

Borough of Palmyra
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 18th, 2024 at 6:30 PM

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

ROLL CALL

At the call of the roll:

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

ABSENT: Natashia Latimore, John Liebe

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 14th, 2024.
- Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times, and the Courier Post Newspaper on January 14th, 2024.
- Notice to All Council Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 4th, 2024 - Council Caucus Meeting Minutes

March 4th, 2024 - Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the March 4th, 2024, Council Caucus Meeting Minutes and March 4th, 2024, Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

President Howard made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4th, 2024, Council Caucus Meeting Minutes and March 4th, 2024, Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Ms. O'Connor second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

CORRESPONDENCE

Municipal Clerk Jackson indicated that no correspondence was received.

REDEVELOPMENT

Rt. 73 South Redevelopment Area- Update

Mr. Gural stated the remedial action work plan has been approved by N. J. Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Gural noted that SURE has reached out to the Land Use Board nothing that they intend to apply to the Board to expand the second warehouse back to the original size of 1,000 sq feet, as the bald eagle moratorium has been lifted.

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

Mr. Gural indicated he had nothing new to report regarding the project.

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

Mr. Gural indicated he had nothing new to report regarding the project.

Mr. Brewer indicated he also had nothing new to report.

PROFESSIONAL UPDATES

William Kirchner, ERI

Mr. Kirchner went over the resolutions on the agenda for approval. Mr. Kirchner stated that PES&G reached out to us for a road opening permit, he explained that they will be working on the following streets, parts of Cleveland, Morgan, Garfield and Columbia and we will be working with them doing the curbing and some paving. Mr. Kirchner noted in addition to working with PSE&G on those streets we will be milling and repaving West Broad Street between Public Road and Filmore Street.

PUBLIC COMMENT

This public portion is for discussion on professional updates, resolutions and ordinances listed on the agenda. 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. Mrs. McCann the motion.

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

Mrs. Allen-Yokem – Lincoln Avenue- Mrs. Yokem thanked the Council for sending Mr. Liebe to their Board of Education meeting, noting that it was veery helpful. Mrs. Yokem noted that Mr. Liebe requested that the Board of Education also send someone from the Board to the Borough Council meetings. Mrs. Yokem indicated that they would be sending a member from the Board to the Borough Council meetings moving forward. Mrs. Yokem thanked Palmyra for passing the referendum at the special election held on March 12, 2024. Mrs. Yokem stated that the district had lost over a million dollars in state aid and

read the interim superintendent's report to the Council. Mrs. Yokem stated the next Board meeting is April 10th, 2024. There was some discussion regarding the town income increases.

Mr. Gifford- 5th Street – Mr. Gifford stated that the budget is proposed and had not been approved until July first. Mr. Gifford indicated that he has OPRA requested the State of New Jersey documents used to make the determinations regarding State Aid. Mr. Gifford asked all to contact Senator Singleton and express our concerns regarding the State Aid disbursements.

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. Mrs. McCann second the motion.

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

ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING (Public Hearing - April, 15, 2024)

Ordinance 2024-07, An Ordinance of Borough of Palmyra, Burlington County, In the State of New Jersey Amending the Sewer Connection fees.

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-07.

President Howard made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-07. Mrs. McCann second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

Absent: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Liebe

Motion carried. Ordinance 2024-07 was approved.

ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING (Public Hearing)

Ordinance 2024-03, An Ordinance of Borough of Palmyra requiring the retrofitting of existing private storm drain inlets

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. O'Connor 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. Ms. O'Connor second the motion.

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

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-03.

President Howard made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-03. Mrs. McCann second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

Absent: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Liebe

Motion carried. Ordinance 2024-03 was approved.

Ordinance 2024-04, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra establishing requirements for the storage of salt and other de-icing materials on properties not owned or operated by 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. Mrs. McCann 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. Mrs. McCann second the motion.

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

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-04.

President Howard made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-04. Mrs. McCann second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

Absent: Dr. Cloud, Mr. Liebe

Motion carried. Ordinance 2024-04 was approved.

Ordinance 2024-05, An ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra recognizing the service of Borough employees who volunteer for the Palmyra Fire Department Ordinance 2024-05 was withdrawn by Mayor Tait.

Ordinance 2024-06, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 190, Article III of the Code of the Borough of Palmyra Entitled Parks, and Recreation areas "Legion Field Complex."

Ordinance 2024-06 was withdrawn by Mayor Tait.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution **2024-103 thru** and Resolution **2024- 109** 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 2024-103, Resolution awarding a Contract to I.G. Burton-Berlin for the purchase of two 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit AWD vehicles in the amount of \$110,500.00 per recommendation of award letter dated March 6th, 2024 from Environmental Resolutions, Inc.

Resolution 2024-104, Resolution Awarding a Contract to Environmental Resolutions, Inc. (ERI) for Engineering services for the Legion Field Tennis Court/Basketball Court Improvements per their proposal dated February 26, 2024 in the amount of \$21,500.00.

Resolution 2024-105, Resolution Awarding a Contract to Environmental Resolutions, Inc. (ERI) for Engineering Services for the 2024 Road Program addendum projects per their proposals dated February 26, 2024 in the total amount of \$110,000.00.

Resolution 2024-106, Resolution Approving Participation with the State of new Jersey Federal Grant Program Administered by the Department of Law and Public Safety

Resolution 2024-107, Resolution Authorizing the Land Use Board of the Borough of Palmyra to Undertake a preliminary investigation as to whether the property commonly known as Block 78.01, Lots 4,5,5.01,5.02,5.03 & 7 is an area in need of redevelopment in accordance with the procedures of the local redevelopment and housing law and to provide recommendations to the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palmyra thereon

Resolution 2024-108, Resolution Authorizing the Land Use Board of the Borough of Palmyra to Undertake a preliminary investigation as to whether the property commonly known as Block 76, Lots 1,2,3,01, 3.02, 3.04,4,5, & 7 is an area in need of redevelopment in accordance with the procedures of the local redevelopment and housing law and to provide recommendations to the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palmyra thereon

Resolution 2024-109 Resolution Authorizing the Payment of March 2024 bills in the amount of \$2,535,506.76

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to approve **Resolutions 2024-103 thru Resolution 2024-109**.

President Howard made a motion to approve **Resolutions 2024-103 thru Resolution 2024-109**. Mrs. McCann second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

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

AGAINST: None

Motion carried. Resolutions 2024-103 thru Resolution 2024-109 were approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURERS' REPORTS

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2024. President Howard made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2024. Ms. O'Connor second the motion.

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

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.

Mayor Tait stated that the Easter Egg Hunt would be held at Legion Field on March 23rd, 2024, at 9:00 am, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for Special Needs children and adults at the Community Center at 12:00 pm.

Mayor Tait stated a Rabies Clinic will be held in April 13, 2024 in Chief Payton Flournoy Park at 1:00 pm

Mayor Tait also noted the Downtown Safety Palmyra Day will be held on May 4th, 2024, and there is no rain date.

Mayor Tait noted that Women's Health Fair will be held on May 16th, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the Community Center.

Mayor Tait noted that the Spring Townwide yard sale will be held on May 18th, 2024.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Tait indicated that the Public Safety Committee is currently working on a contract with Lt. Murphy regarding the matter.

Mayor Tait indicated the 2024 Budget Workshop Meeting will be held Saturday April 6th, 2024, at 8:30 am. Mr. Gural stated that this is the next meeting as there will be no meeting held on April 1st, 2024.

Mayor Tait stated that Mr. Kirchner was working on getting the supplies needed to build up the garden at the community center as well as the one located at the Cove.

Mr. Gural indicated that Mr. Rosenberg had prepared an amended agreement with Republic, which is being considered, to allow the Borough to take over collections in zone 1 the first week on May 2024 and in the entire Borough starting in January of 2025. Mr. Gural noted their concerns regarding charges for liquidated damages for miss trash collections. Mr. Gural indicated the new truck is in operation and was used last Tuesday in the Riverfront.

Mr. Gural stated the Public Works, Solid Waste Collection and/or Sewer new hires is ongoing, and we are currently hosting interviews on some candidates.

Mr. Gural stated the negotiations are ongoing regarding the AT&T cell tower generator upgrade at Borough Hall.

Ms. Jackson requested approval for attendance of the Municipal Clerk's Education Conference April 23rd thru April 26th, 2024, in Atlantic City requesting a three overnight stay. The council agreed.

Ms. Johns requested approval for attendance of Tax Collector's Education Conference Attendance for May 29, 2024, thru May 31, 2024, in Atlantic City, requesting a three overnight stay. The council agreed.

Mr. Gural indicated the Fire Company DCA Firefighters Grant was approved for \$59,000 for the Cascade System for filling SCBA tanks.

Mr. Gural indicated that we applied to Senator Booker for a funding request thru Congressionally Directed Spending, however, are unsure if we are receiving that request or not. Mr. Gural indicated he would be looking into it to find out where we stand and if we did not receive it via the first request then we would resubmit for the same program again.

Mr. Gural indicted he forward the Borough Newsletter proposal request to the public relations and communication committee and wanted to know how the governing body wished to proceed Mayor Tait asked Mr. Gural to set up a meeting with the committee.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mr. Gural reminded all that the 2024 Burl Co JIF Elected Officials Training seminars are all online, noting that for every council member that attends we receive a \$250.00 dollar reduction to our insurance billing.

Mr. Gural stated that Part 1 of the Wizer 2024 Cyber Awareness Training is available and needs to be completed to continue using the Borough email addresses.

Mr. Gural explained the requirement of the entire governing body and Land Use Board to complete the required Stormwater Management Education and Training by March 18, 2024.

Mr. Gural noted the Burl Co JIF Annual Safety Celebration & Kickoff Breakfast to be held on March 27th, 2024 at 8:30am.

Mr. Gural stated that the surplus items listed for sale are on the website if anyone wants to take a look.

Mayor Tait recognized the following officers in attendance at tonight's meeting:

Patrolman John Begonja, Patrolman Scott Jaffee, Sargent Daniel Hubel, and Sargent Timothy Leusner. Mayor Tait thanked Sargent Leusner for his efforts in reporting lights that are out in the community to PSE&G. Sargent Leusner asked all to turn on their outside porch lights to help light up the Borough and deter crime.

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

Parking Ordinance - additional amended code subsections required

Accessory Structures/cargo containers - Zoning/Land Development Ordinance amendments

PUBLIC COMMENT

We request those wishing to have or make a public comment, 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. Mrs. McCann the motion.

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

Mr. Andres -W 3rd Street - Mr. Andres asked when we are going to water usage-based sewer billing. Mr. Gural indicated there are still ongoing discussions regarding water usage-based billing and we will be discussing it at the budget workshop meeting April 6th.

Mrs. Nowicki- Morgan Avenue – Mrs. Nowicki asked if there was anything in the new storage of salt and other de-icing materials ordinance or parking ordinance which should be passed on to the seniors at their meeting. Mayor Tait indicated the new ordinance is about storage of salt and other de-icing materials. Mayor Tait indicated the parking ordinance is three years old and is now being enforced.

Mr. Gifford – W. 5th Street – Mr. Gifford asked about the structural damage at the fire house. Mayor Tait stated that they are waiting for the Fire Company to decide what they are going to do.

Ms. Veitenheimer - Rowland Street – Ms. Veitenheimer indicated that there have been several times when she has walked thru Legion Field, and the fields are lit up with all lights on and there is no one on the fields. Ms. Veitenheimer stated the lights are expensive and it makes no sense for them to be on and no one is utilizing those fields. Mayor Tait stated that we are working with the various organizations to notify us when they are finished using the fields and if they do not notify us then we are fining them per the ordinance. Mrs. McCann asked what time she was walking thru. Ms. Veitenheimer indicated about 8:00 pm.

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. Ms. Latimore second the motion.

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

MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Ms. Latimore -no comment

Mrs. McCann– no comment

Mrs. O'Connor – Mrs. O'Connor noted that she attended the Shade Tree meeting and noted that if you desire you may contact Linda Yansick and a tree can be planted in your right of way or in your front yard. Mrs. O'Connor stated that a tree seeding distribution will be held April 27th, 2024, at the public works yard from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and if you choose you can pick one up to plant in your yard. She noted that 250 trees will be available and if any are left, they will be given on Palmyra Day.

President Howard- President Howard thanked the Lt. for his report on the training being done.

Mayor Tait – Mayor Tait indicated that she met with Ms. O’Connor regarding hiring someone to update the website and to get things communicated to the community.

Mayor Tait asked Mr. Gural and Mr. Rosenberg if there were items for the closed session. Mr. Gural and Mr. Rosenberg indicated no. Mr. Rosenberg noted that the Borough is named as a defendant in a foreclosure matter which we usually file a non-contesting answer so we can monitor the litigation. Mr. Rosenberg asked permission to do so regarding the matter. Council Agreed.

Mayor Tait noted that we allow non-profit organizations to utilize our fields for various functions.

Mayor Tait noted that an organization used our fields last year and a lot of trash was left which was not cleaned up. Mayor Tait noted that the security deposit was not returned as public works had to be sent out to clean up those fields. Mayor Tait stated that if more than fifty people are going to be present in the community center we ask the organization to hire a police officer, at their expense, to attend and to monitor the event. There was some discussion as to whether that should also apply to the field usage requests for larger events especially those posted on social media. Mr. Gural noted that administratively we have the prerogative to request that if the council so requested. There was additional discussion and Council agreed that it could be requested.

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 7:52 PM

Doretha R Jackson, RMC

Municipal Clerk

Approved: April 15th, 2024