

Borough of Palmyra
Regular Council Meeting Minutes, 6:30 PM
Monday, April 18th, 2022

The Regular Council Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra was called to order by Mayor Tait at 6:35 PM.

ROLL CALL

At the call of the roll:

PRESENT: Brandon Allmond, Laura Cloud, Natasha Latimore, Michelle McCann, Mayor Gina Ragomo Tait

ABSENT: Bernadette Russell, Timothy Howard

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Mayor Tait Read the following open public meetings statement into the record:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. Public Notice of this meeting 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 5th, 2022.
- Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times and the Courier Post Newspaper on January 10th, 2022.
- Notice to All Council Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the March 21st, 2022, Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

Dr. Cloud made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21st, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Allmond second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: Ms. Latimore

Motion Carried

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the April 4th, 2022, Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Dr. Cloud made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 4th, 2022 Council Caucus Meeting. Mrs. McCann second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

INFAVOR: Ms. Latimore, Dr. Cloud, Mrs. McCann

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Allmond

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Municipal Clerk, Doretha Jackson acknowledged the following correspondence:

Letter – Paul Forlenza, MGA, Executive Director- Burlington County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

REDEVELOPMENT

Rt. 73 South Redevelopment Area- Update

Mr. Gural reported ongoing negotiations with Fair Share Housing. Mr. Rosenberg reported he will keep Borough Council informed on the negotiations with Fair Share Housing but he is optimistic for a favorable outcome.

Mr. Rosenberg further reported the Environmental Justice lawsuit litigation filed by the New Jersey Attorney General at the request of the governor to remediate the toxic waste facility at Fillit was scheduled for dismissal by the judge.

Mr. Brewer reported PURE, LLC is proceeding with the amended site plan approvals and will be heard later this month at the Land Use Board Meeting.

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

Mr. Brewer stated a case management meeting was held today with Active Realty; he noted the trial is scheduled for a June 14 thru 16, 2022 for the valuation of the property.

Mr. Brewer further reported Outlaw Fitness and Training submitted plans for approval to go before the Land Use Board for site plan approval. Mr. Brewer noted approval was granted and the application can go before the Land Use Board.

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

Mr. Gural reported there was no updated information. Mr. Gural further reported Seabox was invited to the Borough to discuss their plans for the property and he is awaiting a reply.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Tait read the Arbor Day Proclamation into the record.

Arbor Day Proclamation 2022

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

Whereas, the Borough of Palmyra has been recognized as a Tree City USA 16th year by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting practices

Now, Therefore, I Gina Ragomo Tait, Mayor of the Borough of Palmyra, urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Dated this 18th day of April 2022

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. The opportunity to submit comments prior to meeting expired at 2:00 PM on Monday April 18th, 2022.

For those “attending” the meeting Please sign in at the podium and state your name and address for the record. 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 Mr. Allmond made a motion to open the public portion for comments. Dr. Cloud 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 comments from the public

Ms. Kelly - Highland Ave – Ms. Kelly spoke on behalf of several residents in reference to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commissions experimental pop-ups program which assists communities with the installation on temporary low-cost changes to roadways, to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. Ms. Kelly noted the pop-up projects could potentially last anywhere from one day up to three weeks, and after the demonstration a survey would be taken to see if the project would be viable permanently. Ms. Kelly noted she wanted to invite a member of Borough Council and or the Land Use Board to a webinar on April 20th, 2022 at 11:00 am which further explains the program, Dr. Cloud stated she would be able to attend. Ms. Kelly also asked if the Borough has some sort of pedestrian or bicycle plan. Mayor Tait stated there was a survey done several years ago which refers to pedestrian or bicycle safety. Mr. Gural confirmed the Borough's 2018 Master Plan update addresses pedestrian and bicycle safety and is available on the Borough's website.

Mr. Casparro – Riverton resident Park Ave. – Mr. Casparro noted he had emailed the governing body regarding a clean-up of Broad Street for the upcoming Palmyra Safety Day. Mr. Casparro stated the PIA wanted to weed and clean up the trash on Broad Street, this Saturday so it would look good before Palmyra Safety Day. Mr. Casparro noted the PIA will leave the trash bags by the trash cans to be removed by Public Works on Monday. Mayor and council agreed.

Mayor Tait asked Mr. Casparro if the flower pots were taken to Charles Street School. Mr. Casparro indicated they were donating them but not transporting them. He indicated he told Charles Street school will reach out to the Borough about the pots. Mayor Tait indicated she had not heard from anyone. Mr. Casparro indicated he would look into it and get back to her.

Hearing no one else from the public wishing to be heard, Mayor Tait asked for a motion to close the Public Portion. Mr. Allmond made a motion to close the public portion, Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

RESOLUTION

Resolution 2022-109, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of April 2022 Bills in the Amount of \$1,919,982.82

Mayor Tait Requested a motion to approve Resolution 2022-109.

Mr. Allmond made a motion to Approve Resolution 2022-109 Authorizing the Payment of April 2022 bills in the amount of \$1,919,982.82. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

Motion Carried Resolution 2022-109 was approved

PUBLIC EVENTS

Mayor Tait stated the Palmyra Downtown and Public Safety Day is scheduled for April 30th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Broad Street. Mayor Tait noted she invited business and there are currently 30 vendors and a couple of food trucks.

Mayor Tait stated the Spring Yard sale will be held on May 21st, 2022

Mayor Tait reported the Juneteenth Celebration will be held on June 16th, 2022 at Chief Flournoy Park in conjunction with Riverton Borough and Cinnaminson Township. The event is being coordinated by Michele Ray.

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURERS' REPORTS

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2022. Mr. Allmond made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2022. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There was some discussion regarding Conference attendance requests. Mr. Gural explained the need for continuing education units, noting the most continuing credit units are awarded during the annual professional conferences. The following requests were noted:

Mayor Gina Tait requested attendance to the Mayor's Conference of Mayors, 2-night stay May 10th, 2022 thru May 12th, 2022;

Donna Condo requested attendance to the Treasurer & Tax Collector Annual Conference, 3-night stay May 17th, 2022 thru May 19th, 2022;

Tracey McGill requested attendance to the BCMCAA Annual Spring Conference, 3- night stay June 6th thru June 9th, 2022; and

Tanyika Johns requested attendance to the Tax Collector Conference, 3- night stay May 17th, 2022 thru May 19th, 2022.

Dr. Cloud made a motion to approve all requests presented. Mrs. McCann second the motion

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

Dr. Cloud stated their Council committee would be meeting on Thursday to discuss potentially updating the ordinance which applies to the Alcoholic Beverage Consumption in Public Spaces

Mr. Gural indicated Chief Campbell, Lt. Murphy and Mr. McBride, Board of Education, are finalizing the School Resource Officer Agreement and additional information will be submitted for Council consideration.

Mr. Gural reported there are several amendments to the Personal Policy and Procedure manual referencing bereavement, requiring credit checks on new hires who handle money, and the COVID 19 policy that will be discussed at the May meeting.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mr. Gural reminded all to sign up and take the 2022 Burlington County JIF Elected Officials Training class.

Mr. Gural reminded the governing body to file their annual Financial Disclosure Statement. Mr. Gural stated they are due to be completed by April 30th, 2022. Mr. Gural further stated anyone who does not submit their Financial Disclosure statement timely can be fined.

ONGOING REMINDER PROJECTS

Mr. Gural stated the following items are reminders for the various projects the governing body is addressing. Mr. Gural noted additional information will be forthcoming in the future.

- Purchase Orders - Council signature requirement
- Sidewalk/snow & ice removal Ordinance
- Sewer Lateral responsibility Ordinance and Sewer bills
- 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. McCann - no comment

Ms. Latimore – no comment

Dr Cloud – Dr. Cloud stated the Green Team would be meeting on Wednesday at 7:00 pm at the community center. Mayor Tait stated she spoke with Joseph Andal, Executive Director with the Burlington County Bridge Commission and he will be sending information to Laura to determine if

there is a way, we can work together to apply for electric charging station grants. Mayor Tait noted the Bridge commission had already received the PSE&G grant and had filed for the NJDEP grant.

Mayor Tait stated she will be attending the Riverfront Association meeting tomorrow with Ms. Latimore. Mayor Tait and will also be submitting information to the Riverfront Association regarding who to report noise complaints to.

Mayor Tait noted the Borough staff will be giving away canvas bags and literature regarding the new parking ordinance at “Palmyra Safety Day” on Saturday April 30th, 2022. Mayor Tait requested any council member able to attend to help with the Borough table. Mayor Tait also noted that Palmyra Pharmacy will be taking walk in appointments for all three vaccinations on Palmyra Day.

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Allmond made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM

Doretha R Jackson, RMC

Municipal Clerk

Approved: May 16th,2022