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.

President Strubinger thanked everyone for their cooperation during this time with the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Strubinger spoke about the loss of Randy Rabenold. The borough dedicated the basketball court in the Memorial Park in honor of him several years ago. He said he was very dedicated to the youth of our town and Lehighton where he lived and was a mentor to many of the people in this community.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Michael Yeastedt Joanne Klitsch Kyle Sheckler

Edith Lukasevich Robert Schaninger Thomas Highland

Gregory Strubinger Mayor Michael Sofranko Solicitor James Nanovic

PSM Vince Yaich Borough Manager Sterner Connor Rodgers, JCP

Police Chief Schatz Borough Secy. McClafferty

**Public Hearing**

Bill Malatak

CDBG 2016 Modification – Zoom meeting held May 27, 2020

CDBG 2020 COVID19 – Zoom meeting held June 10, 220

Borough Manager Sterner said the amount of money the borough will get $62,808.00 less the Administration, total amount is $51,503.00. This project must be COVID related and Council will need to advise what they would like the funds to be used on.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Sofranko said send his condolences to the Rabenold family. Anyone that knew Randy, he was known as RR, he was truly an asset to the borough and the youth.

Mayor Sofranko said you may have noticed they have the flashing speed limits signs in town; one is on North Street and the other is on West Broadway. The Chief is going to move them around.

Mayor Sofranko said the Police report, they have been doing a good job and the resident that visit here and live here in town.

Mayor Sofranko said Andrew Roberts has placed 20 garbage cans in the downtown area and the residents that have had a can placed in front of their home or business.

Mayor Sofranko said he was contacted by the Jim Thorpe Little League Association. Since Carbon County is going to the Green phase, it now allows them to begin playing little league. He spoke to Solicitor Nanovic about this, they are asking for permission, this is their own private property and we never gave them permission before. They want the borough to be made aware this will be starting. The season will begin in July and run to August. There will be no Little League World series.

**SALDO**

Ogden/Bennick Time extension

Borough Manager Sterner said the applicant grants the Borough the extension, the borough accepts the time extension, the borough is the one under the timeline.

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger toaccept the extension of time for the Ogden/Bennick subdivision plans to September 1, 2020.

YES 7 NO 0

**Public Comment**

Please limit your comment to one (1) minute per person – you can submit public comment via regular mail, email or place in drop box at the municipal office.

Electronic & Tire Spring event will be held on June 27, 2020 – 7:00 am to 11:30 am

UCC Joint Board of Appeals Board Vacancy

Jen Christman, Mauch Chunk Events, would like to hold Jim Thorpe Farmer’s Market at the Sam Miller field. She would like to comment on the fees structure; she would like a comfortable alternative for this consideration, perhaps $100.00 fee for the whole season for the vendors.

Jen Christman spoke about the prohibited acts under the vendor ordinance. According to the code 333-36, it says that no person in any transient retail business shall engage in any transient retail business from a fixed location other than from areas designated as being zoned commercial: Memorial Park, Mauch Chunk lake Park, public grounds and school grounds located in the borough of Jim Thorpe. She asked is Sam Miller field considered public grounds.

President Strubinger said there were some questions on that, that is owned by a private association.

Solicitor Nanovic said you have different definitions for different ordinances. He questioned this as well, as far as he knows this is not public grounds. However, that is up for debate. This is not municipal owned, generally public grounds are owned by municipal entity. He is not familiar with their charter.

President Strubinger said he thinks this has been used as public area like McGarvey’s field.

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger that we consider Sam Miller field as public grounds.

YES 7 NO 0

Mr. Schaninger said with this being the first year and them just getting this off the ground, that is the only reason he would think of a lower fee.

Borough Manager Sterner said the fee schedule is set at $30.00 a day and $400.00 for an annual permit. If they purchase the permit annually for 19 days it will take the permit down to $21.06 a day instead of $30.00 a day.

**MOTION:** Gregory Strubinger second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Mauch Chunk Events – Farmer’s Market at the Sam Miller field from 6/25 to 10/29/20, vendor fee to be set as is.

YES 6 NO 1 Robert Schaninger

Bill Malatak asked no masks are to be worn.

President Strubinger said we are suggesting that you wear them, if for some reason you don’t want to wear it you don’t have to.

Bill Malatak said Jim Thorpe River Raft Adventures, they are using our name. This town paid dearly for that name of Jim Thorpe, why is our name being used.

President Strubinger said we do not own the rights to the name Jim Thorpe.

Solicitor Nanovic said you have the Jim Thorpe Pharmacy, Jim Thorpe Market, we don’t have any control of the name of Jim Thorpe.

Mark Reitz, we live in a pristine area, you have commercial entities coming in to town. He said he lives in the Glen Onko Estate area in town. He said if you are going to have commercial entities up there – zones, you have to do the right thing and put new systems in. They are all have on lot sewage systems up there. You have to look at doing the right thing for them up there.

Cheryl Heydt, 331 W Broadway, she asked if Council had the opportunity to read her letter that she submitted? It is regarding the ordinance for Hemlock St for parking. She did get 15 signatures of the 18 homes owners in this area, they are not in favor of this being changed, they want it to remain the way the parking is now. They would like you to consider just leaving this the way it is now.

Ken Wimmer, 330 W Broadway, he said there are a few neighbors up there that are rednecks. The area is 30 ft by 30 ft. bottom line is they are taking parking spots from people that have been parking there for years.

Beth Beers requested to usage of the park on Race St. She spoke about the trains bringing people into town, they boost the economy and jobs. She asked Council to consider reopening the negotiation with the Railroad.

President Strubinger said Council took all of those things into consideration, we met all the demands of the Railroad and at this point in time it is whether or not they want to come back to town. We gave them what they asked for.

Beth Beers asked what ideas is council coming up with to help the businesses.

President Strubinger said what council has to do is provide police protection, provide water system, provide sewer system, infrastructures in the downtown we just spent $300,000.00 to fix a wall on High Street, Hill Road repairs, that is what the borough does. We have done what we can, it is no longer in council’s hands.

Mayor Sofranko said he would sit with the businesses and get suggestions from them on what would be best for the entire borough.

Mrs. Klitsch said the Opera House brings people into town. The people go to the Air B&B, B&B, go into the shops, go out to dinner, that is a big draw to this town.

Marianne Rustad, Conjured Soaps, they are starting to resume the Tourism Association meetings. She asked council to come to their meetings, next meeting is June 24, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Inn of Jim Thorpe.

Jill Flanagan, 324 W Broadway is here to discuss the parking on Hemlock Street. They feel the change of the parking will cause them issues getting in and out of their house, it will block their cellar door and their main entrance to the home. She spoke about the neighbor buying the home across the street, this was a single home, now they are turning it into a 5 bedroom B&B which has added stress of 5 additional parking spots, pushing out the locals. Parking is already limited, and this ordinance change will change it from 3 spots to 2 parking spots. They are adamant about the changing of the parking on Hemlock St

Jake Arner said he appreciates the effort that the borough has made to bring the trains back to town. It is important to bring business to town because they are all struggling. You have the opportunity with the Canyon Rims residential/cabins plans to include this in the STR ordinance, this will not impact the parking, they will bring people into town in an organized manner. The second item; the tents for the STR ordinance. This has become a popular thing to do, people want to be outside. He asked that both items be included in the STR ordinance.

Anthony Bombico, 290 W Broadway, he works for the owners of 320 W. Broadway. He said since they have been working there, they have had a problem. He said every time they bring wood in there is a car parked there, they ask the people to move their cars nobody answers to door. They added multiple parking spaces. There are only 2 parking spaces there.

**Action**

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the Council meeting minutes from May 14, 2020.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Robert Schaninger second Edith Lukasevich to approve the expenditures from all funds as presented.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Treasurer’s report May 2020.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to approve COVID-19 Disaster Declaration extending the declaration to September 20, 2020.

YES 7 NO 0

President Strubinger said next on the agenda is the Hemlock Street no parking ordinance, this has been advertised and we have had the PSM & Chief over there, they came back with the suggestion to change the parking to the west side of the street. We addressed some of their concerns to the parking in this area. The recommendation of Council is not to move forward with the ordinance.

Mr. Yeastedt said they were there and measured out 3 parking spots, they had an issue with a vehicle that parks too close to the radius of the curb. There is room for 3 legal spots and measured out the curb line that came up to the no parking area. If we decide to leave it where it is, he recommends we mark them out and paint them. The bigger question is we still need access up that road even though we don’t publicly use the road it is an access to the back of the houses in that neighborhood. If we have an emergency situation, we need to make sure that is accessible.

General consent of Council is not to take any action on the Hemlock Street ordinance.

Police Chief Schatz asked Council how do you want the Police to handle that if they get a call saying they can’t get materials into the home?

Borough Manager Sterner said what she would suggest is that they all try to get along with their neighbors and when they come and ask you to move your car so they can get materials in to do work be cooperative.

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to adopt Ordinance 2020-02 Peddlers permit exempting Veterans from paying the fee for a peddlers permit.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to adopt Ordinance 2020-03 Memorial Hall Renovations Interim Financing Loan with the JTNB .89% rate.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second Joanne Klitsch to adopt Ordinance 2020-04Public Works Facility Interim Financing loan with the JTNB .89% rate.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to advertise ordinance 2020-05 PMRS plan.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to advertise Ordinance 2020-06 Parking Regulations – Quarry St, Race St & Hill Road.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to award the 2020 Street Paving bid to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. amount $68,675.94.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Kyle Sheckler that the CDBG 2020 COVID-19 funds instruct the manager to direct those funds for providing financial assistance to businesses in the borough.

YES 7 NO 0

Walk Works Grant

Borough Manager Sterner said this is for transportation plan.

Mr. Yeastedt said this is more designed to review and layout walkways in the community.

Borough Manager Sterner said this is a technical grant, she will not be able to write this, you will have to get someone to write it and there is a July deadline.

General consent of Council is not to act on this.

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to authorize the Short-Term Rental work group to work with the solicitor on the STR regulations.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second Michael Yeastedt to cancel the July 2, 2020 workshop session.

YES 6 NO 1 Robert Schaninger

Utility Billing Extension Dates

Mr. Schaninger said he will bring this up again some other time.

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to advertise for a Full-Time Truck Driver/Laborer. CDL B license required. Sewer Operator Class C, Subclass I or higher license preferred. Applicant must obtain Sewer Operators Class C, Subclass I license or better within three years of date of hire. Applicant must apply in person.

Comments:

Mr. Schaninger asked how will we be advertising?

Borough Manager Sterner said on the website, unless council would like it in the paper.

Mr. Schaninger said when we get the applications in, who will be the committee that will determine the hire for this position?

President Strubinger said we have not discussed that yet.

Borough Manager Sterner said it is the sewer departments, she would think the Sewer committee.

Mr. Schaninger said he doesn’t want to see nepotism, or someone gets hired if he has a weak work record.

He was told what if a guy has a heart attack while he is working, he has driven tractor trailers for 50 years and never once did a guy have a heart attack while driving cross country. He does not think someone has to have a class B license. He would rather have someone that has a good solid work practice and we could train them.

Mrs. Klitsch said she does know someone that did have a heart attack while he was driving CDL and they had to get someone to drive the vehicle back to Jenko, it could happen.

PSM Yaich said what was said if two people would be working on a job, one person was working with that guy that has CDL license and that guy didn’t, the person that had the CDL license was cutting brush and took a heart attack that man that was working with him that did not have the CDL license couldn’t even put him in the truck to drive him out because he is not licensed. In regard to the CDL license, everybody that has gotten hired from day one always had to have the CDL license, whether it be A or B.

He gave an example: yesterday they were paving, down two men, he was doing the truck driving because we don’t have any personnel. Yet you are going to hire a guy with no CDL license and until he gets it, when the crew is shorthanded, himself or one of the other supervisors are supposed to drive? How can you hire a truck driver/laborer if he doesn’t have his CDL license, he is not a truck driver. Council has more important things to do like updating the ordinance that are outdated and don’t hold an ounce of water, than teaching people how to drive, there are classes all over the area that teach you how to do that.

President Strubinger said another thing we are requiring this person to get their Sewer Plant operators license. Have we determined when the deadline for the application will be?

Borough Manager Sterner said she does not, we need to put a deadline on them.

YES 6 NO 1 Robert Schaninger

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the Employee Remote Access to Computers Internal Control Function.

YES 7 NO 0

Solicitor Nanovic is still waiting for the change on the documents for Flizack.

**MOTION:** Robert Schaninger second Joanne Klitsch to approve the JT Summer League request Sunday, Monday & Thursday’s June 21 to August 31, 2020 from 5 pm to 10 pm.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the Race Street Busines Park use for Fall Foliage.

YES 7 NO 0

Borough Manager Sterner asked Council what are they going to do regarding the vendor permit? If this is operator at any other place than their business, they have always obtained a vendor permit. This is across the street, we need to be advised how to handle this.

**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland that this is a once and done peddler’s fees are waived for sidewalk sale across the street, this is for three weekends for Fall Foliage, weather permitting.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to have Tamaqua Transfer utilize a smaller vehicle in the section that uses the dumpster in Leisure Land.

Comments:

Mrs. Klitsch said as long as they can get the truck up and down there during the winter.

Borough Manager Sterner said as long as the roads are maintained they can get through. If they can’t get through, the residents will be made aware that they will be responsible to make sure the road is passable.

If they can’t get through, they can either hold it for a week or bring it to the borough.

YES 7 NO 0

Reservoir Property Posting

General consent of council NO Action on the Reservoir Property Posting.

**MOTION:** Robert Schaninger second Kyle Sheckler that the Canyon Rims Residential Development STR and Canyon Rim Residential Development Tents permit will be brought in to discuss for the potential overlay for the Short-Term Rental ordinance.

YES 7 NO 0

Borough Manager Sterner said from Musser’s office there is nothing available for Flagstaff Road and Sewer line extension grants. The road would be the same department that we are using for our facilities projects and there are not any grants, they would be loans. The sewer is similar to our WWTP it could be part loan and part sewer. It would be based on Low to Moderate Income of a majority of property owners, which there are not, so that will not work.

Jake Arner said he spoke with State of Pennsylvania in regards to community funds grant money that might be available. He has a new contact, the grant money is available from a separate department from the General Fund State, the money is there.

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Robert Schaninger to approve the Park Master Site Plan invoice #142855 for Barry Isett & Associates in the amount of $4,514.00, this is part of the grant.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Robert Schaninger to approve Park Master Site Plan Engineering Amendment #8 amount $68,400.00.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Kyle Sheckler to approve Requisition #2 amount of $36,789.65

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Thomas Highland to approve the 6 Garbage only lien report.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Thomas Highland to approve the 3 Water/Sewer/Garbage lien report.

YES 7 NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to approve the exoneration requests for John Bilsak, Jr. & Terry Schaffer.

YES 7 NO 0

Mr. Yeastedt asked if the 2015 ISF book has been ordered.

Borough Manager Sterner said no.

Mr. Yeastedt said 11th & North Street he got the permit.

President Strubinger said on the Stormwater ordinance.

Borough Manager Sterner said she has to get prices.

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to adjourn and go into executive session to discuss litigations.

YES 7 NO 0

Adjourned at 8:20 pm Respectfully submitted

Louise McClafferty

Borough Secretary