Borough of Palmyra

Regular Council Caucus Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 18th, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra is hereby called to order by Council President Timothy Howard 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 Absent: Mayor Michelle Arnold

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

The open public meeting statement was then read into the record by Council President Howard, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Howard requested a motion for approval of the October 21st, 2019 Regular Council Meeting minutes:

Mrs. Tait made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from October 21st, 2019. Mrs. Russell 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

President Howard requested a motion for approval of the October 21st, 2019 Executive Session Meeting minutes:

Ms. Weiner made a motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from October 21st, 2019. Mr. Allmond 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

CORRESPONDENCE

President Howard acknowledged the following correspondence received:

Thank-You note – Palmyra Senior Citizens

Thank-You note- the Portella Family

Letter- Palmyra Halloween Committee

PROFESSIONAL UPDATES

William Kirchner, ERI- Mr. Kirchner stated there are two resolutions before council tonight, resolutions 2019–244 and 2019–245 which were discussed at the last meeting and relate to contracts for engineering services.

Mr. Kirchner stated also on the agenda is resolution 2019–239, which is to extend our current sludge hauling/removal contract. Mr. Kirchner noted the contractor is holding his price to the same as the past three years.

Mr. Kirchner stated the sewer pumps at Borough Hall are experiencing similar problems like the pumps at the sewer plant, with clogs. Mr. Kirchner indicated when they go to clean them out they are discovering baby wipes and paper towels. Mr. Kirchner noted the paper towels have been removed from the restroom in borough hall as a preventive measure however extensive work will have to be done and we may have to go to grinder pumps which have cutter blades on them. Mr. Kirchner explained it could cost \$15,000.00 or as much as \$50,000.00. Mr. Gural indicated this project would need to be completed in 2020 as a capital improvement. There was some additional discussion.

Mr. Kirchner provided Council with potential drawing of what the Rain Garden/ Pocket Park may look like in the Temple Blvd project. Mr. Kirchner indicated the entire Temple Avenue project is two parts. One part which has DOT funding which is the road paving and design and the second part which has federal funding (TAP Grant) which is the pocket park/ rain garden. Mr. Kirchner explained the potential design of the Rain Garden/pocket Park going in on Temple Blvd. He indicated council will have the final say regarding the park design, plants, trees sign etc. but he just wanted to give them a potential look at what could be there. There was discussion regarding the plant/trees to be planted, the flooding issues and the ability to handle the water in the event of a heavy storm and the stamped concrete designs. Mr. Gural indicated the landscaping is as maintenance free as possible. President Howard asked if the traffic pattern would change. Mr. Kirchner indicated there will be some changes on West Second Street and noted they are still working on the design. Mr. Kirchner indicated it will be necessary to hold a public meeting to present the designs/plan for the rain garden, as required by the TAP Grant. There was some additional discussion regarding the plans/ design presented.

STUDENT REPORTS

Mr. Tait reported on the various sports team's seasons. Mr. Tait noted that Homecoming was a huge success and a lot of work for both him and Ms. Robinson. Mr. Tait gave congratulations to the seniors who won the spirit games for Homecoming and to the students crowned King-Ryan Dowdy and Queen –Jayme Livingston.

Ms. Robinson indicated the middle school just inducted seven student into the National Junior Honor Society. Ms. Robinson also noted the National Honor Society at the high school will be taking place later this month.

PUBLIC PORTION

President Howard 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

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

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTIONS Consent Agenda

Resolution 2019–239 to Resolution 2019–247 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. President Howard asked if any other items needed to be removed from the consent agenda. None were requested for removal.

Resolution 2019–239, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra Extending the 2017–2018 Transportation and Disposal of Municipal Waste Water Sludge Contract of FRANC Environmental of New Jersey, Inc. For (1) one additional year at the price of \$0.0835 per gallon.

Resolution 2019–240, Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Make Budget Transfers to the 2019 Budget.

Resolution 2019–241, Resolution authorizing an Agreement with Associates for Life Enhancement, Inc., for Employee Assistance Program services in the amount of \$3,700.00 per their proposal, effective January 1, 2020.

Resolution 2019–242, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra adopting a Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for Employees Performing Safety Sensitive Functions

Resolution 2019-243, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra adopting an Alcohol and Drug-free Workplace Policy Including Alcohol and Drug Testing

Resolution 2019–244, Resolution awarding a contract to ERI for preparation of public bid documents for On–Call Contracting Services in the amount of \$4,500.00 per their proposal dated October 15, 2019

Resolution 2019–245, Resolution awarding a contract to ERI for engineering services for improvements to Madison Street and Rowland Street in the amount of \$23,500.00 per their proposal dated October 2, 2019

Resolution 2019–246, Resolution Approving the Person-to Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Distribution License Number #0327–44–004–005 From DHAVAL Inc. to HARIKRISHNA Liquors Inc.

Resolution 2019–247, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills for the Month of November 2019 In the Amount of \$1,859,452.04

President Howard asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda Resolution 2019-239 thru Resolution 2019-247. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-239 thru Resolution 2019-247. Mrs. Tait 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

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURERS REPORTS

President Howard asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report for October 2019. Mr. Allmond made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2019. Mrs. Russell 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

President Howard noted that the Soup Bar grand opening was held in October. Mrs. Russell indicated it was very nice and the food is good.

Ms. Weiner stated the Band Boosters will be holding the Annual Craft Fair on December 7th, 2019 at the high school.

Ms. Weiner stated the PIA will be hosting their Winter Night Market on Saturday November 30th, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

Mrs. Tait stated the Tree Lighting and Santa will be here at the Bandshell and Community Center on December 6^{th} , 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Tait indicated a tree trimming will be held on Saturday November 30th, 2019 at 2:00 pm.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

NEW Business

Mr. Gural indicated there is a memo in your packet which gives the details of the Holiday Event and Santa Visit on December 6th, 2019 at the Bandshell and the community center. Mr. Gural noted at the bottom of the memo it indicates what they have planned for MLK day in January of 2020.

Mr. Gural stated the request from Pro Capital for return of vacant property registration fees for 601 W. 6th St is in the packet with Mr. Rosenberg's response. Mr. Gural indicated we should authorize Mr. Rosenberg to send the letter he drafted. Mr. Rosenberg indicated the Borough changed its vacant registration fees to make them more reasonable, and with council approval he will send the letter indicating the Borough position on this matter. Council agreed the letter should be sent.

Mr. Gural stated the Palmyra Improvement Association PIA Winter Night Market request is in the agenda packet, he noted there is not a problem with them using the tables and chairs however indicated they must be aware that it is a Saturday and public works is not available that Saturday or the Friday or Thursday before that date. Ms. Weiner indicated she would help them with getting the tables. Chief Pearlman indicated his staff would help with access to the community center and the bathrooms in Borough Hall.

Mr. Gural indicated Small Business Saturday will be held on November 30^{th.} 2019. Mr. Gural indicated we will post it on the website and on our signs. Ms. Weiner indicated she had reached out to the various businesses in town to see if they have specials, she noted when she receives the information she will forward it to Mr. Gural for the website.

Mr. Gural indicated the Fire Department is looking into a potential shared service with Riverton.

Mr. Gural noted the Independence Fire Co #1 request for waiver of Fire Safety fee has been withdrawn by the Fire Company.

Mr. Gural stated the NJ Tree Recovery Campaign information is in the packet and was sent to the Shade Tree Committee. Mr. Gural indicated they can fill out the application if they wish to participate. Mrs. Russell noted the Shade Tree Advisory Committee will work together with the Green Team on this project and will complete application by January 6th, 2019.

Mr. Gural stated the Community Center telephones have been updated and tied into our system. Mr. Gural indicated there are also two wireless phones in the center for their use as they move about the building.

Old Business

Mr. Gural indicated everyone received information regarding the lien, foreclosure proceedings and site access regarding Fillit. Mr. Rosenberg again explained the process of us signing the motion over and the possibility of the sheriff's sale. Additional information will be shared in closed session.

Mr. Gural indicated the verified complaint/order to show cause has been filed regarding the Redevelopment area Block 24, Lots 1 & 2 (former PNC Bank) and we are waiting for the determination of the value of the property by the court. Mr. Rosenberg noted when we receive the valuation of the property a declination of taking would need to be filed with the court and the funds would then need to be placed in escrow.

Mr. Gural indicated he spoke with Chairwoman Locke of the Land Use Board regarding the preliminary investigation/determination of need of the Knights of Columbus building; she indicated she intended to ask for a motion from the members at this week's Land Use Board Meeting.

Borough Hall sewer pump pit issues and potential installation of grinder pumps was discussed earlier. Mr. Gural stated Mr. Rosenberg prepared a draft agreement for the Municipal Services Act agreement for salting/brining of certain roadways in the Riverfront. Mr. Gural indicated the final document will be presented at the December 2nd meeting for review and approval at which time it can be extended to the Riverfront.

Mr. Gural spoke about Transform South Jersey, Community Heart & Soul grant program and our partners, PIA. Mr. Gural indicated Mr. Gerkens is working on the application which is due December 6th, 2019, in the hopes of obtaining the \$100,000.00 grant.

Mr. Gural indicated he will be speaking with Rileigh's in regards to installing the snowflake lights. But wanted to know if there was anything else council wished to have done as we no longer have the holiday decorations on the railroad. Mr. Gural asked what council wished to do with Borough Hall. Mrs. Russell asked it Rileigh's could also install lights on Borough Hall. There was some discussion regarding what to do. It was decided we would speak with Rileigh's and see what can be done. Mrs. Tait indicated there is also a request two Nutcracker Soldiers for the Community Center. After some additional discussion it was decided they would be bought.

Mr. Gural noted the Facebook comments on the Farmers Market Facebook page have been turned off.

Mr. Gural indicated the passwords need to be turned over to the Borough administrator for operation of that Facebook page.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gural indicated a new episode of "Did You Know" is about downtown parking.

Mr. Gural indicated the RFP/RFQs request for 2020 is posted on the website, feel free to distribute them to anyone, just noted they are due back Friday December 6^{th} , 2019 by 2:00 pm.

Mr. Gural indicated the 2020 budget process is underway; department heads are to have their information back to Mr. Gural by December 16th, 2019. Mr. Gural also noted the non-profit organizations have been notified.

Mr. Gural indicated everyone on Council has been signed up for the .JIF Elected Officials Liability Seminar, Thursday, December 5^{th} at O'Connor's.

Mr. Gural stated the BAN must be renewed annually. The information received from Ms. Condo was forwarded to the governing body for review.

Mr. Gural stated the tax collector position ad has been placed on the NJLM website.

Mr. Gural indicated the borough council transition meeting will be scheduled shortly for council person elect Farrah Jenkins.

Mr. Gural indicated many will be out of the office this coming week attending the New Jersey League of Municipalities conference.

Council presented the temporary plaque (used in the park until the final sign could be installed) to the Flournoy family.

Celeste Flournoy thanked council for the plaque.

Ms. Weiner indicated the downtown parking letters were sent to businesses and there were some responses; she noted some of the responses. Ms. Weiner indicated all of the concerns mentioned were addressed. Ms. Weiner indicated she would like to move forward however was told that the Mayor would veto the ordinance. Mrs. Tait indicated the main concern was they need to have another meeting with the businesses to show them that actual ordinance before this is actually introduced, so if changes need to be made, they could be done before it was introduced. Mrs. Russell indicated she wanted to have another meeting with the businesses. There was some additional discussion regarding the ordinance and it moving forward. It was decided another meeting would be held with the businesses and the ordinance would be presented for discussion before the ordinance is introduced.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Howard 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

Ms. Lane- Cinnaminson Avenue - Ms. Lane stated her clients as well as herself have been harassed about where they are parking. Ms. Lane indicated on Palmyra Day she was told she would have to move

her car and there was no place for her clients to park. People were told they had to move their cars. Ms. Lane indicated there are no handicap parking spaces in the immediate area or close to the salon. Ms. Lane indicated clients have been harassed by Mr. Oberg regarding parking. Ms. Lane indicated some various situations which have occurred. What can be done regarding the parking situation? Ms. Weiner indicated she will reach out to her.

Mr. Fratto- Broad Street – Mr. Fratto stated he liked the things Ms. Weiner has put together. Mr. Fratto indicted Chief Pearlman was thinking of hiring a person to enforce the parking limits, if this is put off until next year how can the Chief plan his budget.

Mrs. VanEmburgh- Garfield Avenue - Mrs. VanEmburgh inquired about the parking on the 600 and 700 block of Garfield and on Spring Garden Street. Ms. VanEmburgh noted during the Mosque hours there is no place to park. President Howard indicated he will speak to the Chief about the parking on the corners. There was some additional discussion. Mrs. VanEmburgh asked how much money the Halloween Parade Committee gives back to the Borough for the cleanup of the field after the Halloween Parade. How much money is being spent to clean up?

Ms. Genstein – Wrensong Court – Ms. Genstein indicated she offered to donate a micro-chip scanner for pets detained in the police station. Ms. Genstein also noted she offered to go in and scan those pets but the offer was declined by Chief Pearlman. Ms. Genstein stated she wanted to know from council how to revisit the proposal. Mr. Gural indicated the Borough has a shared service contract for animal control with Willingboro, which is for a fixed amount. Mrs. Tait indicated the committee will meet and have a conversation with the Chief regarding the contract and use of the micro-chip scanner. Mrs. Tait indicated she should email the information to her and she would get back to her.

Mrs. Holloway – Broad Street– Mrs. Holloway asked what the fee for a vacant property is. Mr. Gural indicated \$500.00 and explained how the vacancy is determined. Mrs. Holloway asked where the Soup Bar is located. Ms. Holloway indicated she was happy to see some movement on the Redevelopment of the Rt. 73 area, and indicated they keep moving this forward.

Mrs. Veitenheimer – Rowland Street – Mrs. Veitenheimer asked if there would be arrangements made at the Winter Night Market to help people safety cross the streets. Mr. Howard indicated they would bring it up in the public safety committee meeting and speak with Chief Pearlman. Mr. Gural indicated it is a private organization's event. Ms. Veitenheimer indicated when she attended other communities' events police officers /crossing guards were in place to make sure people could safely cross the streets. President Howard indicated he would speak with the Chief and the PIA to determine the need.

Mr. Muzaffer- 5th street – Mr. Muzaffer indicated he had a problem with his sewer billing. He explained his property is being back billed for five years for two sewer units. He does not think he should have to pay it, it should start billing from now and forward. Mr. Gural indicated the gentleman has a two-unit building and is responsible for paying two fees. Mr. Gural stated we recently discovered it was improperly billed, and there is an ordinance which requires us to back bill six years. Mr. Gural

indicated council cannot waive that fee as it is imposed by and ordinance and has been imposed on all other residents. Mr. Gural indicated we can give Mr. Muzaffer a copy of the ordinance. Mr. Gural indicated the best we can do is the payment plan, which as long as you continue on the plan there is no interest due on the outstanding balance. President Howard noted councils' hands are tied on what can be done.

Mr. Keisler. – 5th street – Mr. Keisler indicated after a hard rain the corners of 5th and Arch and 5th and Race Street have ponding water. He noted the water freezes and then we have ice. Mr. Keisler indicated he just wanted to make council aware of the situation as it is a safety issue. President Howard will take it up with the public safety committee

Ms. Flournoy – Arch Street – Ms. Flournoy indicated cars are parked all the way to the corners on Broad Street at the corner of Arch Street; you have to get all the way out into the street to see what is coming. Ms. Flournoy indicated something needs to be done with parking on the corners so you can get out of Arch Street safely. Ms. Flournoy also noted the intersection of 5th and Arch Street does flood after a heavy rain and freezes when it is cold. President Howard indicated the committee will look into it.

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

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Russell – Construction – Shade Tree Liaison – Mrs. Russell indicated the committee indicated they would introduce the sign ordinance next year. Mrs. Russell indicated the Shade Tree Committee is working on their budget and looking at where trees need to be replaced. Mrs. Russell indicated they will also work on the application for the tree seedlings.

Mrs. McCann – Administration and Finance – Ms. McCann stated the Admin and Finance committee met to discuss the tax collector opening.

Ms. Weiner – Business and Community Development, Homeowner Association – Ms. Weiner indicated she spoke about Small business Saturday and noted a conversation with Mr. Gural regarding the ashtrays for the downtown area. Ms. Weiner indicated she wanted to speak with the Mayor regarding the kiosk. Ms. Weiner indicated at a prior meeting a resolution was presented for the \$50,000.00 kiosk which was pulled from the agenda and council decided to not move forward with the kiosk. Ms. Weiner stated that even though this was done, sometime later the Borough was presented with an invoice for the kiosk and was told the kiosk was ordered by the Mayor. Ms. Weiner indicated she would like to have more information regarding the placement of that order by the Mayor. Mrs. Tait indicated we received an invoice for the down payment on the kiosk in the amount of \$25,000.00, after it was voted down on October 21st, 2019. Mrs. Tait indicated there are still problems with the paver payments and placements. Mrs. Tait asked Mr. Gural was it possible to send this information and the information regarding the pavers to the Division of Local Government Services to be added to the other complaints filed with the ethics board. Mr. Gural indicated council could direct Mr. Rosenberg and him to move

forward with sending the information to the DLGS to be added to the various other complaints already sent to them. Mr. Gural explained how the kiosk order happened and was cancelled. Ms. Condo explained the process of purchasing items at the municipality. Ms. Condo noted that because of the price of the item council would have to publicly bid the project. There was some additional discussion regarding the placement of the order, how the invoice was questioned and the cancellation of the order. Mr. Rosenberg indicated he felt like Ms. Weiner; the matter needed to be brought up at the next meeting and the Mayor should be given the opportunity to respond. Mr. Rosenberg indicated if council authorizes Mr. Gural to contact the Mayor either orally or in writing that this will be on the agenda at the next meeting for explanation from the mayor. Mr. Howard noted he wanted to send the information to DGLS. There was some additional discussion regarding the kiosk and the order placement. Ms. McCann asked if that was a misappropriation of funds.

Mrs. Tait made a motion to approve Resolution 2019–248 instructing Mr. Gural and Mr. Rosenberg to send the information to DLGS regarding the brick pavers and the Kiosk purchase and to address a letter to the mayor indicating this will be on the agenda at the next meeting for explanation. Mrs. Russell 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

Ms. Weiner indicated the Green team will be meeting on December 4th, 2019 and is making more effort with community outreach and sustainable New Jersey. Ms. Weiner indicated they are discussing the possibility of showing movies every week regarding the green team and environmental concerns. Russell requested general approval to change some content on the green team website. Council agreed.

Mr. Allmond –Communications and Public Relations Committee– Mr. Allmond indicated he had nothing for communications. Mr. Allmond noted the Board of Education will have is reorganization meeting on January 2nd, 2020. Mr. Allmond indicated the board had some concerns regarding the redevelopment area and an increase in the student population of the school.

President Howard – Youth and Recreation, Public Building, Grounds and Parks, Public Works & Sewer–President Howard asked Chief Pearlman to make sure the police were closing up the bathrooms at Legion Field.

Mrs. Tait – Public Safety Committee, Board of Education, Public Events – Mrs. Tait stated, she, Mr. Allmond and Mr. Howard attended the staff meeting to reassure the public works staff that they would not be losing their jobs. Mrs. Tait stated that Public works was told if a particular group of people were elected the Borough would be privatizing their jobs and they would be out.

Mr. Rosenberg asked President Howard if the governing body had decided on the meeting schedule for the month of December 2019. He noted two meetings are scheduled. Mr. Gural noted although both meetings are scheduled he did not think the second meeting would be necessary. President Howard indicated seeing no need for the meeting of the 16^{th} of December that meeting is cancelled. Council agreed. Mrs. Russell asked if the governing body could set the date for the reorganization meeting in 2020. Mrs. Gina Tait stated the Reorganization meeting of the Borough of Palmyra will be held January 4^{th} , 2020 at 11:00 am at Borough Hall.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

There were no Council comments.

President Howard asked if there was any additional business for executive session. Mr. Gural indicated yes regarding Negotiations, Litigation

President Howard asked for a motion to approve **Resolution 2019–249**. Mrs. Allmond made a motion to approve Resolution 2019–249, Resolution Excluding the Public from Certain Meetings pursuant to section 89 of the Open Public Meeting Act C. 231 P.L. 1975 regarding Negotiations, Litigation. Mrs. Russell 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 2019-249 was approved

Borough Council went into closed session at 9:32 PM

Closed Session

Borough Council returned from closed session at 9:55 PM

Mr. Allmond made a motion to open to the public. Mrs. Russell second the motion.

All voted in favor of the motion.

President Howard asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Allmond second the motion.

All voted in favor of the motion

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Doretha R Jackson, RMC

Municipal Clerk