you care about every kid in this town. Everyone needs to learn the work respect, because those that don’t, when election time comes, he will do his job as a taxpayer and get you out of the seat. Mr. Norcross stated given his background, it is much nicer when choosing a prosecutor to have one which you are dealing with instead of a firm, as they get to know the town and the police officers.

**Mr. Fryer – Harbour Drive** – Mr. Fryer stated he agreed with Mr. Norcross; Mr. Allmond after what you have seen today, I would get up and walk away, I would want nothing to do with the childish manner in which council acted today. Mr. Fryer stated everyone spent two hours of our Saturday watching you act like children today. You all should be ashamed at yourselves, you can go more than five minutes without making snide remarks to each other. If this is going to go on all year what will you be able to accomplish? Nothing, you are supposed to represent us, you are an embarrassment as the people that represent us.

**Mr. Taylor – Spring Garden Street** – Mr. Taylor inquired about the Borough’s desire to purchase the property on the other side of Rt. 73. Mr. Taylor stated he was aware that that is a superfund site, and there are a lot of problems with the ground being contaminated. Mr. Taylor inquired if purchased it would be with taxpayer monies and were we aware that we would be purchasing a property with a sizeable debt to clean up, and what would be the intended use of said property. Mayor Arnold indicated this is a process which we have been undertaking for many years, we also have one of the best firms working with us on the remediation of those properties and have spoken to potential developers disclosing the potential remediation necessary. Mayor Arnold indicated there are many possibilities over there and we will be exploring anything proposed. Mr. Taylor inquired if there was a website which he could go to which would have all the information regarding what has been done. Mr. Gural stated you could go to our website, [www.boroughofpalmyra.com](http://www.boroughofpalmyra.com) and look under the redevelopment tab. For the route 73 South Redevelopment area. Mr. Taylor asked when considering appointments, please keep the fiscal costs as low as possible.

**Mrs. VanEmburch – Garfield Avenue** – Mrs. VanEmburch stated her family for many generations has resided in Palmyra, her grandfather served on Borough Council; she has never seen such a mess as today. Mrs. VanEmburch indicated she sees why other family members have moved out of town, she was ashamed and hoped the governing body does better.

**Mr. Russell – Parry Avenue** – Mr. Russell congratulated Mrs. Tait and Mr. Allmond on their appointments he also congratulated Mrs. Russell on becoming Borough Council President. Mr. Russell indicated the Board of Education will be having two meetings this month one on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and another on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, regarding the study to move the 6<sup>th</sup> grade out of Charles Street School and to the High School/Middle School, so come out and listen to the results

of the study and the potential of reallocating our school buildings. Mayor Arnold congratulated Mr. Russell on his appointment on the School Board.

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

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

Mayor Arnold inquired of Mr. Gural and Mr. Rosenberg if there was anything which needed to be discussed in closed session. Mr. Gural and Mr. Rosenberg stated no.

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Yetter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mrs. Russell seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor on the motion

**Meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm**

Respectfully Submitted

Doretha R Jackson

Acting Municipal Clerk