

CELEBRATING
1923 **100 yrs.** **2023**
Borough of Palmyra
Regular Council Meeting Minutes, 6:30 PM
Monday, September 18, 2023

The Regular Council Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra was called to order by Mayor Tait at 6:33 PM.

ROLL CALL

At the call of the roll:

PRESENT: Dr. Laura Cloud, John Liebe, Michelle McCann, Jessica O'Connor, President Timothy Howard, Mayor Gina Ragomo Tait

ABSENT: Natasha Latimore

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 21, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the August 21, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Liebe made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023, Regular Council Meeting.

Mrs. McCann second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

Abstain: Jessica O'Connor, President Timothy Howard

CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk Jackson read the letter of resignation from Rebecca Flynn.

Mayor Tait requested a motion to accept the resignation letter of Rebecca Flynn.

President Howard made a motion to accept the resignation letter of Rebecca Flynn. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Tait presented a letter of thanks to Jayden Vindick, Eagle Scout who made mini libraries and installed them in and around the Borough of Palmyra. Jayden sought out the funding for the materials to build the libraries, built the libraries, installed the libraries, and stocked the libraries so that everyone desirous of reading books could access them. Mayor Tait thanked him for a job/project well done for the community of Palmyra.

Tracy Kilmer then presented the JIF Safety Awards to:

Sgt. Tim Leusner for making it his goal to notify PSE&G of all the lights throughout the Borough that were not working and continuing to monitor their progress to make sure all the lights throughout the Borough are repaired.

Jake Depew for knowing how and applying a tourniquet to a resident who was at public works disposing of some trash and severely cut his hand while doing so.

Mrs. Kilmer thanked them for continuing to keep the residents and visitors to the Borough of Palmyra safe.

Mr. Gural indicated that the Paul Florenza for the Burlington County Joint Insurance Fund was coming to do a small presentation of the BCJIF performance and renewal process however because we had a full agenda, he dropped of the information which was on the dais for you.

REDEVELOPMENT

Rt. 73 South Redevelopment Area- Update

Mr. Gural indicated the second warehouse in the redevelopment project has broken ground. Mr. Gural indicated the together with the governing bodies desire to hold the groundbreaking ceremony the Department of Environmental Protection reach out to us and asked if they could participate in the ceremony by announcing their statewide brownfield redevelopment area enhancement program. Mr. Gural indicated they would be providing dates of availability so that it could be scheduled. DEP asked that we hold up on our efforts currently to allow them to participate in the ceremony, additional information to follow. Mr. Rosenberg indicated that our redeveloper has assigned his responsibility for

building the affordable housing to Conifer, one of the largest affordable housing redevelopers in the United States. Mr. Rosenberg stated they have a builder who will build the affordable housing units. Mr. Rosenberg stated they needed to obtain the funding to build the project; along with the redeveloper PURE, various tax credits, housing and finance mortgage authority, loans, and other vehicles the funding is now in place. Mr. Rosenberg indicated the funding will take place in late October and shovels should be in the ground shortly thereafter. The project will provide 102 units of affordable housing. Mr. Rosenberg noted that once these units are constructed Palmyra will have met its obligation imposed by the New Jersey Supreme Court, to provide its share of low moderate and very low-income housing for area residents. Mr. Rosenberg stated that the owner of parcel two is SURE Sansone Urban Renewal Entity. Inc., a developer out of the Midwest who will be helping with the construction of the units. Mr. Rosenberg stated that a resolution is on the agenda tonight which authorizes the Mayor to sign a document called the Estoppel Certificate. The lenders providing funding for SURE II, Inc. wanted to know that the project is ready, all the agreements are in full force and effect, all the obligations of SURE II, Inc. have been satisfied. Mr. Rosenberg stated that SURE II, Inc. want this document to show to their lenders. Mr. Rosenberg stated SURE II, Inc. sent a very large packet of documents to the Borough, Him and Mr. Brewer this afternoon which they are reviewing for correctness before signatures. Mr. Rosenberg noted that the Estoppel Certificate has been reviewed and is ready for signature upon approval from Council. Mr. Rosenberg stated that they are requesting approval for the Mayor to sign and hold the document until he and Mr. Brewer have had a chance to review what was received earlier today. Mr. Rosenberg indicated this should complete the funding of the second warehouse and then the Borough would be moving into the third phase of the project which will be the Rt. 73 corridor. Mr. Brewer indicated Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Gural extensively covered everything that is happening.

Mr. Gural noted that part of our administrative manual which covers the rules for tenancy for the affordable housing; we have elected two preferences, one military veteran and the other regional, meaning that preferences will be given to veterans and to people living in this region. Mr. Gural also stated that the moratorium regarding the eagles' nest will expire in about one month.

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

Mr. Gural And Mr. Brewer indicated there is nothing new to report.

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

Mr. Gural And Mr. Brewer indicated there is nothing new to report.

PROFESSIONAL UPDATES

Andrew Brewer, Maraziti, Falcon, LLP

Mr. Brewer indicated he had nothing additional to report.

Mr. Kirchner was not in attendance due to illness. Mr. Gural stated the plantings on the Temple Blvd project should be in within the next month and that project will be complete.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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. Dr. Cloud the motion.

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

Tom McElwee - Columbia Avenue – Mr. McElwee reminded the governing body that the re-seeding and plantings still need to be redone at the War Memorial.

Barbara Nowicki - Morgan Avenue – Mrs. Nowicki noted that she was elected President of the Palmyra Seniors and is looking forward to working with the Borough. Ms. Nowicki thanked the governing body for all the support they have given the Senior organization in the past. Mrs. Nowicki stated they are in the process of getting their paperwork in and are hoping for the Borough's continued support.

Michelle Arnold - Oregon Avenue - Mrs. Arnold asked what is being done about the drug activity and violence/dangerous situation on 6th and Race Streets.

Bill Lorenz – Garfield Ave – Mr. Lorenz indicated he was assaulted at Wawa. Mr. Lorenz noted the police arrived while he was still on the phone with central and he thanked them for that. Mr. Lorenz wants to know what action is being taken regarding the loiterers at Wawa and various businesses in Palmyra. Mr. Lorenz noted he had seen various ordinances that are on the books and wanted to know why they are not being enforced. Mr. Lorenz asked that businesses identify the panhandlers and trespassers to the police. Mr. Lorenz also asked the community to stop giving the panhandlers money as it only continues to enable and encourage them.

Lt. Murphy of the Palmyra Police Department stated he understands the frustration and concerns regarding the matter. Lt. Muphy indicated that there are ordinances on the books however every business is not willing to prosecute. Lt. Murphy noted that Wawa specifically indicated they cannot do anything about the panhandlers as it is outside the store. Lt. Murphy indicated there are several things they can do including notifying the police and giving them a description and having them removed from the property. Lt. Murphy noted that people have rights, and the police cannot just go up to someone standing outside of Wawa and tell them they must leave. Lt. Murphy noted several trespass violations have been issued and when they see a repeat offender, they will tell them to move along. Lt. Murphy indicated he had spoken with the Captain of the New Jersey Transit Police, and he has agreed to have fare enforcement stationed at our platform beginning this past Saturday, which has been done. The captain also stated he would step up the patrols at our platform and agreed to do a joint enforcement detail with the Palmyra police department as soon as possible, Lt. Murphy noting he is currently working on that. Lt. Murphy stated he has brought in additional patrolman to specifically

cover the downtown area and platform. Lt. Murphy indicated the department is looking at additional ways to help combat the problem without violating anyone's civil rights. Lt. Murphy then specifically addressed the situation which occurred at Wawa noting that the individual was arrested and has received many, many citations in the immediate pass for some of the same behavior. Lt. Murphy asked that when you see something notify the police notify Wawa, keep moving past them and don't give them money. Mr. Endres asked how much jail time this individual got. Lt. Murphy indicated he went to jail overnight and was back out of jail in about fourteen hours.

Mrs. Endres – 3rd Street - Mrs. Endres indicated that it has been said that many times people are relieving themselves outside of various stores, when you see something, you need to report it, if enough of us get together and report what we see we can stop this.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that he was a prosecutor in various municipalities for many years and he understands the problem derives from the light rail. Mr. Rosenberg stated the light rail produces many undesirable people who have many different problems. Mr. Rosenberg noted that when light rail wanted to come thru town Palmyra fought to keep it out. Mr. Rosenberg noted we lost the battle. Mr. Rosenberg stated the law is foolish when it comes to loitering and prosecution of these status offences. Mr. Rosenberg stated the Supreme Court has taken the enforcement away from the police department. The Supreme Court says it is not a criminal offence to panhandle in the State of New Jersey, it is a protected form of speech. Mr. Rosenberg indicated that Wawa needs to come in and determine what they can do to help, perhaps they need to hire a security guard.

Ms. Lorenz- Garfield Avenue- Ms. Lorenz stated she works at Wawa full-time, and her father is the gentleman who was assaulted. Ms. Lorenz indicated she sees lots of thefts and calls the police all the time and most of the thefts are from teenagers and the football team. Ms. Lorenz noted they do as they are told from upper management, call the police, noting that if Wawa hired a security guard the only thing, he could do is call the police. Ms. Lorenz indicated she is willing to prosecute every time she calls.

Paul Cinirko – Horace Avenue -Mr. Cinisko asked when the traffic is going to be slowed on Horace Avenue and Delaware Avenue. Mr. Cinisko asked when you are going to address the abandoned vehicles on Horace Avenue.

Mrs. Lopez Cinnaminson Avenue - Mrs. Lopez indicated she received President Howard's Letter in the mail today and she wanted to know what is being done with the leftover funding from the redeveloper funds for the turf field and why can't that money be transferred to the seniors?

Mr. Gural explained. Mrs. Lopez stated that the letter indicated the Borough would receive \$1,000,000.00 a year, how many years is that. Mr. Gural explained and noted that the PILOT agreement is for thirty years. Mrs. Lopez asked what was going on with the Police department and if we would have a Chief of Police soon. Mayor Tait indicated the policy/procedure to hire/promote a Chief of Police is on the agenda for approval tonight. Mayor Tait noted that once the procedure is in place the process can begin. Mrs. Lopez stated we received a \$15,000.00 grant for the community

garden, are they putting in sprinklers. Mr. Gural stated the grant is for both the community garden at the Community Center and the garden at the Cove. Mr. Gural indicated they will be putting in sprinklers and a shed and increasing the size, noting that the grant is coming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mrs. Lopez asked if something would be put into the drainage pits currently in Temple Boulevard Rain Garden to prevent mosquitoes. Mr. Gural indicated its ponding currently while the coverings on it to prevent the weeds. Dr. Cloud stated that when the coverings are removed, and the plantings go in that ponding won't be there. Mr. Gural indicated they should be in within the next month.

Mrs. VanArtsdalen – Columbia Avenue – Mrs. VanArtsdalen has lived here for fourteen years. Mrs. Van Artsdalen indicated her curbs are deteriorated and there are potholes in her street. Mrs. VanArtsdalen stated our high school is in horrible condition. She indicated she has called about the curbs and has been told they are the homeowners' responsibility. Mrs. VanArtsdalen asked how you get on the list to have your street repaired. Mayor Tait indicated the township engineer has listing/rating of the township roads and repairs are completed based upon the worst conditions.

Mr. Endres- 3rd Street- Mr. Endres indicated he has lived in Palmyra all his life. Mr. Endres asked if we will be paying for wastewater. Mr. Gural indicated that the letter refers to help for people that need it for paying for their sewer bills, water that goes into the sewer system not rainwater/ stormwater. Mr. Endres asked if the Borough would be painting the just outs on Temple Blvd. Mr. Gural indicated he would speak with the engineer.

Mrs. Rix- Harbour Drive – Mrs. Rix asked why there are increases in salaries on the agenda when the budget has already been completed. Mr. Gural indicated they are built into the budget, some due to completion of courses etc.

Mrs. Lopez- Cinnaminson Avenue – Mrs. Lopez asked if the sewer bill is the same for each household or are we using usage. Mayor Tait indicated the next cycle will be based on water usage and will no longer be a flat rate. Mr. Gural explained.

Mrs. Raup – Spring Garden Street – Mrs. Raup asked what will be used to determine the basis for the bill. Mr. Gural indicated the previous three-month period October, November, December of 2023 for spring of 2024.

Mrs. Veitenheimer – Rowland Street – Mrs. Veitenheimer stated that the field that all the money was spent on was opened on September 10th, and as she was walking around Legion Field on September 12th, she noticed a group of kids sitting in the middle of the field where the 'P' is and a plume of smoke was going up also there was a bicycle parking on it, two days after it was opened. Mrs. Veitenheimer stated that's why we can't have nice things in this town as the kids don't respect it. We just keep spending the money, it gets destroyed and our taxes go up.

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 close the public portion for comments. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

RESOLUTION

Resolution 2023-216, Approving an Emergency Appropriation in the Amount of \$20,000.00 for Sewer Utility Capital Improvement Fund Appropriation in Connection with Down Payment Required for Bond Ordinance.

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to approve **Resolutions 2023-216**.

President Howard made a motion to approve **Resolutions 2023-216**. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Liebe, Mrs. McCann, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion carried. Resolutions 2023-216 was approved.

ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING - Public Hearing October 16, 2023

Ordinance 2023-17, Bond Ordinance Providing for Various 2023 Sewer Utility Improvements, By and in the Borough of Palmyra, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey; Appropriating \$615,000.00 Therefor from the Sewer Utility of the Borough and Authorizing the Issuance of \$585,714.00 in Bonds or notes of the Borough to Finance part of the cost thereof.

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-17.

President Howard made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-17. Mr. Liebe second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Liebe, Mrs. McCann, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Absent: Ms. Latimore

Motion carried. Ordinance 2023-17 was approved.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING (Public Hearing)

Ordinance 2023-11, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra to Amend the Borough of Palmyra Code to add Chapter 209, Titled "Lead Based Paint Inspections."

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open to the Public for comments President Howard made a motion to open to the public for comments. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

Mayor Tait asked if there were any comments, seeing none. Mayor Tait asked for a motion to close to the Public for comments President Howard made a motion to close the public portion for comments. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-11.

President Howard made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-11. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Liebe, Mrs. McCann, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion carried. Ordinance 2023-11 was approved.

Ordinance 2023-12, An Ordinance Appropriating the sum of \$600,000.00 now available from the redeveloper donation of \$600,000.00 which is hereby appropriated for the improvements to Youth Athletic and/or Recreational Facilities as determined by the Borough of Palmyra, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open to the Public for comments Mr. Liebe made a motion to open to the public for comments. President Howard second the motion.

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

Mrs. Arnold- Oregon Avenue – Mrs. Arnold stated the wording seems to address that the funding from the redeveloper was specifically for the recreational facilities; the money could have been appropriated in other ways however the decision to have it used for recreation was a decision of Council. Is that correct? Mr. Gural stated that the discussion with the redeveloper was for the donation to be used for the replacement of the artificial turf field only. Mr. Gural noted that we could get additional funding and reduce the cost of the field, so we went back to the redeveloper to request a change in the redevelopment agreement to have the funding be used for youth athletic and/or recreational facilities. There was some additional discussion.

Mayor Tait asked if there were any additional comments, seeing none. Mayor Tait asked for a motion to close to the Public for comments President Howard made a motion to close the public portion for comments. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-12.

President Howard made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-12. Mr. Liebe second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

AGAINST: Dr. Cloud

Motion carried. Ordinance 2023-12 was approved.

Ordinance 2023-13, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra to Authorize the Acceptance of a Deed from the Palmyra Cove Affordable Housing, LLC. Conveying the site upon which the Rt. 73 S.

Affordable Housing Complex will be constructed, I.E. Block 156, Lot 107 on the Tax Map of Palmyra

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open to the Public for comments President Howard made a motion to open to the public for comments. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

Mayor Tait asked if there were any comments, seeing none. Mayor Tait asked for a motion to close to the Public for comments President Howard made a motion to close the public portion for comments. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-13.

President Howard made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-13. Ms. O'Connor second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Liebe, Mrs. McCann, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion carried. Ordinance 2023-13 was approved.

Ordinance 2023-14, Bond Ordinance Providing for Various 2023 Capital Improvements by and in the

Borough of Palmyra, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey; Appropriating \$1,335,500.00

Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,254,725.00 Bonds or notes of the Borough to Finance Part of the Cost thereof.

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open to the Public for comments President Howard made a motion to open to the public for comments. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

Mayor Tait asked if there were any comments, seeing none. Mayor Tait asked for a motion to close to the Public for comments President Howard made a motion to close the public portion for comments. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-14.

President Howard made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-14. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Liebe, Mrs. McCann, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion carried. Ordinance 2023-14 was approved.

Ordinance 2023-16, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra to Amend Chapter 43 of the Borough of Palmyra Code to Provide for the Promotion/Selection of a Chief of Police for the Borough of Palmyra Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open to the Public for comments President Howard made a motion to open to the public for comments. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

Mrs. Arnold- Oregon Avenue- Mrs. Arnold stated that she had many conflicts with the wording in the ordinance and explained the various portions she felt the wording should be different. Mrs. Arnold indicated she did not like the wording in the title and felt it should read promotion without the word selection. Mrs. Arnold asked how many in the department are eligible for Chief? Mr. Gural indicated about four. Mrs. Arnold noted other wording that she felt was confusing and needed a clearer definition. Mrs. Arnold stated in her opinion this needed to go back to committee and she was asking Council not to vote on it.

Mayor Tait asked if there were any comments, seeing none. Mayor Tait asked for a motion to close to the Public for comments President Howard made a motion to close the public portion for comments. Mrs. McCann second the motion.

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

President Howard stated that the many professionals that worked on this document he feels it is ready to move forward.

Dr. Cloud stated that she also noted two of the wording issues which Mrs. Arnold spoke about, indicated the word solicitor and attorney being used interchangeably, also the word of selection being used for internal selection. Mr. Rosenberg stated the reason selection was inserted was due to the possibility of no one applying for the job. Dr. Cloud asked if it would make more sense if that were another paragraph which states that if no one applied for the position then another selection process will take place. Mr. Rosenberg indicated the word solicitor should be used in both places. Mr. Rosenberg indicated Dr. Cloud's idea was fine. Noting that the changes would not be material and it could still be adopted tonight. Dr, Cloud also stated that the timeline in which candidates can respond showing their intention to apply no timeline for any other steps. Is it an unconscious decision of the committee not to have a timeline? President Howard indicated yes, as once the process begins it moves rather quickly. There was some additional discussion. Mr. Rosenberg indicated that the changing of the word attorney with solicitor is not a material change, also the removal of the word selection in the title is not a material change.

There was some additional discussion.

Mr. Gural noted the following changes:

1. The words "and/or for the selection" shall be deleted from the title.

2. In the paragraph of the 4 whereas from the top, change the word selection to promotion.
3. In (4) the word Attorney shall be replaced with solicitor

Mr. Rosenberg indicated the changes noted were not material changes so the vote could proceed.

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-16 with the non-material changes noted.

President Howard made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-16 with the changes noted. Mr. Liebe second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Liebe, Mrs. McCann, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion carried. Ordinance 2023-16 was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution **2023-217** thru Resolution **2023-229** 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. Dr. Cloud requested resolution 2023-224 be removed and held for further explanation.

Mayor Tait then read the following resolutions into the record,

Resolution 2023-217, Resolution to Cancel Interfunds Identified in the 2022 Audit

Resolution 2023-218, Resolution Appointing Mary Boylan and Timothy Puglia as Crossing Guards for the Borough of Palmyra Effective September 18, 2023, at the rate of 20.40 per shift with \$200.00 signing bonus.

Resolution 2023-219, Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Outstanding Checks from the Borough of Palmyra Municipal General Account

Resolution 2023-220, Resolution Authorizing Change Order #3 to Black Rock Enterprises, LLC for the 2022 NJDOT Road Program in the increased amount of \$1,659.00 making the new contract total \$498,412.05 per the recommendation letter dated August 25th, 2023, from the Environmental Resolutions, Inc. subject to CFO Certification

Resolution 2023-221, Resolution Authorizing Change Order #1 to Lexa Concrete. LLC for the 4th Street Road Improvement Project in the decreased amount of \$5,144.50 making the new contract total \$269,424.50 per recommendation letter dated August 31st, 2023, from Environmental Resolutions, Inc.

Resolution 2023-222, Resolution Canceling the property Taxes on Block 34 Lot 1.02 in the amount of \$7,680.48 for the year of 2023 and authorizing the refund of \$1,874.78 to CoreLogic.

Resolution 2023-223, Resolution Promoting Jake A Depew as full-time Public Works Laborer, Level II at the Hourly rate of \$20.00 effective September 3, 2023.

Resolution 2023-225, Resolution Authorizing a rate increase for Tax Clerk Linda Yansick effective September 1, 2023; new rate to be \$22.00 per hour.

Resolution 2023-226, Resolution Authorizing a rate increase for Finance/Payroll/Accounts Payable Clerk Amanda Schwartz effective September 1, 2023; new rate to be \$22.00 per hour.

Resolution 2023-227, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of September 2023 bills in the amount of \$2,186,013.54.

** Mr. Gural noted that additional bills had been added to the bill list and the new total was \$2,784,160.63 instead of \$2,186,013.54.

Resolution 2023-228, Resolution Authorizing a salary increase for Municipal Clerk Doretha Jackson effective September 1, 2023; new annual salary to be \$83,030.00.

Resolution 2023-229, Resolution Authorizing a contact Person for the Employment Practices Liability Attorney Consultation Service, Burlington County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to approve **Resolutions 2023-217 thru Resolution 2023-223 and Resolution 2023-225 thru Resolution 2023-229**. (Noting, the change in the bill list amount that was increased to \$2,784,160.63)

President Howard made a motion to approve **Resolutions 2023-217 thru Resolution 2023-223 and Resolution 2023-225 thru Resolution 2023-229**. Mr. Liebe second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Liebe, Mrs. McCann, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion carried. Resolutions 2023-217 thru Resolution 2023-223 and Resolution 2023-225 thru Resolution 2023-2129 were approved.

Mayor Tait then returned to Resolution 2023-224

Resolution 2023-224, Resolution to authorize the execution of an estoppel certificate between the Borough of Palmyra and Sansone Urban Renewal Entity, II, LLC and SM Tactical Finance III, LLC.

Dr. Cloud asked what the Estoppel Certificate is.

Mr. Rosenberg explained the estoppel certificate. Mr. Rosenberg indicated the lender wants to make sure that all the paperwork is in order, they wanted to be assured that the Borough did indeed see and sign the various documents and they are valid. Mr. Rosenberg noted that if the document is allowed to be signed, resolution adopted, contingent on solicitor's review.

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to approve **Resolutions 2023-224**.

President Howard made a motion to approve **Resolutions 2023-224**. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Liebe, Mrs. McCann, Ms. O'Connor, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion carried. Resolutions 2023-224 was approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURERS' REPORTS

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2023. President Howard made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2023. Dr. Cloud second the motion.

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

PUBLIC EVENTS

Mayor Tait noted the following upcoming events:

Virtua Mobile Grocery Store will be in on Thursdays from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Mayor Tait noted that the Townwide Yard Sale held September 16th, 2023, was a great success.

The Annual Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival held in Burlington County Parks on September 23,2023 by the Burlington County Commissioners

The Palmyra Fire Department Beer Fest is being held September 30th, 2023, at the Palmyra Fire House.

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

The PHSFEE Foundation will be holding its Annual Casino Night on October 14, 2023, from 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm

EMS is being honored for being the oldest emergency squad in the nation on October 14th, 2023, at Marion Caters in Cinnaminson.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Gural noted the various borough positions still to be filled.

Mr. Gural reminded all, the NJLM Conference in Atlantic City being held November 14-16, 2023.

Please let Rita know if you will be attending.

Mr. Gural indicated we received the packet from the senior program for use of the Community Center, which is complete to begin the rental process, however there are some additional documents we would need from them to be able to receive funding from the Borough, their non-profit status 501©3. Mr. Gural noted we are working with them to further the proceedings, additional information to follow.

Mr. Gural indicated the trash collection in the Riverfront is going very well. Mr. Gural stated we are looking to move into the next zone, zone one, however there are some things which need to be completed and have in place before we make that move, noting hiring and training of additional personnel and to secure the second ASL automated side loader truck. There was some additional discussion regarding the notification date and the Borough taking over.

Mr. Gural indicated that the artificial turf field replacement is complete, and the field is open for use. Mr. Gural indicated we are still waiting for the groomer for the field. Mayor Tait indicated she had spoken with Tangy and asked her to order signs that read: no lawn chairs on the turf. Mr. Gural indicated the Bicycle & Pedestrian planning study should be complete by next month. Mr. Gural stated he has requested an update on the Highland Ave & Broad St Pedestrian/Vehicular Traffic Safety Improvement Project and is waiting for information. Mr. Gural stated he had a meeting with Congressman Norcross's office, Senator Singleton's office, residents from the Riverfront and the Army Corp of Engineers regarding riverbank erosion concern of the resident in the Riverfront. Mr. Gural stated that March 12, 2024, the Board of Education is looking for 18.2 million dollars by way of a Bond Referendum. Mr. Gural indicated the bond referendum will cost each person approximately \$276.00 per year for the next twenty years. There was some additional discussion regarding the cost of funding and the potential tax increase over the coming years. Mr. Gural stated that we need a meeting with the Cove regarding the Community gardens grant award and proposed improvements. Mayor Tait indicated she is setting that up. Mr. Gural noted the Sustainable Jersey–PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program grant of about \$2,500.00 he sent to Dr. Cloud and Dale. Mr. Gural indicated it is to enroll in the direct install program, which are improvements to light fixtures etc. for the community center. Mr. Gural noted that we did a direct installation in the Borough building in 2011.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gural stated that Part 2 of the Wizer 2023 Cyber Awareness Training is available and needs to be completed.

MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Dr. Cloud- Dr. Cloud thanked the public for coming out in large numbers and expressing their concerns about various topics and in support of Mr. Lorenz.

Mr. Liebe – Mr. Liebe asked if it was possible to have some of our officers on foot and out interacting with the people. Mayor Tait indicated Lt. Murphy and the Transit Police are going about it in the correct manner. President Howard noted that Wawa is private property, and we can't just go out and do anything we want on their property. Lt. Murphy indicated it is a process and it takes everyone to make it happen.

Mrs. McCann– Mrs. McCann thanked the police department for their efforts and noted that if you see something says something, call the police.

Ms. O'Connor – no comment

President Howard – President Howard indicated he was glade to see everyone and to hear and know that the police department is doing their job. President Howard noted he had some questions

regarding where cameras are placed around town, and he will be speaking with Lt. Murphy about that later.

Mayor Tait –Mayor Tait stated she was out and about this past weekend and she was glad to see so many people out and so much going on in and around town, noting the townwide yard sale, soccer games, football games, the Sepsis Walk. Mayor Tait indicated she could hear it from her back porch.

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. Mrs. McCann second the motion.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM

Doretha R Jackson, RMC

Municipal Clerk

Approved: October 2, 2023