

Borough of Palmyra
Regular Council Meeting, 6:30 PM
Monday June 21st, 2021

The Regular Council Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra was called to order by Mayor Tait at 6:31 PM

ROLL CALL

At the call of the roll:

PRESENT: Mr. Brandon Allmond, Dr. Laura Cloud, Mrs. Farrah Jenkins, Mrs. Bernadette Russell, President Timothy Howard, Mayor Gina Ragomo Tait

ABSENT: Mrs. Michelle McCann

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 May 20th, 2021. Notice was also posted on the Borough of Palmyra Website on June 4th, 2021 and notice was given to all Council Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 7th, 2021 – Council Caucus Meeting Minutes

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the June 7th, 2021 Council Caucus Meeting Minutes.

President Howard made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 7th, 2021 Council Caucus Meeting. Mr. Allmond second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Russell

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Municipal Clerk, Ms. Jackson acknowledged the following correspondence:

Resolution Received from Land Use Board regarding consistency of Ordinance 2021-08 with Master Plan

Letter- Karen Adams- Co-Chair PHS Post Prom Committee

Email- Rick Dreby, Bethany Lutheran Church

Mr. Gural noted Mr. Derby's request noting he would look into it and prepare a potential change if agreeable to the governing body.

REDEVELOPMENT

Rt. 73 South Redevelopment Area- Update

Mr. Gural and Mr. Rosenberg explained the Memo/checklist that Mr. Rosenberg prepared. Mr. Rosenberg explained the request from the attorney for NP Palmyra, LLC regarding the valuations of the Fillit property we requested be completed.

Outlaw Training & Fitness/620-622 Highland Ave Redevelopment Project – Update

Mr. Gural indicated there is nothing new to report, noting the valuation hearing is still scheduled to be heard in Superior Court in August.

Redevelopment Study Block 80 Lot 6, former Knights of Columbus property- Update

Mr. Gural indicated he had nothing new to report.

PROFESSIONAL UPDATES

William Kirchner, ERI

Mr. Kirchner explained in detail the resolutions on the agenda for approval. Mr. Kirchner explained the situation with the generator at the sewer plant noting the cost of repairing the current generator and the cost of a new generator. Mr. Kirchner explained that we are currently renting a generator at a cost of \$8,600.00 per month. Mayor Tait and President Howard asked about the Temple Blvd project asking if it was a way temporary striping could be placed on the street to better guide people as to where they should be driving, as there are currently no markings and with the new bump outs, some people are confused and are driving in the middle of the street. Mr. Kirchner indicated he would look into it.

REPORTS

Palmyra Board of Education Liaison

Ms. Allen-Yoakum stated the last day of school was June 18th, 2021, also noting that graduation was held the same day. Ms. Allen-Yoakum stated the Board of Education had approved the Strategic Plan for the District and noted it would be available on the school's website for anyone wishing to review/read it.

PHS Student Representatives

Naomi Cabon – Ms. Cabon stated that many students came out to help with the Juneteenth Celebration in Riverton Park and the E-Cycling event at the Community Center.

Mayor Tait then introduced the two new police officers, Isael Torres-Jimenez and Casey Malik. Mayor Tait pulled and read the following resolutions:

Resolution 2021-155, Appointing Isael Torres-Jimenez to the Borough of Palmyra Police Department as Patrolman Effective July 5th, 2021 with an annual salary of \$38,349.56.

Resolution 2021-156, Appointing Casey Malik to the Borough of Palmyra Police Department as Patrolman Effective July 5th, 2021 with an annual salary of \$38,349.56.

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Resolution 2021-155 and Resolution 2021-156.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolutions 2021-155 and Resolutions 2021-156. President Howard seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

Motion Carried, Resolution 2021-155 and Resolution 2021-156 were approved.

Mayor Tait welcomed the new officers and indicated the oaths of office would be done in the office on July 5th, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

We request those participants wishing to have or make a public comment, email their questions or comments in advance to Borough Clerk Rita Jackson at djackson@boroughofpalmyra.com. The opportunity to submit comments prior to meeting expires at 12:00 PM on Monday June 21st, 2021. All comments will become part of the record and included with the Meeting Minutes.

Mayor Tait 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. 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. Mrs. Russell made a motion to close the public portion, President Howard second the motion.

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

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING public hearing

Ordinance 2021-08, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra County of Burlington, New Jersey Prohibiting the operation of any class of cannabis businesses within its geographical boundaries

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open Ordinance 2021-08 for public hearing. Mrs. Russell made a motion to open Ordinance 2021-08 for public comments. President Howard second the motion

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Seeing no comments Mayor Tait requested a motion to close the public portion for hearing of Ordinance 2021-08. Mrs. Russell made a motion to close the public hearing of Ordinance 2021-08. President Howard second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Tait requested of motion to approve Ordinance 2021-08. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-08. President Howard seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Mr. Allmond, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: Dr. Cloud

ABSENT: Mrs. McCann

Motion carried. Ordinance 2021-08 was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-144 thru Resolution 2021-154 and Resolution 2021-157 thru Resolution 2021-161 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. Mayor Tait asked if anything needed to be removed. Noting

no one requested additional discussion on any resolutions, Mayor Tait read the following resolutions into the record:

Resolution 2021-144, Resolution Requesting Approval of Item of Revenue and Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87 (Chapter 159) for 2021 Clean Communities Grant in the Amount of \$16,437.24

Resolution 2021-145, Resolution Awarding Change Order #2 to Think Pavers Hardscaping, LLC for the 2020 Road Improvement Project resulting in a Decrease Amount of \$5,556.89 for a new Adjusted Contract Price of \$367,373.75 per Environmental Resolutions, Inc. Request dated June 3rd, 2021.

Resolution 2021-146, Resolution Awarding Change Order #3 to Coastline Construction, LLC. For the Sanitary Sewer Replacement/Public Road Pump Station Elimination Project Resulting in a Decreased Amount of \$6,647.00 for a new Adjusted Contract Price of \$880,083.50 per Environmental Resolutions, Inc.'s Request dated June 3rd, 2021

Resolution 2021-147, Resolution Awarding Change Order #1 to Think Pavers Hardscaping, LLC for the Temple Boulevard Improvement Project with the Increased amount of \$155.55 from the Original Base Price of \$937,602.00 making the New Adjusted Contract Price \$937,757.55 per Environmental Resolutions, Inc.'s Request Dated June 3rd, 2021

Resolution 2021-148, Resolution Approving Johnathan J Hickey as an Active Member of the Palmyra Fire Department

Resolution 2021-149, Resolution Authorizing the 2021-2022 Liquor License Renewal of Oberg, LLC T/A Currans Irish Inn/5 West Pub Plenary Retail Consumption License with Broad C #0327-32-003-007

Resolution 2021-150, Resolution Authorizing Participation of the Borough of Palmyra in the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to Apply for and receive, \$747,333.48 to Respond to Acute Pandemic Response Needs, Fill Revenue Shortfalls, and Support Communities and Populations Hardest-hit by the Covid-19 Crisis.

Resolution 2021-151, Resolution Authorizing Electronic Tax Sales for the Borough of Palmyra

Resolution 2021-152, Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Municipal Certificate #20-00029 for Block 81 Lot 13.01

Resolution 2021-153, Resolution awarding a contract to Pioneer General Contracting for the 2021 Road Program in the amount of \$386,565.00 which includes Alternates #1, #2, #3, and #4 per Recommendation of Award Letter dated June 16th, 2021 from Environmental Resolutions, Inc., subject to CFO certification of funds and solicitor's review.

Resolution 2021-154, Resolution of Reappointment of Doretha R Jackson to the Position of Municipal Clerk and Establishment of Tenure

Resolution 2021-157, Resolution Appointing Antony Perkins, Tyler Tolan and Christopher Henriques as Part-Time Class I Officers of the Borough of Palmyra Police Department at the rate of \$12.50 per hour, not to exceed 20 hours per week, per their individual offers of employment.

Resolution 2021-158, Resolution Recalling Michele Sykes from Layoff effective July 6th, 2021 per her Previous Salary and terms & conditions of employment.

Resolution 2021-159, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of June 2021 Bills in the Amount of \$1,770,831.89

Resolution 2021-160, Resolution in Support of a Pedestrian Signal Button at the Intersection of Broad Street and Highland Avenue

Resolution 2021-161, Resolution Appointing Tanyika Johns Full-time Tax Collector for the Borough of Palmyra, effective August 2nd, 2021 at an Annual Salary of \$92,000.00

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Resolutions 2021-144 thru Resolution 2021-154 and Resolutions 2021-157 thru Resolution 2021-161. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolutions 2021-144 thru Resolution 2021-154 and Resolutions 2021-157 thru Resolution 2021-161. Mr. Allmond seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

Motion Carried, Resolution 2021-144 thru Resolutions 2021-154 and Resolution 2021-157 thru 2021-161 were approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURERS' REPORTS

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve the Treasurer's report of May 2021. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the May 2021 Treasurer's Report. Mr. Allmond second the motion.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

PUBLIC EVENTS

Mayor Tait indicated the Juneteenth E-Cycle event was a success and the Celebration concert was good even through the weather closed the concert early.

Mrs. Russell indicated the Town-wide Yard Sale would be held September 18, 2021.

Mayor Tait indicated the PIA requested to take over the Farmer's Market beginning in August. Mayor Tait asked the governing body how they felt about it. The governing body agreed that it would be ok.

Mayor Tait stated the "Neighbor to Neighbor" project would begin on June 29th, 2021 in the 200 Block of Front Street at 7:00 pm. Mayor Tait noted that flyers for the block parties will be out letting people know when and where the next Neighbor to Neighbor block party would be.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Gural indicated he had provided the details for the reopening of Borough Hall, noting the open to the public summer hours, would be 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday thru Thursday beginning July 6th, 2021 and limiting the number of people inside the building at one time to three. Mr. Gural indicated Michelle Sykes would be returning to work to manage those coming in and out of the building along with her prior responsibilities.

Mr. Gural noted that one of our employees was exposed to Covid-19 today and will be following the necessary steps to quarantine. Mr. Gural noted Covid-19 is not gone and only 59% of our Palmyra residents are vaccinated. Mr. Gural stated the entire staff in Borough Hall has been vaccinated. Mr. Gural noted the staff is in the building but have adjusted their hours for the summer. Mr. Gural indicated they are working one additional hour daily Monday thru Thursday and reduced hours on Friday when the building is not open to the public. Mr. Gural asked the governing body how they felt regarding moving forward with hybrid meeting. After a little discussion it was agreed we would hold the next meeting July 19th, 2021 as a hybrid. Council should be notifying Mr. Gural or Ms. Jackson as to how they will be attending the next meeting so arrangements can be made. Mr. Gural noted the public will also be limited to allow for social distancing.

Mr. Gural indicated the Field usage; Community Center Ordinance is a placeholder as we await additional information from committee.

Mr. Gural indicated the Finance/Payroll Office vacancy we believe we have a plan to fill from within. Mr. Gural noted a staff meeting tomorrow to finalize a plan for moving forward.

Mr. Gural indicated the following items; Purchase Orders - Council signature requirement, Sidewalk/snow & ice removal ordinance, Sewer lateral responsibility Ordinance and Sewer bills, and Handicap Parking Sign Ordinance are all placeholders awaiting additional information.

Mr. Gural indicated he was recommending the Fire Company lease be renewed for one-year at \$17,500.00 which in a \$2,500.00 increase over our previous lease and was budgeted for 2021. Mr. Gural indicated the approval needed to be completed by resolution. Mr. Gural indicated Resolution 2021-162, Resolution Authorizing a lease Agreement with the independence Fire Co. #1 for one year at \$17,500.00 for the Borough's Use and Storage of Equipment in the Firehouse and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute said Lease Agreement.

Mayor Tait asked for a Motion to approve Resolution 2021-162, Resolution Authorizing a lease Agreement with the Independence Fire Co. #1 for one year at \$17,500.00 for the Borough's Use and Storage of Equipment in the Firehouse and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute said Lease Agreement. President Howard made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-162 Authorizing a lease Agreement with the Independence Fire Co. #1 for one year at \$17,500.00 for the Borough's Use and Storage of Equipment in the Firehouse and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute said Lease Agreement. Mrs. Russell second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

Motion Carried, Resolution 2021-162 was approved.

Mr. Gural indicated the Master committee will be meeting this week regarding the Salaries and ATB increases. Mr. Gural indicated he was unsure as to Council's decision as to whether the governing body intended to accept the ATB increase or not. Mr. Gural indicated he needed to hear from everyone by tomorrow morning so payroll could be processed. Mayor Tait requested council emailed Mr. Gural and let him know if you want the increase or not.

Mr. Gural indicated he, Chief Campbell met regarding the Parking Ordinance. Mr. Gural indicated he had a few more details to work out and would have the updated Ordinance for introduction at the July meeting and final approved at the August meeting.

Mayor Tait indicated she was still waiting for responses from individuals she had contact and was hoping to have the appointments for the Rt. 130/Delaware River Corridor Plan Endorsement Committee by the next meeting.

Mr. Almond indicated he had spoken with ERI regarding the Veterans Memorial Park Improvement Project and in the next three weeks they will have everything ready to send the project out for bid.

Mr. Gural indicated the DCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant (300,000.00) has been submitted.

Mr. Gural noted the G-Max test results noting that the field needs improvement. Mr. Gural indicated he had requested additional testing from other companies we have worked with and are awaiting their results. Mr. Gural noted they are some stop gap improvements which need to be completed now, before full replacement of the field. Mr. Gural indicated full replacement of the field is an extended process as first we need to win the grant, final design and public bidding which could amount to a year or more. Mr. Rosenberg indicated he was concerned when he read the G-Max report and would definitely like a second report. Mr. Rosenberg indicated he was hopeful to receive that information at which time he would give a more detailed response regarding proceeding forward.

Mr. Gural indicated Mr. Gerken reached out to DCA Local Assistance Bureau regarding the potential Fire Department/EMS merger/shared service feasibility study. Mr. Gural indicated they have agreed to conduct the study regarding a merger between our Fire Department and EMS squad and between our Fire Department, EMS Squad and other Fire Departments and EMS Squads. Mr. Gural noted they have also agreed to allow us to apply for the implementation of any of their recommendations from the study thru the LEAP Program. Mr. Gural noted we will not have to pay for the study or the implementation of the program it will be funded by the State.

Mr. Gural stated the DVRPC Safe Routes to Transit Technical Assistance Program was suggested by Ms. Hui of the Land Use Board. Mr. Gural stated the program will look at a possible connection (pedestrian walkway) between the Light rail station in Pennsauken and our Redevelopment area. Mr. Gural indicated Mr. Gerken reached out to the committee and will continue to pursue the opportunity to see where it goes.

Mr. Gural indicated he did not feel the Green Acres loan program was a good fit for Palmyra, noting the improvement must be made available to all residents of New Jersey.

Mr. Gural stated the Highland Ave crosswalk/pedestrian signal button has already been discussed. Mayor Tait asked Mr. Gural when recycling would be back in town. Mr. Gural indicated he was not aware but to check the County's website. Mayor Tait indicated that possibly in the next two weeks they should be getting back to their schedule.

Mr. Gural indicated the Brownfields 2021 Convention will be held in Oklahoma City from December 8-11, 2021 if anyone is interested.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mr. Gural indicated the American Rescue Plan Local Fiscal Recovery Fund resolution was passed earlier, noting that Ms. Condo was focusing on lost revenue for the first half of the funding.

Mr. Gural indicated the 2021 Capital Improvement Ordinances are being prepared and will be introduced at the July 19th, meeting with final adoption scheduled for the August 16th, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Gural noted the 2020 Audit Exit Conference was held and the audit went smoothly noting no findings were reported and only a few discussion items were discussed.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Russell indicated she was excited about the upcoming Block Party events.

Dr. Cloud indicated she also was excited about the upcoming Block Party events and is willing to help with what ever needs to be done.

Mrs. Jenkins indicated she was excited about the upcoming Block Party events.

Mr. Allmond indicated the student representative guidelines have be revised and he is awaiting the response from Ms. Sabo at PHS. He noted that the school will be including the guidelines on their website to try to reach out to more students. Mr. Allmond indicated the Veterans' Meet and Greet will be held July 10th, 2021 at 10:00 am at Legion Field Pavilion.

President Howard thanked Mr. Rosenberg for putting together the letter and resolution in support of the signal at Highland Avenue and Broad Street. President Howard also congratulated the Seniors that graduated from Palmyra High School. President Howard thanked Mayor Tait and those who helped put together the Juneteenth events.

Mayor Tait stated she attended a ceremony at the Fire Company celebrating 50 years of service from Mr. William Quigg to the Fire Company. Mayor Tait Appointed Sharmaine Belton to the Land Use Board to fill the vacancy created by Brian O'Kane's resignation. Mayor Tait reminded all that the Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic will be held every Tuesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Community Center beginning June 22nd, 2021. Mayor Tait stated the Riverton 4th of July Parade will be held on July 3rd, 2021 and the governing body had been invited to participate. Mayor Tait noted if anyone would like to walk in the parade to let her know so she can notify Mayor Wells. Mayor Tait congratulated the graduating seniors, the new police officers and the Class I officers appointed.

Mayor Tait asked Mr. Gural and Mr. Rosenberg if there were items for closed session. Mr. Gural and Mr. Rosenberg indicated no.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM

Doretha R. Jackson, RMC
Borough of Palmyra

Approved: July 19th, 2021