

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 8, 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	Kyle Sheckler	Joanne Klitsch
Thomas Highland	John McGuire	Edith Lukasevich
Jay Miller	Manager Maureen Sterner	PSM Vince Yaich
Police Chief Joe Schatz	Solicitor James Nanovic (a)	
Mayor Michael Sofranko	Boro. Secy. McClafferty	

President Strubinger announced before the meeting tonight council did meet in an executive session to discuss personnel.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Sofranko said there was a newspaper article in the paper about the security officer in the School District, there will be a follow up meeting to discuss this. He did express to the School Board members that he heard no negative from the Council members.

Mayor Sofranko said there are a lot of traffic citations going out, they put more Vascar lines down, thank you for that. He said you can see there were drug charges again, this is a never-ending fight. He thanked Community Watch for helping with Halloween. The Sam Miller field did a nice job with holding trick or treat on the field for the community.

Mr. Miller said the only thing he has is having an armed Police officer in the schools, he is for this, the only concern he has is the Borough's liability. He would like to be in on the discussions on this.

Mayor Sofranko said old time Christmas is coming up, the tree lighting will be on November 30, 2018.

**Public Comment**

President Strubinger announced:  
Leaf Pick Up Nov. 1 – Nov. 16, 2018  
Fall Recycling Event Results

Borough Manager Sterner said we collected: 127 TV's, 126 tires and 261 miscellaneous electronics, the cost was about \$2,500.00

President Strubinger said we will continue to do this event, this is done twice a year in the spring and in the fall.

President Strubinger said we will not be taking any action on the readdressing in the borough.

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Bill Malatak, 1342 Germantown Road, said the creek level is up to the street level in Germantown. If we get a heavy rain it will cover the road. This was brought up at the last meeting, he is wondering what is going on.

Borough Manager Sterner said we just pulled out the information that we had from 2016. We started a review on this area and a GP11 permit. She contacted the engineer to get a work order from them. We need an estimate to move forward with reopening and replacing it.

Bill Malatak said that is blocked up.

PSM Yaich said that pipe has collapsed, that is why they can't open it. We started getting prices for that and then the money was diverted towards the detention pond.

Bill Malatak said he would like to congratulate Andrew Roberts for his attempt to get the Flagstaff going, that is a jewel in this town. He hopes this body and the future bodies don't hold him up from doing something with that place. He spoke about the high-powered lights at the school on the tennis courts, for letting those lights burn until 11:00 pm

President Strubinger said that is a matter for the school district.

Bill Malatak asked Greg Strubinger to inform his employer that there is a disgruntle tax payer in town.

John Martino, 620 Onoko Lane, was present to discuss the Times News article in the newspaper about the readdress changes. He said a lot of what was in the article is incorrect. They say the Planning Commission's concern is the safety for the residents. The houses are clearly marked on Chapman St. and Onoko Lane. The article now said Canal St, Chapman St, plus Alpine Drive are all changing the addresses. Their numeric addresses are correct, and are according to specs. He spoke to EMS in Nesquehoning about this, they said they have no specific problems, no misguided information or label identity concerning delays or access to Onoko Lane, Chapman St or Canal St. The private areas below, there are issues with the addressing. He said they don't need this address change.

Mike Paulus, 630 Onoko Lane, the address changing came up, initially they wanted them to be part of Leisure Land, he lives in Coalport. The Borough took this over in 1963 or 1964. There were 2 roads in Coalport, Onoko Lane and Main Street, they are borough streets we are not in the development. They had to change the addresses in the development, because every development is messed up. He asked if this is the end of this?

President Strubinger said his point was at this time there is no action being taken by the borough. We have no plans to do anything further.

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Mike Paulus asked EMS what was the reason to change the addresses? They said uniformity, that means West Broadway got to be Broadway, Silk Street will now be 5<sup>th</sup> St, you change an address on East 5<sup>th</sup> St, they changed his address and now he is not getting his mail. If you want to change it for uniformity, you will be changing avenues to streets or streets to avenues.

Mr. McGuire said Mr. Hall is the chairman of the Planning Commission, they were asked by Council to start working on addressing for the borough, this is not a personal thing, he is going by our ordinance. We are out of compliance with everything. It does say no duplication of street names, and it's duplicated everywhere in town.

Joe Boyle, 201 Canal St., if you change addresses, he has classic vehicles that have A titles, he would have to change all of them, this will change the title from an A to a B title and he would lose money.

Tom Kurak, 625 Main St, said for 150 years the streets are messed up now and it works why change it now. What is the difference if you change Main St to Chipmunk Lane or Chipmunk Lane to Main St, when you do change the name you create a lot of problems for the people that live on those streets. Two months ago, we were told the issue was dead and here we are again.

President Strubinger said the Planning Commission started working on this, out of respect for them we told them to finish what they are doing, report to the borough when you are finished or at a standstill. This is what the Planning Commission did, they told them where they were at. He stated there are no plans to do any further readdressing at this time.

Tom Kurak said Borough Council should tell the Planning Commission they are done, he suggested this is what you should do.

President Strubinger said Council has asked them to do several other issues and they have been doing fine work.

Jeremiah Thibeault, 641 Onoko Lane, said the article said borough council would be liable because they are violating the state code. This is 911 suggestion, this is a layer on the map for the GIS system.

Michael Rivkin, 61 W Broadway, JTTA Old Time Christmas tree lighting will be held on November 30, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Josiah White park. He invited Council to attend.

Andrew Roberts, 16 W Broadway, said Natural Lands Trust, rewriting the saldo and zoning ordinance in the area to their idea of what should be happening in northeast Pennsylvania. Their intentions are to stop all development. He hopes the borough does not get involved with this organization. The borough should be rewriting it's zoning and saldo ordinances. The zoning and saldo, there are inconsistencies in forms, paperwork contradictions, differential in enforcement, meaning one person does one thing and another does another thing.

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Andrew Roberts received a letter from Greg Kurtz this week informing him he would not finish looking at his zoning application for the Flagstaff until he gave him approved land development plans. He received a denial letter from him, to have a zoning variance hearing. This is not what the ordinance says, this does not make sense. He is looking for 7 variances. The paperwork is wrong in many ways: it asks for contractors and contractor insurance on the zoning application, this makes no sense. That is applicable to a building permit, that may be applicable to the finalization of the zoning permit. He will not take any further action until he supplies contractors' information for Flagstaff and contractors' insurance. He is against BIA, we spend way too much money for this. He will be coming into the office tomorrow and demanding a denial letter, he will not be giving him approved land development plan, or contractor information to get his denial letter. He needs this letter to meet the borough ordinance.

Jerry Strubinger, 555 West 10<sup>th</sup> St, said there are petitions for 5 School Board positions in the spring, he asked how many of you people are up for election in the primary? He said 3 representatives on Council, people need to get actively involved politically. Asked who Police Chief Schatz who he has been talking to about the security officer in the school?

Police Chief Schatz said Lori Lienhard and the superintendent.

Jerry Strubinger said before you issue stuff in the newspaper you need to speak with the board.

Police Chief Schatz told him that he needs to speak with his people at the school. This is all for school safety. He brought this to the Borough.

Jerry Strubinger said in regards to the retention pond on 10<sup>th</sup> street you should put a fence around it. He will take the lights on at the tennis courts to the school and grounds person.

**Action**

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to terminate applicant #9 as a volunteer for the Jim Thorpe Fire Department.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Thomas Highland to approve submittal of a support letter for the Mauch Chunk Opera House to apply for the LSA grant.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Edith Lukasevich to approve the Council Workshop Meeting Minutes from October 4, 2018.

YES 7                      NO 0

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**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second John McGuire to approve the Council Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes from October 10, 2018.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from October 11, 2018.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second John McGuire to approve the Council Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2018.

YES 7                      NO 0

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

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Treasurer Report for October, 2018 as presented.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Edith Lukasevich to adopt Ordinance 2018-06 School Street and portions of Route 209.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second John McGuire to adopt Resolution 2018-26 Authorizing Application to the Pa Municipal Assistance Program.

## QUESTIONS

President Strubinger asked Council if we are going to move forward with this?

Borough Manager Sterner said the amount of match money is \$7,535.00, and the same amount for Summit Hill Borough. This is a \$15,000.00 grant from Natural Lands Trust. This would be conditioned upon receiving the grant from DCED for the remaining amount. Natural Lands Trust will not be writing the ordinance, there will be a committee formed that they and the consultant will work with in order to redo the ordinance. The Committee will be members of the borough, they will direct the consultant how they would like the ordinance written.

YES 7                      NO 0

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**MOTION:** Thomas Highland second Joanne Klitsch to adopt Resolution 2018-27 Eliminating Police Officer Contribution to the Police Pension Fund.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to adopt Resolution 2018-28 – 2018 Auditor Appointment.

COMMENTS

Borough Manager Sterner said this is for the appointment of Buckno, Lisicky and Company amount not to exceed \$19,000.00 and the single audit for the Sewer project amount not to exceed \$6,000.00

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to approve the sale of the 1994 Topkick to Jeff Day amount of \$9,200.00.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Edith Lukasevich to approve the Kuhn Planning Module.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Edith Lukasevich second Joanne Klitsch to approve Richard & Mary Alice Kuhn subdivision plans with the following conditions:

- Development of flag lot
- conditions they get the variance,
- tax parcel needs to be placed on the plans and address
- planning module approval by DEP
- compliance with the engineer letter dated 10/12/18
- signature plan
- notarization

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Gregory Strubinger second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Phase I Archeological Study 701 West Broadway with AECom if they do only an NSF report it is \$4,554.00, if a full study is required \$3,614.00 total of \$8,168.00.

YES 7                      NO 0

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**MOTION:** Gregory Strubinger second Thomas Highland to award the proposal for the 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Fairview Street Survey from Keystone Consulting Engineers amount of \$4,500.00

QUESTION

Mr. Miller asked if this is in the budget?

Borough Manager Sterner said yes.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to award the Municipal Waste & Recycling bid to Tamaqua Transfer for 5 years total \$2,217,703.00.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Gregory Strubinger second Jay Miller to award Day Landscaping to remove the 6 trees on Spring Avenue amount of \$5,000.00

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to advertise the 2019 Budget that it is available for the public to review.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Edith Lukasevich to appoint Curtis Jackson to the Police Pension Board Appointment.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Edith Lukasevich to approve hiring the Full Time Police Officer Applicant #1. This is conditional, employment will begin in 2019 and the date will be determined by Council meeting of January 10, 2019.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Thomas Highland to approve D & L Trail - Entech Invoice #61088 - \$72.50.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Thomas Highland to approve the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Stormwater Project Kobalt Payment #6 - \$10,968.75.

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QUESTION:

Mr. Miller asked if there is any money left?

Borough Manager Sterner said there is money left, Council has allocated some of it to pay for the 7<sup>th</sup> Street CDBG project that went over the estimate.

Mr. Miller asked if there is any money left for the fence?

Borough Manager Sterner said she will have to check. The fence was going to be part of the plans for the building project.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to approve the WWTP Upgrade Project Eastern Environmental payment application #23 - \$247,666.90.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to approve the Howard Company payment application #18 - \$3,942.50.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to NOT approve Howard Company change order #4 - \$3,845.85

Comments:

Borough Manager Sterner said she and PSM Yaich would not recommend approval on, this is for the light.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Gregory Strubinger to approve Eastern Change Order #14 - \$4,700.79, Decrease; time extension.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to approve Requisition #27 – \$310,562.61

YES 7                      NO 0



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**Utility Action**

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to approve Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (7)

YES 7

NO 0

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (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)

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to approve the Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (2)

YES 7

NO 0

**Tax Exoneration Action**

**Committees**

**Administration**

**Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)**

Mr. McGuire said he was approached by Mr. Wildoner he said the Street dept is doing a good job on 7<sup>th</sup> St, he appreciates the work that was done.

Mr. McGuire said the old post from the old parking meters, an individual approached him that cut his hand on the top of the post. He asked Council what we are going to do about this?

Borough Manager Sterner thought there were caps on the posts. We had planned to keep them there until the paving was completed on Broadway because the lines are going to be gone. She will talk to the Chief about this.

Michael Rivkin said the JTTA is looking to turn them into candy canes for the holidays.

Mayor Sofranko said when the lines are painted, they should be taken down.

**Police**

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Buildings/Parks

Emergency Services

**Old Business**

Permit Parking  
Burning Ordinance  
Readdressing

**Executive Session**

Personnel

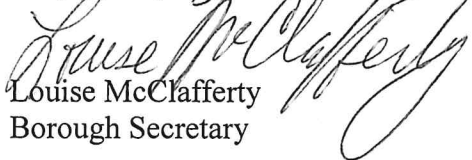
**MOTION:** Jay Miller second John McGuire to adjourn.

YES 7

NO 0

Adjourned at 7:52 pm

Respectfully submitted

  
Louise McClafferty  
Borough Secretary