

Borough of Palmyra
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 18th, 2019

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 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Brandon Allmond, Mrs. Michelle McCann, Mrs. Gina Tait, Ms. Mindie Weiner, President Timothy Howard, Mayor Michelle Arnold

Absent: Mrs. Bernadette Russell

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

The open public meeting statement was then read into the record by Mayor Arnold, Notice as follows: 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 11, 2019.
- Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times, and the Courier Post Newspaper on January 11, 2019.
- Notice to All Council Members.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Charles Soper, chaplain of Palmyra Police Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Arnold requested a motion for approval of the March 4th, 2019 Executive Session Meeting minutes.

Mrs. Tait made a motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from March 4th, 2019. President Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was.

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Tait, President Howard

NAYES: none

Abstain: Ms. Weiner

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Arnold acknowledged a letter received from Mrs. Nagle, secretary of the Borough of Palmyra Land Use Board.

Mayor Arnold acknowledged a letter received from Mark Remsa, Director of the Burlington County Bridge Commission.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All members present voted in favor of the motion

No one from the public wishing to be heard, President Howard made a motion to close the public portion, Mrs. Tait second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2019-76, Resolution in Support of Path to Progress Recommendations Made by New Jersey Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup

Ms. Weiner asked if there was any other option beside voting on or tabling this resolution. Mr. Gural indicated it could be withdrawn. There was some discussion among council as to how to handle this resolution and the consensus is that the resolution be withdrawn. Mrs. Tait made a motion to withdraw resolution 2019-76 from consideration. President Howard seconded the motion

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None

Resolution 2019-109, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills for the Month of March 2019 In the Amount of \$1,929,787.60

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve Resolutions 2019-109. Mrs. Tait made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-109. President Howard seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORTS

President Russell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2019. President Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll:

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

NAYES: None

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Mayor Arnold noted the Virtue for Life is offering Free Mammograms February 21, March, 21st, April 18th, 2019 at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Burlington, New Jersey from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The Borough of Palmyra Rabies Clinic will be held April 6th, 2019 at the Community Center from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Mayor Arnold stated the Palmyra Improvement Association will be holding its River Cleanup April 6th, 2019.

Mayor Arnold noted Palmyra High School will be presenting performances of "High School Musical" on April 12th, 13th, 14th, 2019.

Phoenix 15 Studios is hosting a Fundraiser for American Cancer Society on March 30th, 2019 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Mayor Arnold stated the 9th, Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on April 14th, 2019 at the Fire House from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The movie Hidden Figures will be shown at the Community Center March 28th, 2019 at 12:00 pm. and on Wednesday April 3rd, 2019 at 11:00 am Joylette Hylick, daughter of the late Katherine Johnson will be speaking about her mother and the movie Hidden Figures.

Mr. Allmond stated the county is hosting paper shredding events on March 24th and April 28th, 2019 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Ms. Weiner stated the Palmyra Community Center Program Broad is preparing for their Art Show on May 3rd, 2019 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

PUBLIC REMINDERS

Mayor Arnold indicated April is clean up Month in the Borough of Palmyra, brush and leaves will be picked up daily. (Excluding weekends)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs. Tait indicated the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 6th, 2019 at 9:00 am at Legion field. Mrs. Tait indicated Mr. Kerbeck donated 500.00 towards the Easter Egg Hunt and they will be buying the prizes and candy with that money.

Mrs. Tait stated Palmyra Public Safety Day will be held on May 4th, 2019.

Mr. Rosenberg stated he was asked to research the Land Use Board Class IV Appointee position. Mr. Rosenberg indicated the person currently holding that position is ineligible to hold that position as he holds another position with the Borough of Palmyra. Mr. Rosenberg indicated the person should be notified and advised and respectfully asked to resign said position. Mr. Gural indicated that person has been rice noticed and is present this evening. Mr. Derby indicated he was very happy to serve in that capacity and enjoyed serving but was not going to give up serving on the Fire department. Mr. Derby indicated he would resign immediately and would put his resignation that in writing and send it to the Land use Board Secretary. Mayor Arnold stated at that Mr. Dreby is OEM Manager. Mr. Dreby indicated

when he went on the Land Use Board he gave up his stipend as OEM Manager to serve on the Land Use Board. Mr. Gural indicated the salary of the OEM Manager was included in the Salary Ordinance and if ok with the governing body that stipend would be reinstated. Borough Council agreed. There was some discussion regarding open positions on the Land Use Board. Mr. Gural indicated there currently is one Class IV position and one Alternate position which will, at the request of Council, be placed on the Borough Website as open positions for anyone with an interest in serving.

Mr. Gural noted we received the proposed YMCA Agreement for the Summer Camp Program, council may look it over and we will place it on the agenda for next meeting. President Howard indicated they would like to contact the YMCA regarding student attendance and some other things Ms. Weiner asked if we could ask for an increase in the discount percentage from 15% to 20% for the program, and the program is still very expensive for some of our residents. There was some addition discussion regarding the program, discount, and number of children attending the program and how they are chosen. Mayor Arnold asked that it be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Mrs. Tait indicated the Buildings and Grounds committee met last week and are in the process of writing up the various rules and regulations of the field's usage. Mrs. Tait noted the committee will be meeting with the various organizations next week for additional input for field's usage policy. Mrs. Tait stated once the committee has met and finalized their ideas it will be presented to council for their consideration.

Mr. Allmond indicated he would be working with Ms. Jackson to update the information on the digital sign and is also working on the policy for usage. Mr. Allmond stated when he has determined the character spacing and developed the usage guide he will submit it to council for consideration. Mr. Allmond also requested any information to be place in the Newsletter should be to him by Friday March 22nd. 2018. Mr. Allmond stated he would have the next newsletter in draft form for Council review at the next meeting April 1st, 2019.

Ms. Weiner asked if we could talk about the textile recycling flyer. Both Mayor Arnold and Ms. Weiner submitted flyers for the textile recycling program. Ms. Weiner stated Mayor Arnold's was colorful but did not have all the information. Ms. Weiner asked if council could look at the two flyers and pick one so we could move forward. Mayor Arnold noted she would be meeting with the superintendent of the school on Wednesday and she would like to have the students participate in a poster contest to determine the poster for our final representation. Mayor Arnold indicated we could use one of ours in the short term. After some discussion, Mr. Allmond indicated he liked the flyer illustrating the various items which could be recycled and like the information presented on the other. Mr. Allmond asked if the two could somehow be combined into one. Ms. Weiner asked Mayor Arnold if she could add the information to the illustrated flyer. Mayor Arnold indicated yes.

OLD Business

Mr. Gural indicated we are in the middle of the migration to the new MS Office 365 email system. Mr. Gural asked the governing body how they accessed their email, thru webmail or MS Office/ Outlook. Mr. Gural indicated he would send the question in an email to everyone and they could respond back to him.

Mr. Gural indicated both Tony and Joe are eager to know what council is going to do with the remainder of the wall project. Mr. Gural indicated they would like to know by mid-may or they will consider moving forward with their own plans for the bottom half of the wall. Ms. Weiner inquired how much money was set aside to do the project. Ms. Weiner stated if nothing can be decided then she would rather take the money and move on to another project. Mr. Tait indicated she would like to finish the project already started recognizing the years of service of various business to the community. After some additional discussion about the project, Mayor Arnold will contact Tony and see what he would like and explain what we had in mind. Mayor Arnold indicated she would come back to council with the results of that meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Gural indicated the Adult Use Cannabis Bill is moving fast and as things change additional information will be forwarded to you.

Mr. Gural stated the PRC Lion's Club plaque should be here soon and it will need to be mounted in the park.

Mr. Gural stated the Piezometer wells for measuring water table have been installed and are operational. Mr. Gural indicated we will be monitoring them.

Mr. Gural stated everyone is aware of the 609B Broad Street and the damage to sewer main. Mr. Rosenberg's report is self-explanatory and currently we have nothing else to do but wait.

Mr. Gural stated the squatters at 515 Race Street have moved and Mr. Lunemann has been able to get inside of the home, which is in very poor condition. Mr. Lunemann is working with the bank to have it cleaned and boarded up.

Mr. Gural noted Mr. Lunemann also reached out to the owners of 633 Garfield Ave and they will be working on the construction permits they have taken out. Mr. Lunemann will be following their progress.

Mr. Gural stated the updates for the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual should be out to Council by April 1st, 2019. Mr. Gural noted there are a lot of changes based on the changes being mandated by the State. Mr. Gural stated, Mr. Riccio our labor attorney and Ms. Condo, CFO will be in attendance at that time to explain the changes and answer any questions council may have.

Mr. Gural stated the Tree Service Bid packet is out and due back by March 28th, 2019. Mr. Gural noted we are hoping to award the contract April 1, 2019.

Mr. Gural reminded Council if the Green Team is going to do something in regards to the Stormwater Management requirements it needs to be completed by May.

Mr. Gural reminded everyone that the JIF Elected Officials Liability Seminar will be held this coming Thursday, March 21st at O'Connor's in Eastampton at 5:30 PM.

Ms. McCann asked Mr. Gural if there was information which disclosed the locations of the piezometers

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Representatives

Mr. Tait stated the boys' basketball team made it to the second round of the playoffs and girls' basketball team made it to the third round of the playoffs. Mr. Tait congratulated Ms. Robinson on her qualifying for the Eastern State Championships. Mr. Tait asked all to support all the various teams during their seasons. Mr. Tait noted the seniors just returned from their senior trip to Florida. Mr. Tait indicated the annual blood drive was held at the school on the 22nd of February and "Panther Con" was held on the 15th of February, 2019.

Miss Robinson stated there is a lot going on at Palmyra High School. On Thursday the school sent about 60 students to Celebrate Arts in Palmyra. On March 19th, the World Language and National Honor Society induction will be held. Miss. Robinson stated April 12th, 13th, and 14th the drama club of Palmyra High School will be presenting "High School Musical", please come out and enjoy the production.

Mr. Allmond –Communications and Public Relations Committee– Mr. Allmond indicated he had nothing to report regarding redevelopment as all had attended the meeting on March 11th, 2019. Mr. Allmond noted again he was working on the newsletter and a policy for the digital sign.

Mrs. Tait – Public Safety Committee, Board of Education, Public Events– – Mrs. Tait indicated the public works committee met with Mr. Gural and all is well at the sewer plant and in public works. Mrs. Tait noted the buildings and grounds committee met and is composing a list of the various charges which will be implemented for those using the fields. Mrs. Tait indicated when that is complete they will again look at the rules, regulations and changes of the community center. Mrs. Tait also indicated they would be looking at a meeting with the business to talk about the parking situation in our down town area.

President Howard – Youth and Recreation, Public Building, Grounds and Parks, Public Works & Sewer– Mr. Howard indicated had nothing to more to report as everything has been covered.

Mrs. McCann – Administration and Finance– Ms. McCann indicated the committee met last week and talked about the budget.

Ms. Weiner – Business and Community Development, Homeowner Association – Ms. Weiner indicated the Business and Community Development committee did not meet but will met before the month ends. Ms. Weiner indicated Mr. Allmond went to the War Memorial and he indicated the five poles are shorter than we thought thus the banners would need to be much smaller. After some additional discussion it was decided the military banners would be mingled along Broad Street with the regular Borough banners instead of being installed at the War Memorial. Ms. Weiner showed Borough Council a potential design for the military banners. Mr. McElwee indicated the Merchant Marines is now considered a branch of the service so there are six not five. Mr. Gural indicated there are five flag poles to be installed at the war memorial that are currently down in public works. During the budget process money was allotted for their installation. There was some additional discussion and Mr. McElwee indicated they already had plans for the flags on the poles in the War Memorial when they are installed. Mr. Gural asked Mr. McElwee if he wanted a sixth flag pole installed for the merchant marines. Mr. McElwee indicated the flag has not yet been designed for that branch. Ms. Weiner indicated we will be holding off until mid-May or June to open the Farmers Market Farmers so we can grow grass in Chief Payton I Flournoy Park.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

All members present voted in favor of the motion

Bruce Adams – 315 Temple Blvd. Mr. Adams stated at previous meetings residents can and complained about various homes, council did a great job at getting them taken care of, and thanked Council for a great job done. Mr. Adams thanked Council for naming the park after Chief Payton I Flournoy, it was well deserved. Mr. Adams indicated there is still speeding on Temple Blvd. and there is no police car present. Mr. Adams indicated it seems to get worst on the weekend. Mr. Adams asked where we are with the on Temple Blvd redesign. Mr. Gural indicated we are still in design phase and finalizing some funding requests.

McElwee – Columbia Ave. – Mr. McElwee indicated the former mayor Jack Casey passed away in February and services were held this past weekend. Mr. McElwee asked about the two homes being built with habitat for humanity. Mayor Arnold indicated she was told they have a buyer for one home and are still looking for a buyer for the other. Mayor Arnold also stated the housing opportunity is now open to the public not just Veterans. Mr. McElwee indicated he has been working with the Boys State and Girls State, Palmyra High School and Cinnaminson High School for 38 years. Mr. McElwee indicated he did not make the budget meeting but notice the line item had been budgeted. Mr. McElwee stated one of Palmyra High School's representatives for this year is Mr. Patrick Tait. Mr. McElwee indicated this is a great program and thanked council for supporting it.

No one from the public wishing to be heard, resident Howard made a motion to close the public portion, Mrs. Tait second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Allmond – no comment

Ms. Weiner – no comment

Mrs. McCann – no comment

Mrs. Tait – Mrs. Tait reminded council that there would be no redevelopment meeting on April 1st, 2019 instead we will be hosting Police Lieutenant interviews.

President Howard – No Comment

Mayor Arnold – Mayor Arnold stated “Be kind to one another and be good neighbors”.

Mayor Arnold asked if there was any business for executive session. Mr. Gural indicated no. Mr. Rosenberg indicated no.

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

All voted in favor of the motion

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Doretha R. Jackson, RMC

Municipal Clerk