

Jim Thorpe Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm by President Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving our county, our first responders and their families.

Roll Call of Members

Gregory Strubinger	Joanne Klitsch	Edit Lukasevich
Kyle Sheckler	Mike Yeastedt	Bob Schaninger
Mayor Sofranko	Solicitor Nanovic	JCP Connor Rodgers
Police Chief Schatz	PSM Yaich	Manager Sterner
Thomas Highland – absent	Louise McClafferty – absent	Engineer - absent

Public Hearing – none

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko reported the police department has returned to their COVID Protocols. He thanked the community for a job well done and successful Halloween. Summary of some Christmas events: There will be no official tree lighting event but there will be several trees throughout the community – Jim Thorpe Tourism will be decorating Josiah White Park including a tree; Sam Miller Field will have their Remembrance Tree; Lions & Lionesses have decorated the 903 bridge with Snowflakes; Borough will have tree in Memorial Park, donated by Crystal Springs Tree Farm – honor society members will place lights and some decorations in the park – asking children of the borough to make decorations for the tree and they can place them on the tree at their convenience; investigating the ringing of church bells as was done at Easter and Fire Companies are working on something with Santa Clause – won't be for children to see him up close; maybe he will drive through the borough or people can drive by the Fire Companies.

Received an application for a part time police officer and background work has been completed; Mayor requested approval to hire. MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to **hire Corey Herring** as part time police officer at the current hourly rate set by council. No comments. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

UCC Joint Board of Appeals Vacancy
2021 Budget Meetings – remaining meetings are cancelled
2021 Budget will be advertised for adoption at the December 10, 2020 Meeting
November 5, 2020 Work Session Meeting was cancelled
November 12, 2020 Regular Meeting was moved to November 19, 2020
An Executive Session for litigation and personnel was held prior to tonight's meeting
Mobile Mammography sponsored by Jim Thorpe Rotary November 20, 2020 at park
An Executive Session for personnel was held after the November 16, 2020 public meeting
Borough Offices will be moving to By Appointment operations beginning November 23, 2020

Public Comment

Jerry Haggerty asked if there has been any movement on a 457 Plan. President Strubinger stated no but suggested Jerry attend a future work session meeting to discuss the option.

Action

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Edith Lukasevich to approve the **October 1, 2020 work session minutes**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Kyler Sheckler to approve the **October 8, 2020 meeting minutes**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Kyle Sheckler, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the **October 29, 2020 budget meeting minutes**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve the **expenditures** from all funds as presented in the amount of \$189,929.23. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the October **treasurer's report**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler, to adopt **Ordinance 2020-09, Utility Services Payment of Bills Amendment** with an **effective date of January 1, 2023**. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Kyle Sheckler, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to adopt **Resolution 2020-20, Auditor appointment**. Auditor will be Buckno, Lisicki & Company, PC. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOITON BY Kyle Sheckler, seconded by Mike Yeastedt, to adopt **Resolution 2020-21, closing out the Community Conservation Partnership grant Project**. Project for Memorial Park Master Site Plan. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Kyle Sheckler, seconded by Bob Schaninger to **appoint Kurt Jackson to fill a vacant seat on the Zoning Hearing Board**. To complete a term ending December 31, 2021. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve the new **Teamsters' Collective Bargaining Agreement**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to **table the FOP Collective Bargaining Agreement**. No comment. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to **table the fire truck bids**. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Edith Lukasevich to approved the **NEPA Parking Study Invoice for \$5,000.00**. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve **Officer Oliver Heart & Lung Request**. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to **approved/ratify Manager Maureen Sterner as the authorized signatory for the water HOP Application** for the County's Susquehanna Street renovation project.

MOTION by Kyle Sheckler, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve putting out to **bid the specifications for the Memorial Hall Renovations project**. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve putting out to **bid the specifications for the Public Service Garage Project**. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

Councilwoman Joanne Klitsch asked for a discussion on paying of the MEM loan. The balance is \$140,856.00 as of September 22, 2020; interest rate of 2.5%. Council instructed manager to contact JTNB and inquire about lowering the interest rate.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve **Barry Isett invoice for Park Master Site Plan in the amount of \$2,257.00**. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Edith Lukasevich to approve **Entech Invoice in the amount of \$41,891.48 for WWTP Upgrade project**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve **Mr. Rehab Change Order #6 in the amount of \$91,262.70**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve **Mr. Rehab Payment Application #9 in the amount of \$96,481.57**. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve **Requisition 45 in the amount of \$98,373.05**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Mike Yeastedt, to approve **issuing a vendor permit to Scott Lignore for carriage rides for the winter season**. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

Utility Action

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the **Garbage Only Lien Report**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Utility Accounts Proposed Updates**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Exoneration Request

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Edith Lukasevich to approve an **occupation tax exoneration request of Cyrilla Gavornick**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Committees

Administration

- **Tax Collector Compensation** – after discussion, council opts for no change at this time.

- **LC&N Request for parking spaces** – after discussion, MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Edith Lukasevich to **deny the request**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.
- **Permit Inspections** – after discussion, no action; remove from agenda.

Public Services

- **Wildlands Conservancy** – second inspection scheduled for today cancelled; rescheduled for December.

Police

- **Handicap Sign Request** – after discussion, MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Kyle Sheckler, to **approve a request for a handicap sign on W. 7th street in the area of North St.** After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

Buildings/Parks – none

Emergency Services – none

Old Business

Short Term Rental draft documents to be reviewed by council and council will direct if they should be on the work session agenda to discuss. No discussion or action on any other items.

Adjourn

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to adjourn. Motion carried 6 to 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Maureen Sterner
Borough Manager