Borough of Palmyra

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, 7:00 PM Tuesday, January 22nd, 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. Bernadette Russell, Mrs. Gina Tait, Ms. Mindie Weiner, President Timothy Howard, Mayor Michelle Arnold

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 Minister Jimmy Lindsay, Associate Minister of Evergreen Baptist Church.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Arnold requested a motion for approval of the December 17th, 2018 Regular Council Meeting Minutes:

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes from December 17th, 2018. Mrs. Tait second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

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

NAYES: none

Abstain, Mrs. McCann

Mayor Arnold requested a motion for approval of the December 17th, 2018 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting minutes from December 17th, 2018. Mrs. Tait second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was.

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

NAYES: none

Abstain: Mrs. McCann

All minutes approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Arnold acknowledged a letter received from Beth Sawyer of Ziegfield Florist & Gifts.

Mayor Arnold acknowledged a letter received from Terence Schrider, State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Mayor Arnold and Borough Council accepted the letter of registration received from Tanyika Johns, Certified Tax Collector of Borough of Palmyra

PROFESSIONAL UPDATES

Mr. Gural stated the professionals would not be in attendance tonight however Mr. Winckowski indicated in his report that the Grove Park project was substantially complete also the parts for the LED signs should be in by Thursday and hopefully by Friday they should be up and running. Mr. Gural indicated the grading and seeding should be done about April 15th, 2019 weather permitting and the Archway painting needs to be completed before the contractor leaves permanently.

Mr. Gural noted Mr. Kirchner's report indicated they are currently in the process of surveying Temple Blvd. and are anticipating the survey completion by February. Mr. Gural indicated the survey work has been completed and the design is under way for the Public Road pump station elimination project. Mr. Gural noted ERI will be applying for state permits by early March for that project. Mr. Gural indicated the 2018 road work program which is currently in progress; the main work has been pushed to early spring weather permitting however they are continuing to work on the punch list of some items so they will be ready in the spring for paving. Mr. Gural also indicated there will be substantial road work on 6th, 5th, 4th, and Race Street due to NJAWC's water main update project, because NJAWC will be repaving those streets it may be necessary for us to shift attention to those streets to complete concrete work ahead of NJAW Company's paving. Mr. Gural indicated he and Mr. Kirchner were working on it and would be back to council with additional information when it is worked out.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to open the Public Portion. Mrs. Russell 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, Mrs. Russell made a motion to close the public portion, President Howard second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTIONS Consent Agenda

Resolution 2019–75, Resolution Authorizing Change Order #2 for Charles Marandino, LLC for the 2018 Road Program project in the Amount of \$37,126.00 for a New Adjusted Contract Price of \$801,778.00 per ERI's recommendation letter dated January 7th, 2019

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

Resolution 2019–77, Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract to NFC Contracting, LLC per their Bid Proposal dated 12/18/2018 in the Amount of \$20,750.00 for Rehab Project PLRCAESC–317, Pursuant to CGP&H and CFO's Review and Approval.

Resolution 2019–78, Resolution appointing Danielle Lippincott as Certified Tax Collector pursuant to Offer of Employment dated January 11, 2019 at the annual salary of \$58,000 effective January 14, 2019

Resolution 2019–79, Resolution Authorizing a Refund to Action Realty Group, LLC for i\$125.00 inspection fee

Resolution 2019–80, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills for the Month of January 2019 In the Amount of \$1,619,527.66

Mayor Arnold asked if any item needed to be removed. Ms. Weiner requested Resolution 2019–76 be removed from the consent agenda for additional discussion.

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda Resolutions 2019–75 and Resolution 2019–77 thru Resolution 2019–80. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolutions 2019–75 and Resolution 2019–77 thru Resolution 2019–80. President Howard seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES. Mr. Allmond, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, President Howard NAYES. None

Resolution 2019-75 and Resolution 2019-77 thru Resolution 2019-80 noted in motion were approved

Mayor Arnold went back to **Resolution 2019–76**, Resolution in Support of Path to Progress Recommendations Made by New Jersey Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup

Ms. Weiner indicated we read some correspondence regarding this at the last meeting however she is unsure of exactly what this is and what they are asking of us. Ms. Weiner asked if someone could give some additional information regarding this. After some additional discussion it was decided we would table vote on this resolution until additional information could be obtained.

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORTS

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for December 2018. 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 that Virtua for Life is offering Free Mammograms February 21, March, 21st, April 18th, 2019 at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Burlington, New Jersey.

Mayor Arnold noted the" Read across America" program is March 4th, March 5th, and March 8th, 2019 at Charles Street School.

Ms. Weiner indicated the Orchard Friends School will be holding its 5th Annual "Give Back Lunch" for all public service personnel in our communities, on Friday February 1st, 2019 from 11:30 am to 12:30 PM.

PUBLIC REMINDERS

Mayor Arnold noted given that it is that time of year, just a reminder about snow and ice removal; our Ordinance indicates any owner or tenant of land abutting and bordering the sidewalks of the public streets, or highways of the Borough of Palmyra shall remove from the sidewalks of there said land all snow and ice within 12 hours of daylight after the same shall have fallen or formed there on.

Mayor also noted the following regarding obstructing sidewalks. Mayor Arnold stated no person shall obstruct a crosswalk laid across the public street or highway in the Borough, by placing or stopping his horse, cart, wagon, slay, sled or other vehicle on or across any of said crosswalks by placing or putting any said obstruction or other thing across or on the same under the penalty of five dollars for each offence.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

NEW Business

Mrs. Tait indicated due to the Governor declaring a state of emergency on Friday we felt the need to postpose the events which were scheduled for Monday January 22nd, 2019. Mrs. Tait indicated those events will be rescheduled and currently we are looking at February 18th, 2019 but the final decision will be made at the next meeting. Mrs. Tait also noted events are being worked on for Black History Month and additional information will follow.

Mr. Gural noted some of our professional reports are in your packets regarding updates of what has been done regarding the Redevelopment area on the south side of Rt.73. We are still waiting for additional reports. Mr. Gural noted this information is being gathered and forwarded to you as decisions will need to be made when we gather to complete the budget. Please remember the reports are privileged.

Mr. Gural indicated there is a lot going on with Cannabis both medical and adult use. Mr. Gural indicated we have been approached by companies wishing to do business in the Borough for both medical and adult usage if it becomes legal. Mr. Gural indicated there currently is a company which would like to do a presentation to the governing body regarding his company doing business in the Borough of Palmyra. Mr. Gural stated due to the complexities of the law, he asked Mr. Gerkens to prepare a report detailing the pros and cons of cannabis which you will have the opportunity to review before the February 4th meeting. Mr. Rosenberg indicated the legislation has not passed and currently he indicated we should not spend a lot of time with this presentation as it would be interesting and informative, however is an exercise in futility. He stated, what this company wants is a letter from the

Borough which indicates that if the legislation passes that the Borough would grant them the ability to operate both a medical and adult use distribution center in the Borough. There was some discussion amongst the governing body. Mayor Arnold indicated she was putting together a forum where people with different points of view can come together and present their ideas so the governing body can be informed before making any decisions. Mr. Gural asked if the governing body wanted to hear from this gentleman at the next meeting. Mayor Arnold indicated no, he will be invited to the forum. Mayor Arnold asked Ms. Weiner if she would help with the planning of the forum, she indicated she would. Mr. Gural indicated we have ordered five water pumps at the cost of a little over two hundred dollars each and awaiting their arrival. Mr. Gural indicated they will be available to the public and will be signed out thru public works. Mr. Gural indicated we will have the proposal from Mr. Kirchner at the next meeting for the water table monitoring. This will include the installation of four or five piezometer wells, to monitor the water tables around the Borough.

Mr. Gural indicated the 2018 General Election Referendum re: Sunday alcoholic beverage sales item was put on the agenda as a reminder to the governing body and for council to determine if there was something they wished to look at or work on regarding the change in alcoholic beverage sales on Sundays.

Mayor Arnold indicated she would like to get some ideas as to how Borough Council wished to implement phase two of the mural at Tony's Barber Shop. Mayor Arnold asked if the Business and Community Development committee could assist with identifying the business and their longevity in the Borough. There was some discussion and many ideas were presented. Mr. Gural noted Tony's Barber shop is looking forward to phase two of the project. Mayor Arnold indicated we would work on gathering the information about the businesses.

Mr. Gural stated there is a lot of interest by the governing body but also citizens have expressed an interest in serving on that committee. Mr. Gural indicated the governing body should adopt an ordinance which details the expectations and responsibilities. Mr. Gural stated members should be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of Borough Council. Mr. Gural asked the Green team to put together an outline as to how they would like to see the Green Team functions. Mr. Gural noted, then Mr. Rosenberg can turn it into and Ordinance for the governing body's consideration. Mr. Gural indicated a public safety director is required from the public safety committee and council committee chairpersons need to be identified so we know who is responsible to sign for the various purchase orders. Mr. Rosenberg indicated the floor would be open for nominations for the director of public safety. Mayor Arnold indicated according to the list there are only two members of council on the public safety committee. Mayor Arnold indicated she would appoint herself as the third member of that committee. Mrs. Tait indicated she would like to nominate Michelle McCann to be on that committee.

Mayor asked for a vote to confirm or not confirm the Mayor's appointment of herself to the Public Safety Committee.

At the call of the roll.

AYES: Mrs. McCann

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

Mayor Arnold asked why those who voted no voted no. President Howard indicated no one needed to explain why they voted in any particular manner. Mrs. Tait stated she voted no because there were several instances last year which council was not aware of things which were going on, as it was not brought to the committee or the governing body, but you were aware that they were happening. Mayor Arnold noted Mrs. Tait was the Public Safety Director last year and there were only two meetings. The Public Safety Committee is a vital part of this community and should meet on a monthly basis. Mrs. Tait indicated she agreed.

Mrs. Tait nominated Mrs. McCann for the public safety committee. Ms. Weiner second the nomination.

At the call of the roll.

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

NAYES: None

Abstain: Mrs. McCann

President Howard nominated Mrs. Tait to be the Public Safety Director. Mrs. Russell second the nomination.

At the call of the roll.

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

NAYES: None

Abstain: Mrs. Tait

President Howard then asked Ms. Jackson to read the list of Council Committee Chairpersons.

Ms. Jackson then read the following into the record:

Communications Committee Chairperson – Brandon Allmond

Board of Education Liaison – Gina Tait

Youth and Recreation Chairperson – President Howard

Public Buildings, Parks and Playgrounds Chairperson – President Howard

Public Safety & Municipal Court Chairperson – Gina Tait

Public Events Chairperson – Gina Tait

Administration & Finance Chairperson – Michelle McCann

Business and Community Development Chairperson – Mindie Weiner

Public Works and Sewer Chairperson – President Howard

Redevelopment & Negotiations Chairperson – Brandon Allmond

Green Team Chairperson – Mindie Weiner

Construction Chairperson – Bernadette Russell

Shade Tree Committee Liaison – Bernadette Russell

Riverfront Association Liaison – Mindie Weiner

Palmyra Harbour Condo Association Liaison – Bernadette Russell

President Howard made a motion to approve the list of Committee chairperson as read. Mrs. Russell second the motion.

At the call of the roll.

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

OLD Business

Mr. Gural indicated the rope lights and bows were taken down by the Fire Department. The snowflake lights are up and will remain up until the end of February. Mr. Gural stated he sent everyone on the governing body all the information he had regarding the banners. Mr. Gural noted that if the governing body wished to order new banners that needs to happen soon. Remember the brackets for the snowflakes are permanent. Mr. Gural indicated Raleigh's is recommending the smaller banner, which if you would like to see are in his office, for placement on the poles. Mr. Gural asked a subcommittee of the governing body to review the information and come back to council with a recommendation. Mr. Gural noted if the banners could be installed at the same time the snowflakes were coming down we could save some money. Mrs. Russell indicated the business and community development committee should work on that project. Ms. Weiner indicated if anyone has any ideas they can forward them to her and she will take them to the committee put together something and bring it back to the governing body.

Mr. Gural indicated the Outdoor Dining Ordinance and consumption of alcoholic beverages in public spaces including BYOB we spoke about last year. Mr. Gural indicated we currently only have one business which is BYOB certified however anticipate more will be interested in doing so. Mr. Gural indicated some changes would need to be made to the existing Ordinance regarding consumption of alcohol in public spaces and direction is needed as to how the governing body wishes to proceed. Mr. Gural indicated he has not received anything back from the Fire Company regarding the lease agreement.

Mayor Arnold indicated we have the designated email address for the paver project and the flyer is being finalized and should be out soon. Mayor Arnold noted she would get the information to Mr. Allmond for inclusion in the spring newsletter.

Mr. Gural noted he received an email from Danny Norman expressing concerns about Cinnaminson Fire Commission's plans to start their own EMS squad, which he wished to discuss. Mr. Gural indicted he has not yet heard back from Mr. Norman but will notify the governing body when he has additional information to share.

Ms. Weiner stated there is a Land Use Board appointment for a Council member. Has any decision be made on that appointment, and is there a time frame in which it needs to be done. Mayor Arnold indicated she is taking that appointment under advisement and there is no time frame in which it needed to be completed.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mayor Arnold indicated 400 Arch Street has been demolished and the neighborhood was so excited to see the eyesore finally gone. Mayor Arnold indicted it took four 48 foot trailers to remove the debris. Mr. Gural indicated another problem property came up today 300 Arch Street, which is uninhabitable in its current condition, no electric or running water. Mr. Gural indicated the property is posted and the police department received a complaint today regarding dogs on and in the property. Our code enforcement officer, Mike and Construction Official Tracy gained entry to the property. Mr. Gural indicated the property is extremely unsafe and the axillary structure, a garage, is in emanated danger of

collapse. Mr. Gural indicated the engineers are going to the property tomorrow to determine the structure stability. Mr. Rosenberg indicated any further discussion should be in executive session. Mayor Arnold indicated the Borough has received notification that we will be awarded the 400,000.00 grant for the Harbor ADA compliance project; additionally we will be awarded another 100,000.00 for our housing rehab program. Mr. Gural noted we will also be applying for the Juvenile Justice Commission's grant for the summer expansion program for children to attend the Summer YMCA program at the Community Center and the Bridge commission will be paying for application. Mr. Gural reminded all that the JIF Elected Officials Liability Seminar will be held in March 21st, 2019. Mr. Gural also noted that the Bowman New Jersey Municipal Budget Process Seminar will be on Thursday.

Mr. Gural stated the panel box for the audio system in the band shell has been installed. The panel box was completed by Mosier a local business and is just what was needed to secure the sound system.

Mr. Gural indicated he forwarded the information regarding a foreclosure on a housing rehab project.

Mr. Gural stated the appraisal of the old PNC building is under way; the appraiser has been on site and we can expect the report within the next week.

Mr. Gural stated the new vision and dental benefits beginning next month and the old carrier has been notified.

Mr. Gural indicated the Federal government shutdown is affecting the government's ability to advance the opportunity zone because the IRS is the primary agency with oversite over the program. Mr. Gural indicated there may be some delay in adoption of the program.

Mr. Gural indicated the old fire truck will be sold for \$10,000.00 and the buyer intends to pick it up in February.

Mr. Gural stated the cyber-attack & forensic investigation report is complete and we expect to have it soon, our out of pocket cost will be about \$5,000.00.

Mr. Gural stated he does not have an update but they are still obtaining quotes from contractors. Mr. Gural noted the Tree service Contract is out for bid currently with bids due back February 12^{th} ,

Mr. Gural indicated we have a handicap sign at 601 Delaware Avenue which the resident who had it approved has since moved and the new owner wishes to have it removed. Mr. Rosenberg indicated a resolution should be passed to have the designation of the handicap parking space removed. Mr. Gural indicated that resolution will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2019 at 10:30 am.

Mr. Allmond —Communications and Public Relations Committee— Mr. Allmond indicated he had nothing to report currently they will be meeting next week. Ms. Weiner indicated she was working on the flyer for the textile recycling and hopes to have it out soon.

Mrs. Tait – Public Safety Committee, Board of Education, Public Events – Mrs. Tait indicated she attended the Board of Education meeting where Mr. Moore was named the Teacher of the Year. Mayor Arnold indicated the funding from the county for the school is forth coming. Mrs. Tait indicated the Public Safety committee met this evening with the Chief of Police in reference to a personnel matter. Mrs. Tait indicated they will be meeting with the business in February in reference to the parking issues. Mrs. Tait

indicated we have talked about public events, however would like for council to think about which events they would like to handle and let her know.

President Howard – Youth and Recreation, Public Building, Grounds and Parks, Public Works & Sewer–Mr. Howard indicated had nothing to report currently. Mr. Howard indicated public works is still currently working on pot holes.

Mrs. McCann – Administration and Finance – Ms. Weiner indicated we have not yet had a meeting but she did meet with the CFO and discussed the savings on retiree benefits. Ms. Weiner also indicated they were hoping to focus on the policy and procedures manual.

Ms. Weiner – Business and Community Development, Homeowner Association – Ms. Weiner indicated they met on the 14th of January and updated Michelle as to what they were working on and their goals for 2019 included the banners, liquor licenses, issues with the outdoor seating/ dining ordinances, and parking. Ms. Weiner indicated a new Thrift shop will be opening at 207 E Broad Street. Ms. Weiner indicated the Green Team met on January 9th, 2019 as discussed how to spend the original grant we received. Mrs. Weiner indicated a lot of time was spent on their "call to action plan" so they could explain what they do and what they want to achieve. Mrs. Winer indicated the Riverfront Association met and they have a new management company. Ms. Weiner indicated they have some issues with speeding which she indicated to them they should speak with the Chief of Police and she shared the information for the upcoming "Call to Action" program. Ms. Weiner indicated she believes they are trying to start a newsletter.

Mrs. Russell – Construction – Shade Tree Liaison – President Russell indicated the construction committee report will be discussed during executive session. Mrs. Russell indicated the Shade Tree committee met and the paper work has been sent.

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

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

All members present voted in favor of the motion

Mr. Rader – Harbour Drive – Mr. Rader asked if the mayor was a member of all council committees.

Mr. Gural indicated that when he was Mayor he made the comment that he was in fact a defacto member of all the council committees however there is no basis in the law for that. Mr. Gural indicated Mr. Rader, at that time then contacted the Attorney General's office to report what you believed was inappropriate. Mr. Rosenberg responded by indicating that because all committees have no authority and are advisory in nature that he and the State of New Jersey concurred. Mr. Rader stated it seems like it was easier when the mayor did the appointments.

Ms. Robinson – Leconey Avenue –Ms. Robinson thanked Council for getting the road paved on Leconey Avenue however inquired who it is that comes out to check that the work is done correctly. Mayor Arnold indicated our engineer. Ms. Robinson indicated between the apron of the driveway and the street there is a gap which needs to be closed. She also indicated the strip of land between the sidewalk and the curb is very uneven and needs to be graded. Mr. Gural indicated they are not complete yet they

are still working on a punch list. Mr. Gural indicated we needed to suspend things due to the weather however he would send the engineer out to take a look at it.

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

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Allmond – no comment

Mrs. Russell – no comment

Ms. Weiner – no comment

Mrs. McCann - Mrs. McCann stated we should continue to support our local businesses.

Mrs. Tait – Mrs. Tait stated "stay warm"

President Howard – President Howard asked about Veterans Drive. Mr. Gural indicated we ran out of time and won't get to it until the spring.

Mayor Arnold asked Ms. Robinson and Mr. Tait if they would like to speak or had anything to report. Both indicated they had no comments

Mayor Arnold – Mayor Arnold indicated February is National Senior Independence Month. 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 yes on personnel matter and Mr. Rosenberg indicated there were two litigation or potential litigation matters.

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve **Resolution 2019–81**. President Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2019–81, Resolution Excluding the Public from Certain Meetings pursuant to section 89 of the Open Public Meeting Act C. 231 P.L. 1975 regarding Personnel, and Potential Litigation. President Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

NAYES: None

Resolution 2019–81 is approved

Borough Council went into closed session at 8:56 PM

Closed Session

Borough Council returned from closed session at 9:03 PM

Mrs. Tait made a motion to open to the public. Mrs. Russell second the motion.

All voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

All voted in favor of the motion

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM
Respectfully Submitted
Doretha R Jackson
Doretha R Jackson, RMC
Municipal Clerk