

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 14, 2019
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Park Hall, 115 East Tenth Street, Jim Thorpe by President Gregory 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 (a)	Edith Lukasevich
Jay Miller	Borough Manager Sterner	PSM Yaich
Connor Rodgers, JCP (L)	Police Chief Schatz	Solicitor James Nanovic
Mayor Michael Sofranko	Secy. McClafferty	

President Strubinger said Connor Rodgers is attending the National Honor introduction program.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko said Police Chairman Councilman Highland has a part time officer application to add to the Police Dept..

Mayor Sofranko said he received notification from JTTA about a number of events that are coming up in Jim Thorpe. They will be getting together with Michael Rivkin to discuss the events coming up in 2020.

Police Chief Schatz said Officer Kohler had attended field training. Any new officers that would come on to the Police force will be trained by him. He will make sure they are fit to perform their duties for the department.

LVHN check presentation to JTPD for AED supplies/update

SALDO

Canyon Rim RV, Cabins & Camping Plan date 3/27/19; Time Extension

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Jay Miller to grant the time extension to December 31, 2019 for Canyon Rim RV, Cabins, & Camping plans.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 John McGuire

Police Chief Schatz said we have 7 AED throughout the borough, one is in the borough office and the others are in the police cars. These were purchased with a grant, the pads, and batteries go bad. He thanked the LVHN for the money they gave and for the Bleed training that they held in the borough.

Robin Plesniarski, LVHN said they want to be involved in our community. If there is training that you would need let us know and we will be glad to assist.

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President Strubinger said we received a correspondence from the Sport Car of America of Philadelphia. They held a road rally in the borough on October 20, 2019. They raised \$300.00 for the Jim Thorpe Fire Department. They thanked council for permitting them to use the pavilion.

Public Comment

Remaining Budget Workshop Sessions Cancelled
Leaf Pick-Up Oct. 28 to Nov. 15 – weather permitting

Michael Rivkin, 61 W. Broadway and member of the JTТА. He would like to speak about the coverage for the Police for the tree lighting ceremony is a home town event. This is important to segregate the events we are having for 2020. Their involvement with this is to make sure this gets done, that the community is able to enjoy the traditional small-town tree lighting. “Turn to Us” stepped up to the plate, to help make this happen, in a volunteer position, with the hopes that the funds raised will help their own organization. Reality is they don’t have funding. This is not a budgeted item for JTТА. He would like to request that council consider absorbing the cost for the protection on behalf of the residents, to ensure this community event lives.

Police Chief Schatz said they looked at 2 officers, one for each end of Rt 209 & Susquehanna Street. If an incident would happen, they would separate the officers, send him to the incident and the other would stay to cross the pedestrians. They looked at 2 officers for 3 hours, from 4:30 to 7:30

Mayor Sofranko stated there are events throughout the year that benefits the community, tree lighting is one of the events for the children. He asked council to consider waiving the fees for this.

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Olde Time Christmas and waive the Police Dept. fees for the event.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 John McGuire

Bill Malatak, 1342 Germantown Rd, he said the taxes went up, the police budget is out of control. You talk about tourists in town, the problem is we aren’t getting any money out of the tourists. It’s time we went to the County and have them start paying something out of that parking fee for all of the police protection we are giving them over there.

Frank Lorah, 1030 North St, he wanted to find out if anyone was contacted to look at the situation on North Street?

Borough Manager Sterner said at the workshop session, is that this topic would be on the agenda tonight for council to direct her to contact State Representative Heffley.

Pat Flyte asked if a meeting was set up with Doyle Heffley?

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Borough Manager Sterner said this is on the agenda for council to take action.

Frank Lorah asked if anyone from council went and looked to see what is going on? Who is in charge of the sewer drains?

PSM Yaich said he has contacted JL Hartley, they specialize in storm drains, pipe cleaning. He was in town this morning. He did look, the pipe on St. Luke's side, that is half blocked. JL Hartley is going to come in this week, vacuum out all the catch basins, vacuum out all of the pipes, to get a better look at it to see what is going on.

Bill Flyte said when the borough sold the property to Leffler's, the drain used to go across there, down into the creek behind the house. We now have all the parking lots up above, RT 903 water coming at them and running into their house. The curb is now only 2 inches, when the state paved, they never milled it down, the water comes across 11th St into their house and down the yard, you need bigger pipes.

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to have the Borough Manager set up a meeting with State Representative Heffley, Penn Dot and the borough to see what can be done with the storm drain issues on 11th & North Street.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 John McGuire

Darren Behan, 17 East 5th St, spoke about flooding at Hazard Square, they cleaned the leaves out of the storm drains during that heavy rain storm, this was an emergency because they are in the flood zone. He said his concern is if the railroad pulls out, that is going to be a negative thing for the town. This will be a trickle-down affect on the businesses, this is very scary. They give many donations to different organizations; they will be affected also.

President Strubinger said the railroad requested that the borough sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Action

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Jay Miller to approve the Council Workshop Meeting Minutes from October 3, 2019.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from October 10, 2019.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Council Budget Workshop Session minutes from October 24, 2019.

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YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Jay Miller to approve the Expenditures from all Funds as presented.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Treasurer Report October, 2019 as presented.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Kyle Sheckler to tentatively adopt the Proposed 2020 Budgets and advertise adoption for December 12, 2019.

QUESTIONS:

Mrs. Klitsch said we are not raising taxes?

Borough Manager Sterner said no.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Kyle Sheckler to adopt Resolution 2019-23 Police Contribution Pension.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Thomas Highland to adopt Resolution 2019-24 Auditor Appointment.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

No action on Reitz Refund Request.

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Kyle Sheckler to approve Poeldnork Heart & Lung Request.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

President Strubinger said this was held over, it was tabled, the JTASD Bus Parking Request, this is to permit parking on 13th St. during football games.

No action taken on the JTASD bus parking request

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MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Sewer Refurbish vacuum unit cost of \$17,780.00, funds are coming from the Sewer Capital reserve funds.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Spillman Farmer Administration Invoice #29655 - \$23,580.00.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to approve the Spillman Farmer Garage Invoice #29656 - \$21,040.00.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

Park Master Site Plan

D & L Trail Project

WWTP Upgrade Project

- Eastern Environmental payment application #32 – None
- Howard Company payment application #27 – None

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Kyle Sheckler to approve the WWTP upgrade project Requisition #39 - \$6,423.79.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (7).

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (0)

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (1)

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

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Temporary Off Lien Report (0)
Inactive (0)

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to approve the Uncollectible Accounts Report – (1).

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to approve the Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (4).

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Joanne Klitsch to approve Account #5855 Sewer Credit Request.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Thomas Highland to approve Account #5855 Payment Plan.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Gregory Strubinger to approve Account #1435 Request waiving the late fees.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

Tax Exoneration Action

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve the exoneration request for Patricia Balliet – retired.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve the exoneration request for Suzanne Snyder – housewife.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 John McGuire

Committees

Administration

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

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Police

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Joanne Klitsch to add to our part time officer list, Jonathan Amanto.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 John McGuire

Police Chief Schatz said Amanto is off of the Civil Service list, there is no one on the list now.

Buildings/Parks

Borough Manager Sterner said we received word that our grant amendment request for the DCNR Park Master Site plan has been approved to increase the project by \$5,000.00, which increases the grant money we will receive to \$2,500.00; this will go towards the survey and the environmental assessment costs.

Emergency Services

Old Business

Permit Parking

Readdressing Phase II

Susquehanna Street No Parking Ordinance

Blight Landbank

Zoning Ordinance Group Homes

Executive Session

Litigation

Personnel

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to adjourn and go into executive session litigations & personnel.


YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 John McGuire

Adjourned at 7:39

Respectfully submitted


Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary