

Jim Thorpe Borough  
2018 Budget Adoption & End of the Year Meeting  
December 28, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:30 in the Memorial Park Hall, 103 East Tenth Street, Jim Thorpe by President Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for the men and women serving our country.

**Roll Call of Members & Officials**

Gregory Strubinger	Kyle Sheckler	Joanne Klitsch
Thomas Highland	John McGuire	Curtis Jackson
Jay Miller	Manager Maureen Sterner	PSM Vince Yaich
Police Chief Joe Schatz	Matt Boggs, Entech	Solicitor James Nanovic
Mayor Michael Sofranko	Secy. Louise McClafferty (a)	

**Public Comment**

President Strubinger said there is a vacancy on the Police Pension Board anyone interested should stop in the Borough office for more information.

Edith Lukasevich said she is good with the Police moving to the downstairs of the hall. She would like to see the hall continue to be an entertainment center. There is no reason the office needs to move over to the hall. She would like to ask Council to reconsider what you are intending to do at the hall.

Keith Frankenfield, 505 South St, if the Police need more room and the workers the borough should have taken that into effect then. We don't have the money or the finances a lot of residents are elderly people and don't have the finances for this.

Mary Capone 1005 Center St, she feels a million dollars being spent on this expansion is a lot of money, there are older people that live here in Jim Thorpe, this is going to be a major impact on these residents.

Shaun McElmoyle, 1125 Center Street he wants to voice his displeasure with the plans. He asked Council not to move forward with this.

Jay McElmoyle, 927 North Street last meeting you said you are losing money at the hall, he does not see how you are going to invest \$650,000 in renovating how you are going to save any money for the tax payers, you aren't going to bring any money into the town. You should keep this place for the public to enjoy and use.

President Strubinger said we have held several public meetings, this is not a hasty decision. The building need alot of repairs, the plan is to save the building. This is a way to maintain the building, we can't continue to operate in this fashion, where we are putting money into the operation of the hall. We have put over \$300,000 of the tax payer's money into the operation of the hall the past 5 years. We don't want to continue in this fashion. A large portion of the upper level will be maintained as a hall. The plan is to make this more a community center. The focus is to utilize this as a hall, we should not be involved with operating a social hall. We are trying to change direction and get all of the facilities under one roof and have the large portion used as a community center.

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Council discussed the Memorial Hall for several more minutes.

Tim Benyo, 226 Center St. consider updating the website with the calendar for the meetings, proposals, all that information is great for the residents to see. He looked at the budget and he saw the full-time salary went down but increased under the new line officer under drug task force.

Mayor Sofranko said he asked them to pull out what we normally spend for a police officer throughout the year on drug activity. It is not adding another officer, it is showing what the tax money is paid towards. The Police contract is going through arbitration.

Jay McClusky, 11 Chestnut Ave the name of the park is Memorial Hall. This is a memorial for Veterans of WW I. The park & the hall are very important to him, this is a memorial to all of Veterans.

Jim McHugh, 417 Center St. said when you put the Borough office over there that encroached on the Memorial Park deed restrictions. The plan was for the hall to be used for entertainment, for the community and surrounding communities. The stipulation of alcohol is the sale value, when there are functions there we are not selling the alcohol the people bring their own alcohol. When you took the bandstand down and put the offices there you went into the park. Now you are going over to the hall with the offices. You represent the people, Council is not listening to the people that are concerned about the building.

Riley McHugh stated there are not too many buildings that will hold about 600 people, they hold smaller crowds.

Sherry McHugh handed in a petition that was signed by residents that utilize the hall. She spoke about the older residents not being able to afford the increase in taxes because they are on fixed incomes. Sherry read a letter from Mrs. Murphy who asked that Council not take something so precious away, this should be for the town people. The tax increase for the elderly is not necessary or affordable for them. She spoke about the agreement that Council wanted to make with her husband to lease the building. She spoke about the people that used the hall that are upset with that the building will not be there to use for different events. The hall should remain for the community.

Trisha Spillman, 92 W Broadway asked about the mortgage on the building, what is the second mortgage on?

President Strubinger said the second mortgage was on the roof and the HVAC system in the building. The first mortgage was down to about \$200,000 then we took out the second mortgage which then we took a loan out about \$450,000. He is not in favor of hiring someone to run the hall as a profit-making enterprise.

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Bob Shanninger 607 Lehigh St what are you going to do with the other building, what is going to happen to that?

Mr. Jackson said Council is going to put funding into place to do a project or two. The one project is to move the building that is falling apart and move it up to West Broadway and have a new Public Service office and give the land back to the park. The second part of the plan is to move the police downstairs and the back half of the building will be used for record storage. The question is whether or not the Administration will move over to this building, this is not resolved.

Bob Shanninger had a question he would like to know how much of a salary increase is there for the manager and other employees.

Mr. Jackson said the managers salary and a few other salaries are split between various funds. The increase is 8% for the manager, we believe this is warranted for the position.

Bob Shanninger asked what is the capital improvement project \$635,000, what is that.

President Strubinger said we are planning on moving forward with moving the Public Service building over to West Broadway, reconfigure the borough office and police dept.

Dave Gasker said he does not think the Memorial hall should be touched. He would like to know what happened with people volunteering as Park Commission members. What has changed in Jim Thorpe. There used to be roller skating, teen dances, etc. that use to be held at the park. We as tax payers are all guilty of letting this slip away.

President Strubinger said times have changed, kids are staying indoors, they are fixed on different things than socializing. They are either in front of the computer screens and or other things.

Jerry Strubinger said before you raise any taxes you should be getting grants. The people can't afford this.

President Strubinger said we did get a grant for part of the Sewer project.

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the expenditures from all funds as presented.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Curtis Jackson to approve the 2018 Budgets as presented.

YES 7                      NO 0

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**MOTION:** John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to adopt Ordinance 2017-16 Tax Levy for 2018.

YES 7

NO 0

**MOTION:** Curtis Jackson second John McGuire to adjourn.

YES 7

NO 0

Adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise McClafferty". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name and title.

Louise McClafferty  
Borough Secretary