

Borough of Palmyra
Council Caucus Meeting Minutes
Monday February 1st, 2021

The Regular Council Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra was called to order by Mayor Tait at 6:34 PM

ROLL CALL

At the call of the roll:

PRESENT: Brandon Allmond, Laura Cloud, Farrah Jenkins, Michelle McCann, Bernadette Russell, President Timothy Howard, Mayor Gina Ragomo Tait

ABSENT: None

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., and in consideration of Executive Order No. 103, issued by Governor Murphy on March 9, 2020, declaring a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency in the State of New Jersey and in response to Executive Order No 196 issued by Governor Murphy on November 16, 2020. Please be advised the Borough of Palmyra does hereby notify the public that to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens while ensuring the continued functioning of government, the meeting of the Mayor and Council will be a Virtual Council Meeting. Members of the public are invited to “attend” the Virtual Council Meeting but all members of the public participating in the meeting may be muted and their video image disabled. Notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times on January 12th, 2021. Notice was posted on the Municipal Door, Official Bulletin Board, and electronic signs on January 5th, 2021. Notice was also posted on the Borough of Palmyra Website on January 29th, 2021 and notice was given to all Council Members.

President Howard left the meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the December 7th, 2020 Council Caucus Meeting Minutes and December 7th, 2020 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Allmond made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7th, 2020 Council Caucus Meeting Minutes and December 7th, 2020 Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Mrs. Jenkins second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

INFAVOR: Mr. Allmond, Dr. Cloud, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell

AGAINST: None

Motion Carried

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the January 4th, 2021 Reorganization Meeting Minutes. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 4th, 2021 Reorganization Meeting Minutes. Mrs. McCann second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

INFAVOR: Mr. Allmond, Dr. Cloud, Mrs. McCann

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Jenkins

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Municipal Clerk, Ms. Jackson acknowledged the following correspondence received:

Thank-You Card- Lorraine Miller

Letter- Erin Nooney- Senior Wetlands Specialist, Mosquito Control, Burlington County Freeholders

E-mail – Dave Gerken

President Howard returned to the meeting

Discussion was had regarding closing the meeting due to racist, disparaging comments and the displaying of pornographic images from some people attending the meeting. A new meeting date and online meeting scheduling/platform was discussed momentarily. It was decided to close the meeting and locate the source. Additional discussion was had, and the following occurred:

Ordinance 2021-3, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington and State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 215 of the Code of the Borough of Palmyra Entitled “Sewers”

Mayor Tait requested of motion to approve Ordinance 2021-3. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-3. President Howard seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Dr. Cloud, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: None

RECUSE: Mr. Allmond, Mrs. Jenkins

Motion carried. Ordinance 2020-10 was approved on first reading.

Mayor Tait then read Resolution 2021-86 and Resolution 2021-87

Resolution 2021-86, Resolution Appointing Kyle McGill as Zoom Coordinator for Municipal Court effective January 14th, 2021 at the rate \$75.00 per session until February 12th, 2021

Resolution 2021-87, Resolution Appointing Amanda Schwartz as full-time tax clerk effective January 25, 2021 at 14.50 per hour

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Resolutions 2021-86 and 2021-87

Mr. Allmond made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-86 and Resolution 2021-87. Mrs. McCann seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Mr. Allmond, Dr. Cloud, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion Carried, Resolution 2021-86 and Resolutions 2021-87 were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

All comments will become part of the record and included with the Meeting Minutes.

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open to the Public for comments 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. Motion Carried

Mayor Tait asked if any comments were received before the meeting.

Municipal Clerk, Ms. Jackson indicated no comments were received prior to the meeting.

Mayor Tait asked if there were any additional comments from those present.

No one from the public wishing to be heard, Mayor Tait asked for a motion to close the Public Portion. President Howard made a motion to close the public portion, Mrs. Russell second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

Mr. Rosenberg asked Mayor Tait if they could go into closed session as there were somethings regarding negotiations and potential litigation which needed to be discussed.

Resolution 2021-93 Resolution Excluding the Public from Certain Meetings Pursuant To Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act C. 231 P. L. 1975 for matters relating to:

Contracts, Negotiations, potential litigation

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Resolution 2021-93. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-93. Mr. Allmond second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Mr. Allmond, Dr. Cloud, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Into closed at 7:19 pm

Out of closed at 8:02 pm

Mayor Tait requested a motion to open to public. Mr. Allmond made a motion to open to the public.

Mrs. Russell second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

DRJ

Doretha R Jackson, RMC

Municipal Clerk