

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2018
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Park Hall, 101 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
Police Chief Joe Schatz
Mayor Michael Sofranko

Kyle Sheckler
John McGuire
Manager Maureen Sterner
Solicitor James Nanovic
Secretary McClafferty

Joanne Klitsch
Edith Lukasevich
PSM Vince Yaich

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko said everyone received a copy of the police report. One thing he wants to add to the report is there have been 17 notices sent out for expired vehicles. The Police Chief will monitor this. There have been concerns about the speeding in town, the Vascar lines have to be painted, this has been given to the PSM. He was holding off on this until he saw where they were with the radar, this is back to the State. He mentioned the large crowd that will be at the football game for JT vs Tamaqua game.

Public Comment

President Strubinger announced the following:

Police Pension Board Vacancy (1)

Fall Tire & Electronic Recycling Oct. 13, 2018 7:00 to 11:30 am

Trick or Treat Night Wed. Oct. 31, 2018 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Leaf Pick Up will be November 1 to November 16, 2018

Church Alley project – water main amount of \$100,000.00 to be used for this project

Tree Vitalize grant amount received is \$5,000.00

Dee Ford-Reitz, Shade Tree Commission member, said the borough received the official letter stating we received the \$5,000.00 tree vitalization grant, with the matching funds of \$5,000.00 brings this to \$10,000.00. She thanked the Manager and Secretary for working with her.

President Strubinger thanked Dee Ford-Reitzr for working on this project.

2016 DCED Act 904 Recycling Grant

Borough Manager Sterner said we were awarded the 2016 DCED Act 904 Recycling grant amount of \$3,892.00

Troop #555 leaders and members were present.

Robert Renode will be working on his Eagle Scout project, he is looking for approval from Council to work on the Liberty's monument refurbishment of the stairs repair or rebuilding the stairs, he would like to add 2 more steps.

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Mr. McGuire asked if the steps will be in the way of the State plowing the road?

Robert Renode said he does not think so.

Borough Manager Sterner said if you add the steps that will kick that into the building codes, repairing is not in the building code.

Mr. Miller said if we have any flat stones, they would take the weather better than wood.

Mrs. Lukasevich said you are planning on cleaning the monument. That is the Civil War monument, she asked that they be very careful cleaning that.

Robert Renode said they will be careful cleaning the monument. He informed Council he has to get the costs, do some fund raising, buy the paint, he would say weather permitting 2 months.

Mr. Miller asked the Borough Manager to dig down deep to find a couple bucks to help him out.

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Jay Miller to approve Robert Renode's Eagle Scout project.

YES 7

NO 0

Michael Rivkin, 61 W Broadway, JTTA, thanked Police Chief for assisting with the parking for Fall Foliage Festival. They have crossing guards assisting the officers working the traffic light. They have new Christmas banners for many of the posts throughout town, many of the brackets are damaged, it has been recommended that we purchase 20 sets, the cost is \$79.00 and they do not have this budgeted. He requested Council to take on the expenses to purchase the 20 brackets at a cost of \$79.00, this is under \$1,600.00.

Mr. McGuire asked for the traffic control what time do the officers start? His concern is the traffic back up after church was let out.

Mayor Sofranko said 11:00 am, the problem is the County parking lot, they were to put up signage. For next year, the concern is the large crowds and the officers are not able to get through the crowds, we are looking at flagger force to handle the traffic and the officers would walk around town to handle the issues going on downtown.

Mark Reitz thanked the Borough and the Police for helping with the drug problem in the 500 block of North Street. The Borough and Police are doing a good job, he is not happy with the County. He wants to know how many times a person can be incarcerated until something is done.

Dan Ward Scout Leader Troop #555, they volunteer every year for JTTA, they help with the buses getting people on and off the bus. The new bus pattern for this year eliminates a lot of high-risk situations.

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Ed McArdle thanked PSM Yaich and the borough crew for cleaning the ditch out on 7th St. They cleaned it out and sealed it and at 624 Center St. they cut the road out and sealed it.

Bill Malatak said 7th St has been completed, the fence was repaired and in Germantown there were street lights upgraded. The bridge going out to the pump house in Germantown, the pipe needs to be cleaned out. Something must be stuck in the pipe. He commented about the delivery truck at the bottom of the Mansion house sticking out in to the roadway and creating a driving hazard for people. He said we should ask the County for help with tax money for the banner brackets.

Michael Rivkin said traditionally the hotel tax money is strictly for promoting and advertising to get people here. The banners are more for when the people are here. Traditionally the brackets have been purchased by the borough.

Donnie Mertz, 371 W Broadway, the sign by the bridge on the fence.

President Strubinger said the borough is working with the property owner and will work through the concerns we have there, we are trying to iron things out.

Donnie Mertz said they will pay for the permits for the signs.

President Strubinger said we are trying to come up with some type of policy for non-profits, being some allowance for them to hang some type of temporary signage, we are still talking about this.

Donnie Mertz said the sandwich boards out on the sidewalks, is that legal?

President Strubinger said he doesn't see an issue with that, there have not been any complaints.

Mrs. Lukasevich said she spoke with the Borough Manager about the signs and she is working hard to see what we can do with the signs.

Mr. McGuire said the non-profits, people need to know the funds are spread out to the community. He suggested they place something on the signs saying what the funds are being raised for.

Jerry Strubinger, 555 W 10th St, the traffic flow for events, you should consider 3 lanes of traffic from the bridge down, bag the meters across from the post office too. The planning of any facilities in town, you should make the detention ponds underground.

Mr. McGuire said this is made to slow the water down, it will hold the water for a small amount of time, this is not a retention pond.

Jerry Strubinger said the CCTI when the addition was put up there they put everything underground.

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Action

MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to approve the Council Workshop Meeting Minutes from September 6, 2018.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2018.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Expenditures from all Funds as presented.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Edith Lukasevich to approve the Treasurer Report September, 2018 as presented.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Edith Lukasevich to advertise Ordinance 2018-06 School Street and SR 209 No Parking.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to approve Detective Marzen Longevity Pay amount of \$500.00 for 2018.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Edith Lukasevich to invest Water Capital Reserve Fund CD with PLIGET for 6 months, rate of 2.52% amount \$225,000.00.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Edith Lukasevich to approve the 2018 Foreign Firemen's Tax Distribution – East Mauch Chunk Fireman's Relief \$7,103.78

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Edith Lukasevich to approve the 2018 Foreign Firemen's Tax Distribution – Mauch Chunk Firemen's Relief \$14,207.54.

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YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to award the Sale of 1997 Ford F-250 truck to Fernando Messercola amount of \$7,100.00.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Miller requested the proceeds from the sale be given to the Fire Dept., what will they receive?

Borough Manager Sterner said \$7,100.00

Mr. Miller said the proceed will be kicked back on the loan. The Fire Dept. purchased a new fire truck for \$80,000.00, at no cost to the borough tax payers. The Fire Co. took a \$40,000.00 loan out and they used \$40,000.00 of their own money, this will go on the loan.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to award the Sale of 1994 GMC Topkick truck to Des Conboy amount of \$9,500.00.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to advertise the Garbage & Recycling Bid Specs.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Jay Miller to deny the Dunbar Street light request.

Comments

President Strubinger said we did contact the residents in the area. The resident that would be most affected by the light does not want the light.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to approve the D & L Trail, Wilson Consulting Invoice - \$3,174.45.

Question

Mr. Miller said we were promised \$500,000.00 grant and \$65,000.00 grant; did we receive any of that money.

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Borough Manager Sterner said yes, we received \$596,000.00 from DCNR, we now have 90% of the DCNR money.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to approve the D & L Trail, Entech Invoice #60825 - \$217.50.

Question

Mr. Miller asked if this is for the manhole?

Borough Manager Sterner said there may be a little left, the invoices were put into the grant amount.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire 10th Street Stormwater Project, Kobalt Payment #5 - \$7,481.25.

Question

Mr. Miller asked if this was for the blow out that we had?

Borough Manager Sterner said yes.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve the WWTP Upgrade Project Eastern Environmental payment application #22 - \$82,200.42

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve Howard Company payment application #17 - \$23,908.21.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve Howard Company Change Order #3 - \$7,272.54.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve Requisition #25 – \$135,641.50.

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YES 7

NO 0

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to approve the Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (4)

YES 7

NO 0

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)

Inactive (0)

Uncollectible Accounts Report – (0)

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (0)

Tax Exoneration Action

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve Carole Christine Stehle exoneration request.

YES 7

NO 0

Committees

Administration

Mr. McGuire said the Dimmick Library is branched with the Penn Kidder library so they can take advantage of all the State resources. They only allow so many State libraries in the county, this will happen shortly. The JTASD donated \$20,000.00, he thanked the borough for their donation.

Mr. McGuire said we did get the update to the Burning ordinance, this will be discussed with the Planning Commission.

Borough Manager Sterner said there is a question on DEP and EPA regulations.

Mr. Miller said he brought this up, where are we when we have to enforce the ordinance and receive the references from DEP or the EPA. How are we governed, say we send a cop to certain area, how solid are we when we ticket someone?

Solicitor Nanovic said we are incorporating something into an ordinance, we wish to incorporate that as their regulation as part of the ordinance. He will look at this.

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Mayor Sofranko said there is no mention of the Fire Chief or the fire dept.

Mr. Miller said an officer for the borough, an officer could be any one who is appointed, including a police officer.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Police

Buildings/Parks

Emergency Services

Old Business

Permit Parking

Burning Ordinance

Executive Session

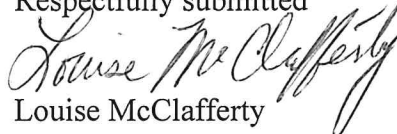
MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to adjourn.

YES 7

NO 0

Adjourned at 7:31 pm

Respectfully submitted


Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary