

Palmyra Borough Council Meeting
Tuesday September 24, 2024
7:00 PM

Vice President James Tesche called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Palmyra Municipal Center, located at 325 S. Railroad St. Other Council members in attendance included Matthew Andrews, Nancy Fleegle, Jane Quairola, and Marcus Riddell. Also in attendance were Borough Manager Roger Powl, Assistant Borough Manager Brenda Pera, Mayor Fred Carpenter, and Western Lebanon County Regional Police Sergeant Pete Mathews. Beth Shearer and Anthony Catalani were absent from the meeting.

Public Comment Period #1

- Greg Reed, 223 E. Hazel St, complained about the Borough getting rid of the Borough operated trash program in 2018 by going to a contracted service. He feels the Borough would be in a better position now related to cost if the Borough would still be collecting trash with its own forces. He also complained about getting rid of the single bag program with the new 2024 contract.
- Jeff Small, 138 N. Harrison St, agreed with Mr. Reed about the refuse contract changes and believes 96-gallon curb carts will be too large. He also inquired about the status of the proposed luxury apartments at the Aradiant building on N. Harrison Street.
- Elaine Kreiser, 601 S. Duke St, shared her concerns about the size of the 96-gallon curb carts and her inability to move them to her collection site.
- Dave McCloskey, 212 E. High St, asked Council to vote against the financial reduction request for the Melrose Phase #1 Land Development plan. He also reported noticing sinkage on his property and neighboring property.
- Don Barry, 711 N. Grant St, asked Council to consider bringing back the single bag program. He also explained that the Palmyra School Board is to blame for not approving the requested LERTA to help with real estate tax reduction to enable the construction of the new luxury apartments on the site of the Aradiant building on N. Harrison St.

Consent Calendar

The following agenda items were acted upon by a single motion:

- a. Approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024, Borough Council meeting.
- b. Approve payment of all bills listed on the August 2024 Detailed Check Listing Report.
- c. Approve the Treasurer's Report for the period August 1 through August 31, 2024:

	General Fund	Sewer Fund	Refuse Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Special Sewer Fund	Liquid Fuels Fund
YTD Revenue	\$3,272,145	\$1,324,515	\$918,058	\$492,013	\$11,718	\$224,074
YTD Expenses	\$3,509,504	\$1,189,446	\$753,145	\$765,399	\$0	\$230,000
Difference	\$(237,359)	\$135,069	\$164,913	\$(273,386)	\$11,718	\$(5,926)
Fund Balance	\$836,744	\$329,845	\$266,282	\$1,182,410	\$2,245,311	\$41,835

	Library Fund	Joint Fire Apparatus Fund	Cemetery Fund	Employee Benefits Fund	Fire Protection Tax Fund
YTD Revenue	\$29,133	\$151,251	\$446	\$7,268	\$343,871
YTD Expenses	\$22,000	\$135,374	\$0	\$525,701	\$197,910
Difference	\$7,133	\$15,877	\$446	\$(518,433)	\$145,961
Fund Balance	\$11,785	\$176,789	\$44,751	\$150,685	\$190,775

Motion: To approve the consent calendar. Motion by Marcus Riddell, second by Matthew Andrews. Motion passed.

Action & Discussion Items

a. Personnel – Public Works Employee Probation Period:

Motion: To extend the probation period for Public Works employee #9900 for up to 3-months from September 18th to December 18, 2024, to enable the new Public Works Superintendent more time to evaluate their performance. Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Marcus Riddell. Motion passed.

b. Resolution #2024-20 - Auditor Appointment for 2024 Audit:

Motion: To approve Resolution #2024-20, a resolution appointing Brown Plus to perform the annual Audit for year ending December 31, 2024, for a fee not to exceed \$36,300. Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Nancy Fleegle. Motion passed.

c. 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for Pension Funding:

1. Non-Uniformed Pension Plan: 2024 MMO = \$324,192

Motion: To approve the Non-Uniformed Minimum Municipal Obligation for pension plan funding for the 2025 Budget Year. Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Nancy Fleegle. Motion passed.

d. E. Ridge Road – Melrose Phase#1 Land Development Plan – Financial Security Reduction:

Motion: To approve a \$267,795.41 reduction of the financial security required for the E. Ridge Road – Melrose Phase #1 Land Development Plan from \$597,753.67 to a new outstanding financial security balance of \$329,958.27 as recommended by the Borough Engineer in a letter dated September 18, 2024. Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Matthew Andrews. Motion passed.

Reports

a. President's Report: There was no report.

b. Financial Report: Mr. Powl provided the Financial Statement as of August 31, 2024.

c. Fire Department: There was no report.

d. Library Report: Councilor Quairolì was unable to attend the September 17th meeting and did not have a report.

- e. Western Lebanon County Regional Police Department: Sergeant Mathews provided a copy of the August 2024 report.
- f. Recreation Commission: Councilor Quairolì commented that the report for the August 21st meeting should be available soon.
- g. Solicitor's Report: There was no report.
- h. Zoning & Codes Enforcement: There are no zoning hearings scheduled for Monday October 14, 2024.
- i. Borough Manager's Report:
 - 1. East Ridge Road – Melrose (Phase #1) Update: (Off-Site Stormwater) Mr. Powl reported that North Londonderry Township will not allow the Borough to connect to the inlet box on the north side of E Ridge Road. The resolution for the off-site stormwater is still unresolved. He also stated that he and the Borough Engineer will conduct a meeting with the impacted residents on October 2nd to discuss the next steps.
 - 2. Public Works Vehicle #7 (2012 Ford F350 4X4) – Replacement: Mr. Powl updated Council on the condition of the current #7 vehicle. When the new superintendent arrived, the vehicle was out of inspection, filthy, and required a few maintenance items in order to pass inspection. The vehicle was eligible to be replaced two years ago, but the former superintendent did not feel replacement was warranted. The truck is at the point where the additional required maintenance necessary to keep the truck is too costly for the condition and age of the vehicle. Mr. Powl stated that PA COSTARS dealers (Hondru, Maguires, and Klick-Lewis) were contacted to research price and availability for a standard 4-wheel drive pick-up truck with a regular bed and plow package for the 2025 Budget. Klick-Lewis responded that it has a 2024 Chevy Silverado 3500HD 4X4 currently on their lot that would just need strobe lights and plow package installed. They were able to offer a deeper discount for purchase this year since the truck is in current inventory. To wait until 2025 to replace the 2012 truck will cost more and there is no guarantee when a 2025 model year truck will be available.

*Motion: To amend the 2024 Budget to enable the purchase of a new 2024 Chevrolet 3500HD 4X4 pick-up truck with Western snowplow package from Klick-Lewis for a COSTARS price of \$62,000. This purchase will be expensed from Capital Reserve Fund budget line item #30.430.760.
Motion by Jane Quairolì, second by Nancy Fleegle. Motion passed.*

Other Business

- Councilor Riddell asked if the Borough could negotiate the refuse bid any lower than the bid amount. He also commented that many political signs are showing up in yards for the upcoming Presidential election and reminded everyone that it is illegal to remove or damage someone's political sign.

Public Comment Period #2

- Elaine Kreiser, 601 S. Duke St, inquired why some streets in her neighborhood were paved and others were not when the water company replaced the water main pipes.
- Jeff Small, 138 N. Harrison St, reported standing water at the intersection of N. Green St and E. Arch St even though the street has been repaved.

Announcement

President Shearer announced that Borough Council will conduct its next public meetings on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, and Tuesday, October 22, 2024, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Marcus Riddell, second by Matthew Andrews. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger E. Powl
Borough Manager