

**CELEBRATING**  
**1923**                      **100 yrs.**                      **2023**

**Borough of Palmyra**  
**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 2, 2023, 6:30 PM**

The Regular Council Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra was called to order by Mayor Tait at 6:43 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

At the call of the roll:

PRESENT: Natasha Latimore, John Liebe, Jessica O'Connor, President Timothy Howard, Mayor Gina Ragomo Tait

ABSENT: Dr. Laura Cloud, Michelle McCann

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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times, and the Courier Post Newspaper on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Notice to All Council Members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 18, 2023– Council Caucus Meeting Minutes

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the September 18, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

President Howard made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Ms. Latimore second the motion.

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

**INFAVOR: Mr. Liebe, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard**

**AGAINST: None**

**Abstain: Ms. Latimore**

## CORRESPONDENCE

Municipal Clerk Jackson acknowledged the following correspondence received:

Resignation Letter – Brad Regn

Mayor Tait requested a motion to accept the resignation letter of Mr. Regn. President Howard made a motion to accept the resignation letter of Mr. Regn. Mr. Liebe second the motion

**Resolution 2023-230**, Resolution Appointing Aidan Hughes to the Borough of Palmyra Police Department Effective October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, with an annual salary of \$42,000.00 and a conditional \$2,000.00 sign on bonus.

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to approve **Resolutions 2023-230**.

President Howard made a motion to approve **Resolutions 2023-230**. Ms. O'Connor second the motion.

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

**INFAVOR: Ms. Latimore, Mr. Liebe, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard**

**AGAINST: None**

**Motion carried. Resolutions 2023-230 was approved.**

Lt. Murphy read a brief biography of Aidan Hughes, noting that he previously served in Burlington City. Mayor Tait then administered the oath of office to Aidan Hughes, while his mother, Carla Hughes held the bible.

## REDEVELOPMENT

### Rt. 73 South Redevelopment Area- Update

Mr. Gural stated the Palmyra Land Use Board adopted the Housing Element Plan and amended the Master Plan at their meeting last week. Mr. Rosenberg stated the redeveloper has named Conifer as the redeveloper of the affordable housing portion of the project. Mr. Rosenberg indicated they have been approved for financing and hope to close by the end of the month. Mr. Rosenberg noted that Ordinance 2023-18, Authorizing the Mayor to sign the deed on behalf of the Borough to Palmyra to Route 73 LLC, where the Affordable Housing Complex will be built, is on the agenda for first reading. Mr. Rosenberg noted the second reading will be October 16, 2023, upon approval will allow the mayor to sign the deed over to Route 73 LLC. Mr. Rosenberg indicated that the document should be held until the closing has occurred.

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

Mr. Gural and Mr. Brewer indicated they had nothing new to report.

### Sea Box/ELM Office LLC, 321 E. Broad Street

Mr. Gural indicated he has a preconstruction meeting tomorrow at 10:00 am with all parties. Mr. Gural indicated he had nothing additional to report.

## PROFESSIONAL UPDATES

Andrew Brewer, Maraziti Falcon, LLP

Mr. Brewer indicated he had nothing additional to report.

William Kirchner, ERI

Mr. Kirchner went over the resolutions on the agenda for approval. Mr. Kirchner showed pictures of the Temple Blvd Rain Garden project from start to almost completion. Mr. Kirchner noted that the plants will be going in on Friday and then the project will be complete.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

**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 President Howard made a motion to open the public portion for comments. Mr. Liebe the motion.

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

**Mr. Curisko – Horace Avenue** - Mr. Curisko asked when the speeding on Horace Avenue would be slowed down and what the plan is for Horace Avenue noise.

**Mrs. Jones - Harbour Drive** – Mrs. Jones stated she founded the Senior program in 2015 and they grew to 150 members before covid, of which 62% were Palmyra residents. Mrs. Jones went on to thank the governing body for their help in the past and noted that she looked forward to working with them in the future by allowing the seniors to utilize the community center at no charge. Mrs. Jones indicated they wanted to begin the program again in January of 2024 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays and Fridays of each month except July and August. There was some discussion and Mr. Gural noted a proposal/agreement was being reviewed by the governing body which when approved would be forwarded to her and Mrs. Nowicki for signature and approval. Mrs. Jones indicated the senior program wished to have a donation from the Borough in the amount of \$5,000.00 once they received their 501 c3 status. There was some additional discussion.

**Mrs. Nowicki – Morgan Avenue** – Mrs. Nowicki thanked Public Works for opening on Saturdays. Mrs. Nowicki also stated the Palmyra Sun reported that there were two flu Clinics being held in Palmyra. Ms. Jackson noted that only one October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, has been scheduled by the Borough in the Community Center.

**Mrs. Grimes - 6th Street** – Mrs. Grimes asked what could be done about all the vehicles parked on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, some blocking driveways. Lt. Murphy indicated he would have the officers investigate it.

Seeing no one else wishing to make a comment, Mayor Tait asked for a motion to closed to the Public for comments President Howard made a motion to closed the public portion for comments. Ms. Latimore second the motion.

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

**ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING (Public Hearing October 16, 2023)**

**Ordinance 2023-18**, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra to Authorize Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-18.

Mr. Liebe made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-18. President Howard second the motion.

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

**INFAVOR: Ms. Latimore, Mr. Liebe, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard**

**AGAINST: None**

**Motion carried. Ordinance 2023-18 was approved.**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution **2023-231 thru** Resolution **2023-238** 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 any resolution needed to be removed from the consent agenda for additional discussion. Seeing none Mayor Tait read the following resolutions into the record:

**Resolution 2023-231**, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing a Lien be Placed on BLK 60 Lot 5.01 in the amount of \$300.00 for the Failure to Comply with Property Maintenance Violations

**Resolution 2023-232**, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing a Lien be placed on Blk 13 Lot 11 in the amount of \$1,575.00 for Failure to comply with Obnoxious Growth and Property Maintenance Violations.

**Resolution 2023-233**, Resolution Authorizing the Refund of various Tax Overpayments

**Resolution 2023-234**, Resolution Authorizing the Funding of Borough of Palmyra's Share of the MACCS Contract

**Resolution 2023-235**, Resolution Approving Jeffrey Beuerle as an active member of the Palmyra Fire Department

**Resolution 2023-236**, Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a Capital item exceeding \$15,000.00-Recording Scanning and Digital Storage for the Tax Collector's Office from Accu Scan Digital Archives Solutions Totaling \$22,653.20 for Tax Department from Accu Scan.

**Resolution 2023-237**, Resolution Authorizing change order #1 to FieldTurf USA, Inc. with increase in the amount of \$7,649.29 for the Legion Field Turf Replacement Project making the total Adjusted Contract price \$377,265.60 per ERI'S recommendation letter dated September 27, 2023

**Resolution 2023-238**, Resolution Authorizing Change Order #4 to Byrd Dog Paving for the Temple Boulevard Improvement Project with Field Modification as noted in ERI's recommendation letter Dates September 26, 2023

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to approve **Resolutions 2023-231 thru Resolution 2023-238**.

President Howard made a motion to approve **Resolutions 2023-231 thru Resolution 2023-238**. Ms. O'Connor second the motion.

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

**INFAVOR: Ms. Latimore, Mr. Liebe, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard**

**AGAINST: None**

**Motion carried. Resolutions 2023-231 thru Resolution 2023-238 were approved.**

## **PUBLIC EVENTS**

Mayor Tait noted the following upcoming events.

Mayor Tait stated the Virtua Mobile Grocery Store is in the Community Center parking lot on Thursdays from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

Burlington County Flu Clinic on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Community Center from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

PTA Truck-OR-Treat on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00 pm.

Halloween Parade on October 30, 2023, at 7:00 pm

Mayor Tait noted the Beer Fest was held at Palmyra Fire House on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and was enjoyed by all.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Gural stated that they were working on a plan to fill the Deputy Municipal Court Administrator position. Mr. Gural indicated we are still seeking a Deputy Clerk and Technical Assistant to Construction Official. Mr. Gural noted the potential need to hire an additional person for the Community Center if the demand continues to increase, noting that we will address it as necessary.

Mr. Gural noted the Collective Bargaining Agreement with PPOA/FOP#2 is in final review and preparation. Mr. Gural stated it should be available for the Mayor to sign in two weeks.

Mrs. Gural noted an email sent to the Public Safety Committee regarding permission to move a class one officer into the academy. Mr. Gural indicated that the move will be taking place.

Mr. Gural stated the sewer salary guide is still a work in progress and he may hold off until the budget process.

Mr. Gural indicated at the next meeting we will be awarding another contract for the purchase of an additional trash truck. Mr. Gural noted the advertisement to award the contract is on our website. Mr. Gural stated he had spoken with the Republic, and they may be amenable to allowing us to move into not only zone one but the other three zones.

Mr. Gural noted he is waiting for the final report regarding the Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Study.

Mr. Gural stated he is also waiting for an update regarding the Highland Ave & Broad St Pedestrian/Vehicular Traffic Safety Improvement Project.

Mr. Gural indicated he had a meeting with some residents, Senator Troys office and NJ Army Corp of Engineers regarding the riverbank erosion concerns of some residents in the Riverfront. Mr. Gural indicated additional meetings are upcoming and he will keep the governing body aware of the progress.

Lt. Murphy indicated that NJ Fare Enforcement has done a good job in regarding the train passengers and the platform area enforcement. Lt. Murphy noted appropriate summons have been issued and he has placed an officer in the downtown area solely to police the downtown area. Lt. Murphy stated he would keep them aware of the progress being made to address the resident concerns and safety at Wawa and in the downtown area.

Mr. Gural noted the Palmyra School District Referendum of March 12, 2024- Kickoff Meeting, being held on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Mr. Gural stated the committee working on the community gardens grant award and proposed improvements project will be meeting on Thursday in the Community Center to work out the details of the project.

Mr. Gural noted an email received from a property owner requesting the governing body consider allowing short-term rentals and seasonal rentals. There was some discussion regarding allowing those types of rentals and the effect of the town. It was decided it would be referred to a council committee for additional review and discussion.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Gural stated that Part 2 of the Wizer 2023 Cyber Awareness Training is available and needs to be completed. Mr. Gural explained the requirement of the entire governing body and Land Use Board attending the Stormwater Management Education and Training. Mr. Gural noted he would send it out to the governing body.

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

**Ms. Latimore:** Ms. Latimore asked if we still had student representatives from the High School. Mayor Tait indicated she would investigate it and get back to the council.

**Mr. Liebe** – Mr. Liebe asked if Thursday night would be ok to talk thru committee changes. President Howard indicated yes.

**Ms. O'Connor** – no comment

**President Howard** – no comment

**Mayor Tait** –Mayor Tait indicated she met with a graduate of Palmyra High School who wants to do something to help the homeless. Mayor Tait stated she told the student to come up with somethings she would like to do and they could try to put together a project. Mayor Tait noted she would get back to Council with additional information when received. Mayor Tait reminded all that the Virtua Mobil

grocery store is still coming to the Community Center and to spread the word. Mayor Tait also stated that Tangy would be ordering signs for Legion Field asking people to keep chairs with legs off the new turf field.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to adjourn. President Howard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Liebe second the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM

Doretha R Jackson, RMC

Municipal Clerk

Approved: October 16, 2023