

**Borough of Palmyra**  
**Virtual Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The Regular Council Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra was called to order by Mayor Tait at 6:30 PM

**ROLL CALL**

At the call of the roll:

PRESENT: Mr. Brandon Allmond, Dr. Laura Cloud, Mrs. Michelle McCann, President Timothy Howard, Mayor Gina Ragomo Tait

ABSENT: Mrs. Farrah Jenkins, Mrs. Bernadette Russell

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Russell joined the meeting at 6:32

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT**

Mayor Tait read the following into the record:

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. Please be advised the Borough of Palmyra does hereby notify the public that to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens, and to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 and its variants, 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 “Virtually” (via computer or phone) but all members of the public participating in the meeting virtually may be muted and their video image disabled. Notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Notice was posted on the Municipal Door, Official Bulletin Board, and electronic signs on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Notice was also posted on the Borough of Palmyra Website on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and notice was given to all Council Members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the November 1, 2021, Council Caucus Meeting Minutes and the November 1, 2021, Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the Council Caucus Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2021, and Executive session Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2021. President Howard second the motion.

**At the call of the roll the vote was:**

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

**AGAINST: None**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Palmyra Land Use Board comments regarding Ordinance 2021-14 consistency with Master Plan,  
received Resolution 2021-18 from Palmyra Land Use Board

Resignation Letter- Amy Austin

Resignation Letter- Gail Marquis

Resignation Letter – Ryan Palmer

Mayor Tait requested a motion to accept Ms. Austin, Ms. Marquis, and Mr. Palmer's letters of resignation. Mrs. Russell made a motion to accept Ms. Austin, Ms. Marquis and Mr. Palmer's letters of resignation. President Howard second the motion.

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

**Mrs. Jenkins joined the meeting at 6:38 pm**

## **REDEVELOPMENT**

Rt. 73 South Redevelopment Area- Update

Mr. Gural stated indicated several items are on the agenda for approval. Mr. Brewer noted that the amendment to Ordinance 2021-05 concerning administrative review is mostly due to the scaling down of the second warehouse due to the location of the eagle's nest and having to reduced parking due to the smaller size of the building. Mr. Brewer also noted the resolution on the agenda is regarding the change to the original redevelopment agreement allowing a smaller building to be constructed than originally agreed upon. Mr. Gural stated the project is well underway moving dirt and installing pipework for sewer and stormwater drainage. Mr. Gural noted that permits have also been issued for foundation work.

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

Mr. Gural indicated he had nothing new to report. Mr. Brewer indicated the new court valuation hearing has not yet been scheduled.

Sea Box/ELM Office LLC, 321 E. Broad Street - Former Knights of Columbus Property- Update

Mr. Gural stated he had nothing new to report regarding the property.

## **PROFESSIONAL UPDATES**

William Kirchner, ERI- Mr. Kirchner indicated the contractor for the 2021 Road Program has completed the road work on Rowland Street, New Jersey Avenue, Madison Street and Second Street;

the basketball court at Ethal B Hardy Park still needs to be completed but because of the weather than will be completed in the spring of 2022. Mr. Kirchner indicated he received the training and inspection requirements from the Federal government for the next phase of the Temple Blvd project and will be incorporating those requirements into the bids documents which must be out to bid by December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, noting that the requirements are different than New Jersey bid contract law. Mr. Kirchner stated the bid must be advertised for three consecutive weeks in the newspaper and the award must be done by April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Mr. Kirchner also noted that the Federal agency must review the bids prior to award by the Borough. Mr. Kirchner indicated the Spring Garden Street project and 2022 fall Road Program will be ready for bid in February/March of 2022 with the intension of having the work begin in the Spring of 2022. Mr. Kirchner indicated he is currently working on the bids for the annual contracts; on call maintenance, HVAC maintenance, and sewer maintenance; with the bids out by end of month return in December so contracts can be awarded at the reorganization meeting in January of 2022.

### **PHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**

**Mr. Coady McCann** updated council regarding the fall sports teams progress thus far this year. Mr. McCann noted both the boys' and girls' soccer teams placed first in their groups and had great seasons. Mr. McCann noted the boys' soccer team won the Freedom League Championship with a 17-5-1 season. Mr. McCann noted the PHS football team has their last game on November 24<sup>th</sup> against Burlington City. The girls' cross country participated in the Group 1 State Finals.

**Ms. Naomi Caban** stated it was Palmyra High School Band participated in the All-State Championship. Ms. Caban indicated they placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the overall competition. Ms. Caban also noted the PHS Interact Club participated in a river clean-up on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, collecting over ten bags on trash.

### **BEST PRACTICES INVENTORY PRESENTATION**

#### 2021 Municipal Best Practices Inventory Presentation

Mr. Gural went over the 2021 Best Practices Inventory commenting and noting our responses for each item. After noting the responses to the various questions on the 2021 Best Practices inventory questioner he asked if there were questions regarding our responses. Mr. Gural indicated it was forwarded to the state by the required deadline, and our answers and score make the Borough eligible for the full amount of state aid available.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

We requested those participants wishing to have or make a Public comment, email their questions or comments in advance to Municipal Clerk Rita Jackson at [djackson@boroughofpalmyra.com](mailto:djackson@boroughofpalmyra.com). The opportunity to submit comments prior to meeting expired at 12:00 PM on Monday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. All comments will become part of the record and included with the Meeting Minutes.

For those who “attended” the hybrid meeting, Mayor Tait opened the meeting to the public for comments. All comments are part of the record and are 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. Mr. Allmond second the motion.

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

Mayor Tait noted that Councilwoman Cloud left the meeting not feeling well.

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

Municipal Clerk, Ms. Jackson indicated no comments were received.

Mr. Rader- Harbour Drive – Mr. Rader stated when Council approved the changes to the Veterans Memorial Park, the entire original park was to be demolished after thirty years, except the flagpole and monument. Mr. Rader indicated he had the landscape drawings dated January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, noting the walkway leading to the Liberty Tree and beyond were also to be removed and not replaced closing one-third of the park to the public. Why was it removed? Did Council review the drawings dated January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021? Who drafted the plans/drawings? Mr. Rader stated that as of 11:00 am on Saturday, the service medallions were installed backwards. Mr. Allmond indicted the walkway was removed because it was deteriorating. There was additional discussion regarding the walkway and access to the park. Mr. Allmond indicated that after discussions with the War Memorial Committee it was decided the walkway would be removed and not replaced with the funding available for the project. The decision to remove the walkway was a collective decision between the War Memorial Improvement committee, the War Memorial Committee, the engineer with the consent and approval of Borough Council. Mr. Allmond noted the Liberty Tree is still in the park, the benches are still in the park, but the focal point of the park is the memorial. Mr. Rader stated that perhaps the public should have had some input into the final decisions regarding the improvements.

Ms. Still – Veterans Drive – Ms. Still stated the following: My name is Valerie Still. I bought the house on Veterans Dr. in the West End of Palmyra for my parents in 1991.

First, for the record...I would like to apologize to Dr. Laura Cloud. I've watched you at these meetings and also when I'm reviewing them later with others and it's not fair for me to include you in what is happening with this current governing body and my personal critique of the overall governing body. You are a refreshing; fairly new Palmyra Council member and I appreciate and respect your silence Dr. McCloud. I believe your silence is not out of ignorance or arrogance or the fact you are not interested in the concerns of #PalmyraProud residents. I believe because of your education and experience as a scientist and also as a scholar, and now as an elected public official, a public servant, you are thoughtful, not quick to attack but are processing what is being said and I'm hoping you will be the

advocate for us #PalmyraProud residents, not aligning with a political party but doing what is just and fair for all.

I'm petitioning you to help condemn the anonymous person who calls himself "Black Al," sending hate-filled emails to Palmyra residents, businesses and faith-based organizations... this should be a concern for this governing body as well. "Black Al's" derogatory stereotypes of black people is shocking... he states... "all...blacks have left... is to bitch and complain and demand from the white man ... but decided it was easier to bitch and complain and demand." Black Al goes on to say "I've seen the police and the courts railroad my white friends as many times as my black friends. That's social inequality based on class, not race." He states with an exclamation point... "What the black person needs is self-respect!" Wow...when I was notified of this email by a few of the business owners in Palmyra, I filed a police report with the Palmyra Police Department. All Palmyra residents should be disgusted by the racist, hateful email sent by this coward. And our governing body definitely needs to condemn this hate speech, even though it is covered by our Constitution with the first amendment...Freedom of Speech.

When Black Al says, "If someone puts the right word in the wrong ear, there may be consequences to pay. So, I'll remain anonymous for now." I hope Dr. Cloud, you're the right person, with the "wrong ear" and makes sure there are consequences to pay for hate speech here in Palmyra, NJ.

Second, Since the council and mayor have decided without the approval of #PalmyraProud residents to have only one public session during these council meetings, it's difficult to comment on something a council members says after the public statement session is over, but if it's made in reference to a public statement from a resident, we should be able to have a rebuttal. This happened at the last meeting.

And Mr. Radar has been requesting this since you all decided to eliminate two public sessions.

Why are you all so disrespectful to tax paying residents of Palmyra? We, American citizens, not only elect our public officials to have our interest as priority but we are also paying for the stipends you all receive, and also all the high salaries of certain individuals on this virtual meeting, in this administration, individuals who have been in certain positions for over a decade and all the other employees of the Borough of Palmyra and I believe we are also paying for members of this governing body to get accreditations which only benefit you all... so stop with the disrespect and the arrogance. Regardless of whether you are a democrat and have an allegiance to the democrat party... you have an obligation to treat all American citizens and especially #PalmyraProud residents with respect and dignity, regardless of our opinions, questions or political affiliation. I am neither democrat or republican...I am a citizen of the United States of America and I'm a #PalmyraProud resident. It's so arrogant and pretentious for Ted Rosenberg who is getting 10s of thousands of dollars each year from #PalmyraProud tax paying residents to represent and defend the interest of the people, to then advice, public elected officials to not respond to residents and cut off #PalmyraProud residents voicing their concerns. It's disrespectful for this governing body to be texting each other or emailing each other and it's against the law for public officials to be texting, emailing and communicating with each other without all those texts, communications and emails being documented on the official minutes. If you

want to eat and drink and look disinterested, have your camera off or pointed at your belly and groin area, that's your own prerogative but it makes you all look very arrogant and very unrefined as well. This may be your normal and refined fashion but for me it's rather boorish. It's a matter of class, respect and dignity. So please, please, please... go dust off your elected official guidebook and read over it. We know you have the big democratic party that supports whatever you do...but if you didn't notice anything else this past election...I hope you notice that the American people are not going to sit back and allow this nonsense. I never thought I would see the day where New Jersey wouldn't be my favorite color...Big Blue...but 2022 is not far away so, you may want to start being respectful to all residents that you have an obligation, a duty, to serve.

Council member Brandon Allmond...I cringed when you shut down Mr. Radar during one of these meeting where he was expressing concern about not having ample time for the public to discuss and understand certain resolutions and ordinance and also the fact that the official minutes are so difficult for the public to find (another resident during another council meeting expressed this as well)... but Brandon, you totally shut down Mr. Radar stating that you all had decided to eliminate the second public session... and then the last meeting you made a comment on the allegation of nepotism brought up during the public session but you did that after the one public session was closed.

You decided to refute the allegations of nepotism in this administration in regards to council members' children being selected as student council representatives for the Borough of Palmyra because you were the one who set up the guidelines and requirements and you had taken into consideration that nepotism could be an issue. But you had nothing to say about the allegations of systemic racism within the Palmyra School District or the hate speech of "Black Al" circulating in Palmyra. Well, Brandon, I'm glad you recognized the problem of nepotism in this because unfortunately, we are human and we are also parents, and you all, on top of that are elected officials. So, you are held to an even higher standard and fortunately or unfortunately, that means your children as well. I stated before, I can't win a prize at McDonalds if I have a family member working at the restaurant. Did you know that according to a study, 43 percent of white Harvard students admitted were legacy students, children of staff, on the dean's interest list—meaning their parents or relatives have donated to Harvard—or were recruited athletes. Only 57 percent of admitted white students were on merit. So, for you to be so surprised that nepotism would be a concern in this case in Palmyra when council members' children are being selected as student reps is disingenuous to say the least. And this is not about race, this is about nepotism. Remember the disgust when Trump put his children in certain positions? Why not just put in the rules that no member of the governing body's children or relatives can serve as student reps during that governing body member's term. That's easy enough. This is not a question of the qualification of the students. Please stop with this nonsense of throwing students under the bus...I'm not attacking students; I'm questioning this policy of selecting governing body members' children. I've even been attacked by a Palmyra school board member online.

I know you said this is a small town and so quite naturally, there is a shortage of students that would be available for these two spots. Wow...2 spots to fill and the Palmyra School District can't find any students that would qualify for those spots besides council members' children?

The problem with allowing the school to decide, and the Clarence B Jones Institute for Social Advocacy has had this problem, is that you have to see who is selecting these students. You can't tell me that with a student population of nearly 50% students of color, and a wide socio-economic range you are not able to find 10 - 20 diverse students for this selection. I don't want to get into details about the issue the CBJ Institute had with the selection committee at the high school but again, we are human and there is a tendency to select students that you know, or you like, or you understand...it's just human nature.

As you know, students who get these positions are able to use this experience on their college admissions application and also when applying for scholarships...so there is a monetary gain in this as well. Can you see where this could be a big problem? Remember this is the mayor and council and administration who had an ethics investigation (paid by taxpayers) of the former mayor because you all alleged, she was trying to create benefits from her title of mayor, in her profession to help herself.

What is the issue with stating that a family member, a relative of the council or mayor or administration is not allowed to have these positions? This has nothing to do with the student...it's the policy. And you know...I'm pretty sure in the elected officials' guidebook, it probably addresses this issue.

Nepotism is a serious issue. Nepotism in politics leads to political corruption. Nepotism is also having taxpayers pay for certain certifications and accreditations of council members or administrators which result in financial gain and also enhancing one's own benefits...this is unethical and should have no place in the governing body of any town or city. Does it happen? YES. Should it happen? NO. So why are you fighting for council members' children to have these positions? If you are an elected official, you have decided you are a public servant and that means altruistic service. That means selfless service. Which means putting the public ahead of your own families. That's what an elected official is...sorry. The opposite of altruism is nepotism.

Ms. Kelly- Highland Avenue Ms. Kelly asked for guidance with help regarding the speeding on Highland Avenue. Ms. Kelly asked if it was possible to have signs placed on Highland Avenue to reminding everyone of the speed limits. Chief Campbell indicated she had spoke with Mr. Kirchner, and Mr. McGill regarding solar powered signs and having them placed in various areas in town. Chief Campbell indicated they could place the traffic control sign out on Highland Avenue and place the traffic box out to monitor how much traffic is coming down Highland Avenue. Chief Campbell stated ed she would have the traffic control officer work on it.

Seeing no additional comments Mayor Tait requested a motion to close the public comment portion. President Howard made a motion to close the public comment portion. Mrs. Russell second the motion.

**All members present voted in favor of the motion.**

#### **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING public hearing**

**Ordinance 2021-14**, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2021-05 Concerning Administrative Review and Approval of Minor modifications and/or Field changes to previously approved site plans

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open Ordinance 2021-14 for public hearing. Mrs. Russell made a motion to open Ordinance 2021-14 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 2021-14. Mrs. Russell made a motion to close the public hearing of Ordinance 2021-14. President Howard second the motion.

**All members present voted in favor of the motion.**

Mayor Tait requested of motion to approve Ordinance 2021-014. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-14. President Howard seconded the motion.

**At the call of the roll, the vote was:**

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

**AGAINST: None**

**ABSENT: Dr. Cloud**

**Motion carried. Ordinance 2021-14 was approved.**

**Ordinance 2021-15**, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 190, Article III of the Code of the Borough of Palmyra Entitled Parks and Recreation Areas

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open Ordinance 2021-15 for public hearing. Mrs. Russell made a motion to open Ordinance 2021-15 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 2021-15. Mrs. Russell made a motion to close the public hearing of Ordinance 2021-15. President Howard second the motion.

**All members present voted in favor of the motion.**

Mayor Tait requested of motion to approve Ordinance 2021-015. President Howard made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-15. Mrs. Russell seconded the motion.

**At the call of the roll, the vote was:**

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

**AGAINST: None**

**ABSENT: Dr. Cloud**

**Motion carried. Ordinance 2021-15 was approved.**

**Ordinance 2021-16**, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, Burlington County, in the State of New Jersey Amending the Sewer Connection Fees.

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open Ordinance 2021-16 for public hearing. Mrs. Russell made a motion to open Ordinance 2021-16 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 2021-16. President Howard made a motion to close the public hearing of Ordinance 2021-16. Mr. Allmond second the motion.

**All members present voted in favor of the motion.**

Mayor Tait requested of motion to approve Ordinance 2021-016. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-16. President Howard seconded the motion.

**At the call of the roll, the vote was:**

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

**AGAINST: None**

**ABSENT: Dr. Cloud**

**Motion carried. Ordinance 2021-16 was approved.**

**Ordinance 2021-17**, Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Approving an Application for a Long-Term Tax Exemption and Authorizing the Execution of a Financial Agreement for a Tax Exemption for an Urban Renewal Project with Respect to the Property Commonly Known as Block 156, Lots 2, 2.01, 3.01,4.01,5.01,6.01 (Future Lot 2.03) on the Tax Map of the Borough of Palmyra

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open Ordinance 2021-17 for public hearing. Mrs. Russell made a motion to open Ordinance 2021-17 for public comments. President Howard second the motion.

**All members present voted in favor of the motion.**

Seeing no additional comments Mayor Tait requested a motion to close the public portion for hearing of Ordinance 2021-17. Mrs. Russell made a motion to close the public hearing of Ordinance 2021-17. Mr. Allmond second the motion.

**All members present voted in favor of the motion.**

Mayor Tait requested of motion to approve Ordinance 2021-017. President Howard made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-17. Mrs. Russell seconded the motion.

**At the call of the roll, the vote was:**

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

**AGAINST: None**

**ADSENT: Dr. Cloud**

**Motion carried. Ordinance 2021-17 was approved.**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Mayor Tait stated, Resolution 2021-221 thru Resolution 2021-224 would be enacted as a single motion, if any resolution needed additional discussion, it would 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 2021-221** Awarding a Contract to Allrisk Inc per Invoice # 2021-SI-17190 New Jersey State Approved COOP# 65MESCCPS ESCNJ-Bid Number ESCNJ 17/18-34 Disaster Recovery in the Amount of \$23,713.11 Subject to the Certification of the CFO

**Resolution 2021-222**, Resolution Authorizing the award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract Frenzel Auto Repair, Public Road, Palmyra, NJ for Auto Repair and Maintenance for the Borough of Palmyra

**Resolution 2021-223**, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of November 2021 Bills in the Amount of \$1,917,568.60

**Resolution 2021-224**, Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Redevelopment Agreement between the Borough of Palmyra and Palmyra Urban Renewal Entity, LLC. Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et.seq

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve the consent agenda, Resolutions 2021-221 thru Resolution 2021-224.

Mr. Allmond made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Resolution 2021-221 thru Resolution 2021-224. Mrs. Russell second the motion.

**At the call of the roll, the vote was:**

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

**AGAINST: None**

**Motion carried. Resolutions 2021-221 and Resolution 2021-224 were approved**

## **MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURERS' REPORTS'**

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

**At the call of the roll:**

**All members present voted in favor of the motion.**

**Motion Carried. Treasurer Report was approved**

## **PUBLIC EVENTS**

Mayor Tait noted that the PIA Winter Festival will be held on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Payton I Flournoy Park.

Mayor Tait noted that Santa will be arriving in town on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, he will be riding thru town on the Fire truck to greet and nod "Hello" to all.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Gural noted the continued increase in covid infections. Mr. Gural indicated we have had 10 more confirmed cases and two additional probable cases since November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Mr. Gural stated the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirement and testing requirements have been fully implemented effective today November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Mr. Gural indicated that on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, Ms. Kilmer, the police department and an outside hired vendor went to 313 Delaware Ave to again try to clean up that property; again, they were met with the tenant who insisted all items on the property belonged to him and could not be removed. The tenant indicated he would clean up the property, which is not happening. Mr. Gural stated that the solicitor would probably need to be involved to get that property clean-up, noting the death of the owner of the property.

Mrs. Russell indicated she had nothing new to report regarding the alcoholic beverage's consumption in public places ordinance. Mrs. Russell noted that because it is so late in the year the ordinance change would need to wait until next year. Mrs. Russell indicated if anyone had questions regarding the potential proposed changes to contact her.

Mr. Gural indicated he is hoping to have the Fund Balance (Surplus) usage policy for council consideration in March of next year around budget time, noting Mr. Nehilla is crafting some ideas for the policy.

Mr. Gural stated that Mr. Gerkens and Ms. Kilmer are currently working on the accessory structures/cargo containers and Zoning/Land Development Ordinance amendments. Mr. Gural indicated they are hoping to have it ready for council consideration in early 2022.

Mr. Gural indicated the sewer lateral responsibility ordinance, sewer fees, and potential water usage billing will also be updated and address in early 2022.

Mr. Gural indicated Ms. Hui has been working with the Borough regarding a pedestrian bridge/walkway from the Pennsauken Light Rail Station over the Pennsauken Creek into the new redevelopment area and the Palmyra Natura Cove. Mr. Gural noted that the NJDOT feels this will be a perfect fit for the DVRPC Local Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning assistance program. Mr. Gural stated Mr. Gerkens and Ms. Hui are working on the project with the intention of moving it forward. Mr. Gural indicated that we use to have clothing collection containers in public works. Mr. Gural stated he had been contacted by a retired police officer who is affiliated with a Veterans organization which collects clothes for veterans. Mr. Gural noted that he asked if the governing body would consider locating a collection container in public works to collect clothing for the Veteran's organization. Mr. Gural stated additional information would be submitted and he would forward it to the governing body for consideration.

### **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Mr. Gural noted that we are still advertising for the TACO and Code Enforcement Officer positions. Mr. Gural indicated he had tided the last salary increase issue for the person who is handling these jobs, to the hiring of these individuals, however because it is taking so long to get these positions filled, he will be making his recommendation to the governing body for consideration at the next meeting.

Mr. Gural stated the 2022 budget is in process and all budgets and capital requests from department heads are due to him by December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mr. Gural requested the governing body also give him any requests regarding the 2022 budget capital expenditures by December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Mr. Gural stated that Mr. Rosenberg prepared a memo which was sent to the governing body regarding the two road improvement projects and liquidated damages against the contractor. Mr. Rosenberg indicated that he needed instruction as to the extent of the liquidated damages to pursue on the projects. Mr. Rosenberg indicated discretion could be given to Mr. Gural to negotiate the amount of the liquidated damages if council so desired. Some discussion was had regarding the negotiations, and it was decided to allow Mr. Gural and Mr. Rosenberg to negotiate with the contractor regarding the amounts of the liquated damages.

Mr. Gural stated the owner of 202 Cinnaminson Ave appeared in court, plead guilty and agreed to remove the storage container from his property. Mr. Gural noted that ten days was given to allow him to remove the container, and to date the container is still at the location. Mr. Gural indicated we will be bringing the owner back into court to get this resolved.

Mr. Gural noted the Request for Proposals for Professional Services for 2022 are out and due back by December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 Noon.

Mr. Gural indicated the following items are things which the governing body is currently working on, and additional information will be coming at a later date.

- Purchase Orders - Council signature requirement

- Sidewalk/snow & ice removal Ordinance
- Handicap Parking Sign Ordinance
- Parking Ordinance - additional amended code subsections required
- Veterans Affairs Committee Ordinance
- Accessory Structures/cargo containers - Zoning/Land Development Ordinance amendments
- Trash Collection - Republic Services and potential inhouse collections

## **MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

**Mr. Allmond**- No Comment

**Mrs. Russell** – No comment

**Mrs. Jenkins** – No Comment

**Mrs. McCann**- No Comment

**President Howard** - No comment

**Mayor Tait** – Mayor Tait noted the first Mobil Pantry was held last Thursday; please pass the word that the pantry will be at the community center parking lot, every Thursday at 2:00 pm.

Mayor Tait indicated she had spoken with the County in regard to continuing the Vaccination Clinic in the Community Center, however was told they are now concentrating on school locations and are hoping to have the mega center open by the end on November. Mayor Tait thanked all Veterans for their service.

Mayor Tait asked Mr. Gural and Mr. Rosenberg if there were items for closed session. Mr. Gural and Mr. Rosenberg indicated yes regarding contracts, negotiations, and personnel.

**Resolution 2021-225, 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:

Negotiations, Contracts, personnel

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Resolution 2021-225. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-225. President Howard second the motion.

**At the call of the roll, the vote was:**

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

**AGAINST: None**

Into closed at 8:36 pm

Out of closed at 9:03 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.

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 9:05 PM

Doretha R. Jackson, RMC

Municipal Clerk

Borough of Palmyra

Approved: December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021