

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

APRIL 9, 2020

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Gregory Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for the men and women serving our country with the Corona Virus pandemic.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Michael Yeastedt	Joanne Klitsch	Kyle Sheckler
Edith Lukasevich (via phone)	Robert Schaninger	Thomas Highland
Gregory Strubinger	Mayor Sofranko	Solicitor James Nanovic
Borough Manager Sterner (a)	PSM Yaich (a)	Secy. McClafferty (a)
Police Chief Schatz (a)		

President Strubinger said the borough is required to meet on a monthly basis, we are going to be going to be doing just the essential business for the borough. He asked Solicitor Nanovic in regard to the participation by distance, we have a resolution for tonight that council would be able to participate by phone, do we have something that would allow council to do this under regular circumstances?

Solicitor Nanovic said you do not have that under regular circumstances. The borough code made it clear about 2 -3 years ago, that you could authorize participation by phone. Council would have to make a motion to allow participation by phone, if you do not do that you cannot do the participation by phone. This resolution will only last for so long as this pandemic continues. If council wishes to expand it at a later point they can do so, this covers borough council.

President Strubinger asked could we have the secretary or the manager on the phone if need be?

Solicitor Nanovic said yes.

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to adopt Resolution 2020-09 that allows for participation at council meetings, by council members, during the current COVID-19 crises.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Edith Lukasevich

Council called Edith Lukasevich by phone for participate in the council meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko said council received a copy of the police report. He asked everyone to follow the Governor's guidelines that he set forth. He thanked everyone that has donated face masks and asked the residents to continue act as you have been.

Mayor Sofranko said they have been asked to properly recognize Easter this Sunday all the church bells will ring at 12:00 noon in honor of Easter Sunday, those that wish to participate are asked to come out to their porches to say some prayers.

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Mayor Sofranko said the other thing is the Police Chief will be working with the fire departments in reference to how they would like to handle the visiting of the Easter Bunny.

Mayor Sofranko said the police Chief has been working at home. The Police departments in the area have offered mutual aid assistance if needed. The meters have been monitored by the police department. The businesses that offer carry out, thank you.

Public Comment

Jake Arner said his concern is for the benefit of the people in the area. One of the churches has requested to hold Easter services on his property. He would like to know if council would permit this?

Mayor Sofranko said all outside activities will not take place in the Borough of Jim Thorpe that would accommodate large amounts of people. That is a directive from the Governor.

General consent of Council is no.

Jake Arner said he wonders how many people will have money to pay their borough taxes. He is wondering how Council is planning on covering this deficit.

President Strubinger said Council will have to wait and see how this virus develops or fizzles out.

Action

MOTION: Edith Lukasevich second Michael Yeastedt to ratify the Disaster Declaration for the Jim Thorpe Borough dated March 16, 2020.

COMMENTS

Solicitor Nanovic said the first declaration was for 7 days. The second one March 20, 2020, is for 90 days, if not needed it can be revoked.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Thomas Highland to ratify the Disaster Declaration for the Borough of Jim Thorpe dated March 20, 2020.

YES 7

NO 0

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MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the Council workshop meeting minutes of March 5, 2020.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Robert Schaninger second Edith Lukasevich to approve the Council meeting minutes of March 12, 2020.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the expenditures from all funds as presented.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Thomas Highland to award the chemical bid for the water and sewer plants to the low bidder.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to approve posting in-house the open position of Sewer Department Equipment/Plant Operator, with the Sewer Operator having Class C, Subclass 1 requirement.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to approve the Borough Facilities projects invoice for Spillman Farmer Garage Amendment #2 – Stormwater, Geotechnical, Infiltration \$17,930.00, these items are included in the total project but not assigned to a particular vendor at this time.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Robert Schaninger second Thomas Highland to approve the Spillman Farmer Garage invoice #29815 amount \$18,393.87.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Robert Schaninger to approve Spillman Farmer Garage invoice #29816 amount \$6,505.00.

YES 7 NO 0

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President Strubinger said we are hoping to move forward with these projects. The financing is set to close in June 2020. Borough Manager did check with the USDA, that if the interest rate should drop until we close, do we get the lower rate, and the answer to that was yes. The rate would be fixed rate for 28-year term, it was over 3% rate, now it's down to 2.3%.

MOTION: Robert Schaninger second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Park Master Plan invoice for Barry Isett & Associates amount \$3,159.80.

YES 7

NO 0

President Strubinger said this is all part of the plan that the borough received the matching grant for. What this will do is open some grant avenues for the borough to apply for different grants. After the plan is finished this will allow us to move forward with doing the plan to do some things in the park. The committee has not met, we will get together to get some things in the plan.

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to approve the Barry Isett & Associates invoice amount \$4,514.00.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Edith Lukasevich second Michael Yeastedt to approve the exoneration for Linda Lizzio – retired.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Edith Lukasevich to approve the exoneration for Mary Alice Herman – retired.

YES 7

NO 0

COMMITTEES

Emergency Services

Mr. Sheckler said they have been talking about the Easter Bunny being available to the public. He talked to Fire Chief Yaich, Borough Manager Sterner, Mayor Sofranko about how they would like to do this. What they came up with is to have an Easter Bunny at the Fairview and at the Diligent and then the residents can drive by in their cars. There is no parade route, people will drive-by and wave to the Easter Bunny. If people would get out of their cars the Easter Bunny will go inside the fire house until the people have gotten back into their vehicle. Mr. Sheckler wants to use the all call to get the word out to the residents. Manager Sterner raised the question of Church and State. Mr. Sheckler emailed Solicitor Nanovic about Manager Sterner's concern and the solicitor responded saying that there was not an issue with Church and State and that we could use the all call. They would like to do this on Sunday, April 12, 2020, after the churches are done ringing their bells. He asked if a half hour would be enough time?

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Mayor Sofranko said the churches will ring the bells at 12:00 pm on Sunday, April 12, 2020 for about 3 to 5 minutes, 12:10 the latest.

Mr. Sheckler said Fire Chief Yaich and Manager Sterner they thought maybe 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This will keep it somewhat normal for the kids. This will get the whole community involved.

President Strubinger said the fire departments are coming up with creative ways to have some kind of normalcy.

Mr. Sheckler said he will let Fire Chief Yaich know what council's vote was so he can contact Mike Quigley and whoever is doing the Diligent.

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Fairview & Diligent Fire houses on Sunday, April 12, 2020 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., to have the Easter Bunny present to do a drive-by to see him, social distance is the most important thing.

YES 7

NO 0

Buildings/Parks

Mrs. Klitsch said she has been getting phone calls from people that have the Memorial Park rented for the summer and they are afraid since they already paid for it, they don't want their money back, they want to know if they can just book it for next year.

General consent of council does not have a problem with this.

Mr. Schaninger said he knows with the police they communicate with other borough's; do we have mutual aid agreements with other towns?

Mayor Sofranko said no, there are mutual aid agreements with police departments, fire departments, emergency services that way. We have mutual aid agreements for fire police but as far as public services, and legal services he does not think we do.

Mr. Schaninger said what he is looking at is if we would run out of operators at the plants, that we would be able to lend a guy to them.

Solicitor Nanovic said it generally has to be a license person, and usually the next person you look at is your engineer.

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to adjourn and go into executive session for litigation and personnel matters.

YES 7

NO 0

NO ACTION OR DISCUSSION WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

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MINUTES

Old Business

Public Comment

Electronic & Tire Spring Event 5/9/20 – 7:00 am to 11:30 am

UCC Joint Board of Appeals Vacancy

Public Hearing

CDBG 2016 Modification Public Hearing

CDBG 2020 Public Hearing

Action Agenda

Treasurer Report March 202, as presented

Ordinance 2020-01 Hemlock St – No Parking

Ordinance 2020-02 Peddler's Permit

Ordinance 2020-04 Amusement Tax Amendment

Flizack

National Night Out 8/4/20

St. Mark's & St. John's Episcopal Church Annual Race St Race 7/4/20

RUNegades Races – reschedule for Sept 26 & 27, 2020

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Account Garbage Only 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)

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (0)

Committees

Administration

Planning Commission 2020 Projects

Narenco – Solar Farm

Short Term Rental Regulations

457 Plan

PMRS Plan

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Waselus Request

Police

Proposed No Parking

Race Street from Broadway to Quarry Street

Hill Road from South Avenue to Broadway

Quarry Street – during snow emergencies

Buildings/Parks

Emergency Services

Other

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North St & 11th St Stormwater

JTASD Busses & related items

JTASD SRO Agreement

Fire Department Ordinance Amendment – merged co.

Blight Landbank

Zoning Ordinance Group Homes

Permit Parking

Readdressing Phase II

WC Dam Removal

Parking Study

Adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Louise McClafferty".

Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary