

JIM THORPE BOROUGH
DECEMBER 14, 2017
MINUTES

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

Thomas Highland

Jay Miller (a)

Police Chief Joe Schatz

Solicitor James Nanovic

Kyle Sheckler

John McGuire

Manager Maureen Sterner

Mayor Michael Sofranko

Secy. Louise McClafferty

Joanne Klitsch

Curtis Jackson

PSM Vince Yaich

Matt Boggs, Entech

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko said everyone received a copy of the Police report. This past month was very active. He thanked the Police dept. for a job well done.

Police Chief said the JNet system was just audited, we had an excellent review.

Mayor Sofranko said the Jim Thorpe Tourist Promotion Agency will be having a bi-centennial Mauch Chunk celebration. They will be doing some history projects. He will be attending the meetings and reporting back to Council.

Public Comment

President Strubinger informed the public there is Police Pension Board Vacancy (1)

Ed McArdle asked where does Council sit with the burning ordinance?

Mr. McGuire said he has something for the solicitor to review.

Bill Malatak asked if there is any money left in the budget for 2018 to fix the roads, 7th St between North St and School St is horrible.

Bill Maehrer has a copy of the Fire Dept. application. He thinks this is what should have been done before the application should have been re-written before it was given out. He wants to know why do they have to wait a year to re-apply.

President Strubinger said this is a decision that was made by Council.

Bill Maehrer asked why a year.

President Strubinger said this is what Council decided on.

Bill Maehrer asked why can't you put the Borough office in the downstairs of the hall, this way you would not be paying for the renovations to the upstairs and downstairs.

President Strubinger said one of the issues is the accessibility for the public, it is easier access on the top level.

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Mr. Jackson said the main entrance will be where it is right now (on the downstairs level).

Bill Maehrer said you are putting a new garage up by the water plant. Did you think of putting the Phoenix Fire Company in there?

President Strubinger said we did not consider this because the Phoenix Fire Co. is in the plans to not be in existence in the near future.

Bill Maehrer asked the old garage who is going to tear that down?

President Strubinger said we have not gotten that far into the process.

Helen Van Pelt 11 West Broadway, she is here to discuss the High Street Steps being shut down. She has 3 rental properties on High St and this has affected them terribly with them being shut down. She does not understand why after 130 yrs. You will not maintain them. We pay taxes, and we deserve to have the infrastructure that they need to live there. To close them it is not fair to the people that live there. She asked Council to open the steps.

President Strubinger said it has been revealed to the Borough that we do not own the steps. He said there is some dispute over the length of time and how long the Borough has maintained them. There are questions regarding the time frame, this is private property. What the public thought was a public thoroughfare it was not. We can't be insured; the Borough cannot give permission to travel across private property. The Borough owns a portion at the very top.

Mr. Jackson said it would be good if the Borough could find a way in conjunction with the property owners to create some type of easement that would release the Borough of liability.

Michael Rivkin said they are 18% owner of the steps, they are willing to create an offer to Council. He said they are willing to offer an agreement to create an easement to the Borough. There is no question about the ownership of the property, he doesn't see this as a major factor. They presented the Borough with documented pattern of ownership, maintenance being paid for by the Borough. They prepared a packet of information for Council to review. He asked when was the decision made by Council to no longer maintain the steps.

President Strubinger said that was when we found out we were not the owners.

Mike Rivkin said he has looked in the minutes, he thinks this needs to be voted on by Council.

High Street Steps were discussed for several minutes.

Mr. McGuire said we should form a committee to sit and discuss this matter with the property owners.

Kay Henritz, 127 Lentz Trail, stated she is still upset with the Fire Dept. she thinks this is wrong. Her question is the teenagers in this town have nowhere to go, why can't you do something for the kids. They need a place to go to socialize. Is this a done deal, she thinks this should be voted on by the tax payers? Has this been voted on by Council.

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President Strubinger said the plans are to move forward with what we discussed at the November meeting. We are protecting the Borough's assets; the building still needs a lot of work. There were some improvements, it still needs doors, windows. We are saving the building and maintaining a 400-seat hall. We tried to establish a recreation board with volunteers, that time is gone. We have been left to deal with the building. We put over \$350,000 in this building over the past few years.

Kay Henritz said raising the taxes over 2 mills is a major expense to the residents and they cannot afford it. This should be a vote for the people.

Mark Reitz, 529 North St., spoke about the past issues with the Building Code inspector with this property. He spoke about the competition with the B & B in the town, not having to follow the same rules.

Jim Gilmore, 50 W Broadway survey shows the borough does not own the steps. We need to do something to open the steps back up. The property owners said they would consider selling it to the Borough for \$1.00, you can buy the property for a minimal amount. He would like to see the borough buy this portion to use for the citizen of this borough. He used to rent the hall, when you jacked the price up \$100.00 an hour, you ran this place out of existence.

Eric Marzen, 301 Center St., Fire Dept. application, he believes they should be given the opportunity to receive the correct application. They are volunteers, he does not agree with this.

Chris Propok 23 Race St, the steps from Broadway to Race St, alleyway is Spring Alley, there has not been any maintenance on them. These are public walkways why are they not maintained?

President Strubinger said these were not discussed by Council.

Tom Loughery said he asks that council work together with them for High Street Steps.

Bill Mullen asked how the municipal fire dept. is going to work and did not get a response. You said the volunteers are not there, and here you are turning down volunteers down for the Fire Dept. How many volunteers do you have.

President Strubinger said we have 38 applications, and there are 11 applications that were turned down.

Jim McHugh, 417 Center St., past manager at Memorial Hall. He asked Council to give them positive feed on the hall for 2 years. He said the building was built by volunteers it was given to the borough. He spoke about the events that he catered in the hall.

Sherry McHugh, 417 Center St said she volunteered her time at the hall, she was not paid. She spoke about the hall and said the building is a public entity. She said the population has decreased. She said the hall is an emergency shelter, there are deed restrictions, this should be put on the ballot for the people to vote what should be done with the Memorial Hall.

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Jerry Strubinger, 555 West 10th St, he said you should have special meetings for these things you are planning to do. You should consider consolidating Police Dept. the Fire dept. applications not being able to reapply for a year is dumb. He asked if the County has submitted any plans for 76 Susquehanna Street.

Borough Manager Sterner said nothing has been submitted, they did call to set up a preliminary meeting in January 2018.

Sherry McHugh handed a signed petition to council, in regard to what is being done at the Hall.

Francine Cooper, 84 Broadway asked what is being done with the parking on Quarry Street.

Police Chief Schatz said they could not come up with a solution to this. He recommends this be left alone.

Mayor Sofranko said he would not recommend eliminating parking. We said there will be no changes. He told her she needs to talk with the landlord, regarding this matter, he should be coming to council with these concerns. If you have concerns about Trapp Alley being blocked, you need to contact the Police Dept. and they will be over to ticket the cars.

Keith McQuate, American Legion Post #304, they discussed the Memorial Hall property. They think this property should remain the property for the people.

Action

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Curtis Jackson to approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes from November 2, 2017.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Thomas Highland second John McGuire to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2017.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Kyle Sheckler Council to table the meeting Minutes from November 16, 2017.

COMMENTS:

Mr. McGuire would like the secretary to re-listen to the tape. He has changes.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Expenditures from all Funds as presented.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

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MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second John McGuire to approve the Treasurer Report as presented.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: John McGuire second Curtis Jackson to re-advertise the 2018 Budgets for public inspection for 10 days.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Kyle Sheckler to approve Schedule and Advertise end of the year meeting - Dec. 28, 2017 at 6:30

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Kyle Sheckler to Schedule and advertise Reorganization meeting Jan. 2, 2018 at 6:30 pm

COMMENTS:

Mayor Sofranko said he will be available to swear in the Council members that need to be sworn in. They need to get their Residency form notarized and have it with them that night.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Curtis Jackson to Schedule and Advertise January Work session meeting – Jan. 2, 2018 immediately following the reorganization meeting.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to adopt Ordinance 2017-13 – Zoning Amendments

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to adopt Ordinance 2017-14 – UCC Appeals Board Amendments

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to adopt Ordinance 2017-15 – Act 172 Volunteer Incentives.

COMMENTS:

President Strubinger said this is for the volunteer firemen being given a tax break.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

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MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to table Ordinance 2017-16 Tax Levy 2018

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: John McGuire second Joanne Klitsch to adopt Resolution 2017-22 Fee Schedule.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: John McGuire second Thomas Highland to sign and the appoint Buckno, Lisicky & Company to do the 2017 audit.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Curtis Jackson to approve the Fire Department appointments: Fister, William Klotz, Charles DeHaven and Clinton Hawk.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Gregory Strubinger to authorize the Borough Manager to sign the paperwork from Penn Dot for W. Front Street & River St acceptance.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second John McGuire to appoint Mark Reitz to the Shade Tree Commission.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to approve the Shade Tree Recommendations:

- a. North Avenue – PPL will be cutting part of the tree down because it is intertwine with high power line and property owner will need to remove the remainder of the tree.
- b. 100 North Avenue remove the dead tree its pushing up the sidewalks
- c. Dead tree to be removed at 44 Susquehanna Street
- d. Dead tree to be removed at 306 Center St

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Kyle Sheckler to authorize a letter to be sent to Penn Dot requesting they show us written verification that they are not held by borough ordinances and direct us where in the new sidewalk agreement that the sidewalks for lots 43, 45, 47, 49 & 51 West Front Street.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Kyle Sheckler to approve Credit Tech from Bangor, Pa Utilities Collection Agency Proposal.

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YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to deny the parking request for High Street.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to approve the AOH - St. Patrick's Day parade Sun. March 11, 2018 at 1:00

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Kyle Sheckler to send the AOH the Police Service Contract.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Narcan Policy Update.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Curtis Jackson second Joanne Klitsch to table the Energy Audit.

COMMENTS:

Borough Manager Sterner said this would be for council to decide if you want to move forward with replacing the lighting in the borough buildings.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second John McGuire to approve D & L – Entech Engineer work order \$7,430

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Curtis Jackson approve High Street Wall Project Payment application #2 for Axis Stabilization - \$62,845.20

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Curtis Jackson to approve WWTP Upgrade Project Eastern Environmental payment application #12 - \$482,252.29

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Gregory Strubinger to approve Howard Company payment application #9 - \$34,570.50

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

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MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to approve Eastern Environmental change order #7 - \$4,213.74

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to approve Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (2)

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Temporary Off Lien Report (0)

MOTION: John McGuire second Thomas Highland to approve the Uncollectible Accounts Report – (2)

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second John McGuire to approve Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (3)

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second John McGuire Account #0610 payment plan.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to approve Account #7995 Payment Plan

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to approve Account #0765 payment plan.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to approve Account #9510 and #2420 request.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

Tax Exoneration Action

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to approve Sara Redline, 1115 School St – retired

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YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Curtis Jackson second Thomas Highland Blair Redline, 1115 School St – retired

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Kyle Sheckler t approve Barbara Hawk, 9 W Chipmunk Trail - retired

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

Committees

Administration

Mr. Jackson thanked Council for purchasing the street signs for the Glenn Onoko Estates. The signs have been installed and some of the house numbers have been put in too.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Tire & Electronic Recycling

Police

Buildings/Parks

Mr. McGuire spoke about Penn State clean up along Flagstaff Program.

Emergency Services

Old Business


- A. Police Contract
- B. Disorderly Conduct
- C. Parking Zones Ordinance
- D. Nuisance Ordinance
- E. Memorial Hall Stormwater

MOTION: Curtis Jackson second Kyle Sheckler to adjourn.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Jay Miller

Adjourned at 8:55 pm

Respectfully submitted


Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary