

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION
November 2, 2023
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Gregory Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders, and their families.

Roll Call of Members

Gregory Strubinger
Michael Yeastedt
Michael Rivkin
Police Chief Schatz
Secretary Brooke Klotz

Joanne Klitsch
Bob Schaninger
Mayor Sofranko-left @ 7:02
Borough Mgr. Sterner

Jay Miller-absent
Tom Chapman-absent
Solicitor Nanovic-absent
Engineer Matt Boggs

Announcements

Vacancies-International Property Maintenance Board – If any resident is interested in filling this position, please submit a letter of interest to the Borough office.

Leaf Collection-Monday, October 30th through Friday, November 17th

Operation Give A Gobbler – Chief Schatz explained this food drive would be taking place until November 14, 2023. The Jim Thorpe Police Department was challenged by the Palmerton and Lehighton Police Departments to see which department collects the most amount of non-perishable goods. Last year, the Jim Thorpe Police Department won the challenge. All the items donated go to the Valor House.

2nd Annual Festival of Trees – The cost for a tree is \$45.00. If interested, stop by the Borough office to purchase a tree. There were additional trees ordered due to the expressed interest last year. Trees can be decorated starting Thursday, November 23rd through Thursday November, 30th.

Executive Session held for Personnel-10/18 at 4:00 p.m., 10/25 at 6:30 p.m., 10/26 at 5:00 p.m. Manager Sterner announced there was also an executive session held after last night's Budget meeting.

Public Comment

Ed & Lynn Humphries – They thanked the Police for everything they did to try to help the traffic situation during the last Saturday of the Fall Foliage Festival. They also were there to discuss their request to start collecting and paying the Amusement Tax starting in January 2024, not October 2023 like originally requested. Their original request was for starting on October 1st. They explained they are not prepared for this Tax due to being notified by Berkheimer at the end of September. They felt if they started paying the tax this year, it would cause a financial hardship.

Margaret White – She was at the meeting to discuss the traffic issues from the last Saturday of the Fall Foliage Festival. She felt that it was a poor decision having the parade on the busiest day of the Fall Foliage Festival. She felt the streets should be closed for public safety.

Public Hearing

Zoning Ordinance – a Public Hearing is scheduled for November 9, 2023.

SALDO-Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance

NONE

Action

The following items were reviewed:

Council Meeting Minutes from October 5, 2023

Council Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2023 – Greg Strubinger requested if any changes need to be made, please notify Secretary Klotz.

Expenditures from all Funds as presented

Treasurer's Report

Resolution 2023-19 Auditor Appointment – This is an annual Resolution. Mike Yeastedt asked if the single audit covers both Memorial Hall and the Public Service Garage. The single audit will cover both projects.

Garbage & Recycling Bids – Only two (2) companies placed bids, Tamaqua Transfer and JP Mascaro. Neither company placed bids for a one-year contract. Both companies placed bids for the three-year contract and five-year contract, with Tamaqua Transfer including the option for an extension with the three-year contract. JP Mascaro submitted an alternate bid to reduce the cost of the contract by limiting the tire and electronic recycling to one time a year. Tamaqua Transfer had the lowest bid. For a three-year contract, it will cost \$2,697,837.00 and \$2,924,055.00 for the extension. For a five-year contract, it will cost \$4,619,841.00. The increase is 103.75% since the last contract in 2018. The new rates for residents will take place in February 2024.

Abuse Prevention Policy – The Borough's insurance carrier is requiring the Borough to have this policy in place.

Borough Employment-Sewer Department Resignation – The Borough recently received a letter of resignation from one of the sewer department employees. Once accepted at the regular meeting, Council can post the position in-house for five days.

Borough Employment-Sewer Department Retirement & Severance Package – The Sewer Supervisor will be retiring at the beginning of 2024. Depending on Council's decision to accept the Sewer Supervisor's proposal, will depend upon his actual retirement date.

Jim Thorpe Trolley Request-Amusement Tax Start Date – This was discussed during Public Comment.

Mauch Chunk Rod & Gun Club Request-No Parking signs installed along Reservoir Road – The request is being made to ensure emergency vehicles can get through whenever events are being held at the Gun Club. Chief Schatz thought this is a good idea and signage will help deter people from parking in that area. Joanne Klitsch asked if the signs would be installed on both sides of the street. Chief Schatz thought it would be a good idea to have the signs placed on both sides.

Entech Engineering EWO-Center Avenue Water Main Replacement Project \$312,300.00 – This work order would be for permitting and designing, administration, and surveying for the Center Avenue Water Main Replacement Project. The Borough will apply for a PennVest Loan in November 2024, with the potential to be awarded it in 2025.

Facilities Projects – The Borough has received the following invoices:

Facilities Projects-Public Service Garage – Eckert Seamans \$4,983.93

Facilities Projects-Public Service Garage – Solicitor Nanovic \$2,000.00

Facilities Projects-Public Service Garage – Gross McGinley \$1,800.00

Facilities Projects-Memorial Hall – Eckert Seamans \$4,991.41

Facilities Projects-Memorial Hall – Solicitor Nanovic \$2,000.00

There will be an additional bill added on next week's agenda from Wildland's for services for the Silk Mill Restoration Project.

Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (1)

Exoneration Request

The report was submitted for review.

Committees

Draft working SALDO – Manager Sterner sent a memo out to both Borough Council and Planning Commission to review the SALDO draft and submit any comments no later than December 15th.

Silk Mill Run Restoration Advisory Committee Updates – There was a meeting held on October 30th. Thompson Environmental was there to discuss the design plans for opening up the dams.

Administration

NONE

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

High Street Wall Project – The section of the parapet wall by Race Street is falling down and leaning against a telephone pole. There was a different section that was fixed a few years ago. Earth Engineering participated in the earlier repair of the wall and will be doing so with this project. Council must determine if they would like to replace this section with a guard rail or cast in place wall. The guard rail is the most cost-effective option and there is already a section of the wall that was replaced with guard rail. The cast in place wall would require underground stabilizing poles that would cause utilities (water and sewer lines) to be moved. Mike Yeastedt asked how this would affect stormwater management? There will be paving involved with this project and the paving would be sloped for it. Council requested an estimate for a wooden guard rail.

Water Department PO-6th Street PRV Pit Rehabilitation from CLA-VAL – The current equipment is corroded and needs to be replaced.

Tire & Electronic Recycling Report – This was another successful event. 356 tires, 117 TVs, and 83 miscellaneous electronic items were collected. Greg Strubinger noted there was no all-call reminding residents about the recycling event and asked that the administrative staff remember to send one out for the next event.

Main Street-Leisure Lane Association – No one from the association was present. According to Solicitor Nanovic, he had not received the dead from the HOA but would reach out to them.

Police

NONE

Buildings/Parks

NONE

Emergency Services

Borough of Lehighon Request-Snowflake 5k Fire Police assistance – Chief Schatz said he sees no issues granting Lehighon their request. The 5K will be taking place on December 9, 2023.

Mike Yeastedt said the radio was installed in the new pumper truck. Pickup will happen on the 8th, but it's still not completed. The install work will be finished in our area and will go to Nesquehoning for painting.

Old Business

Executive Session

Adjourn

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **adjourn the meeting**. There were no comments. Motion carries 4-0-1, with Bob Schaninger being out of the room. The meeting ended at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Borough Secretary