

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 13, 2022
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 armed forces, first responders and their families.

Roll Call of Members & Officials

Gregory Strubinger	Thomas Highland – via phone	Joanne Klitsch
Jessica Crowley	Kyle Sheckler - absent	Michael Yeastedt
Robert Schaninger	Mayor Michael Sofranko	Police Chief Schatz
Solicitor Nanovic	PSM Yaich - absent	Manager Sterner
Secretary McClafferty		

Presentation

PA State Association of Boroughs, Stephanie Drake presented Junior Councilperson, Connor Rodgers with a certificate of appreciation.

Public Hearing

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Marijuana Facilities; Amusement Rides

Andrew Roberts, 16 W. Broadway, he would like to know if there is a public copy for the residents to read?

Solicitor Nanovic said this has been available at the borough office, it was advertised, it's at the law library and the Times News.

Ms. Crowley asked if she could talk about this. She would like to see the zoning expanded from the limited zoning that is listed on this, for the dispensaries C-3, and Industrial only. She would like to see that in C-2, C-1, C-3 and R-4 with special exceptions. She would also like to revisit the parking because for the dispensaries it doesn't have the available parking like the other ones like retail parking. What she is suggesting is that we open up the dispensaries to be allowed in the C-2, C-1, C-3 and R-4 special exception districts, and that we open up the parking to match the parking for the facilities.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko said you all received a copy of the police report for December activities and a copy of the year ending report. He thanked the Police Department for a job well done this past year.

Mrs. Klitsch said she commends the Police department and she doesn't know how they do it with so few officers. She knows we need another full-time officer and part time officers.

President Strubinger commended the Police Chief and the Mayor for the fine work the police department does. They are giving the residents security and safety.

Announcements

President Strubinger said the DCNR Grant for Memorial Park awarded \$79,000.00. This is another initiative that JCP Rodgers, his mother, were part of the steering committee when we were developing the Master Site Plan. This is another investment for the community. It will be a much nicer needed improvement for the community.

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President Strubinger said the 2021 Hotel Tax Grant awarded \$39,536.36

Borough Manager Sterner said the Hotel tax grant is the second one for this year. They actually purchased our electric sign the total received for that was \$77,171.00 and we received the DCED grant for Memorial Park that matches the DCNR grant. Our matching funds for that project can now be rolled over into the 2022 grant application for another grant project.

Permit Parking Ordinance

Borough Manager Sterner said we did investigate and the ordinance was properly advertised prior to the adoption at the public meeting.

SALDO

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to accept the Schweibinz development grant a time extension to 3/31/22.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch the JT Planning Commission reverse subdivisions/lot consolidations, to move this item to the Planning Commission for their review and come back to council with their recommendations.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Public Comment – limited to 2 minute per person – public is encouraged to submit public comments via regular mail, email or place in drop box at municipal office

President Strubinger read Amanda Bombico and Joanna McCauley's letters regarding the Memorial Park Skating Rink, they'd like to see the skating rink remain a skating rink and be used.

President Strubinger said the Memorial Park was built by a group of volunteers, Memorial Park Commissioner's many years ago. The hall will continue to be used as a community center.

Ms. Crowley asked if there are plans in the archives that have the history of Memorial Hall that people could look up and see how things have initially, started what is going on here.

President Strubinger said he does not know if anyone ever developed an archive like that, other than information just being passed down from generation to generation. That would be a good idea to do that.

Frank Sebelin said there is an article that was put out in the early 1920's, when the borough acquired the park and the field across from the hall, that it has to be for the community and as a memorial for the WWI Veteran's and in that it has how it transpired, and how it was acquired, he has the booklet somewhere he'll make a copy of it for the borough.

Michael Rivkin, 5 W. Broadway, JTTA in previous years business owners of the downtown area did a luminary walk. We have volunteers putting together the "Lynn Highland Memorial Luminary Walk" for February 12, 2022. It's a community event it is not a festival. He doesn't believe it requires any public service agreement, with inclement weather date of February 19, 2022.

President Strubinger read the Carbon County Chamber of Economic Development letter regarding the 2022 Krampus festival for the use of Memorial Park.

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President Strubinger said he will be setting up a Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting to discuss this item and having Christmas trees in the park.

John Drury, 55 Broadway, this is in regards to 41 W Broadway, Mauch Chunk Museum with the new permit parking. He is here to plead for an exception to be granted to him. This has to do with the parking on High Street, they have parked 2 cars against the wall on their property on High St. This is important for the employees to park there. Will there be any acceptations to this new rule?

Amy Kabision, 128 Center Ave., they are here about the Memorial Skating Rink petition to save the skating rink for the kids and families. She would like to request a public meeting strictly to discuss this.

President Strubinger said these projects have been talked about for several years. He did speak about the community center and the kitchen will remain intact. The lower-level skating rink, will be used for the Police department and a portion of the top floor will be for borough offices and community center. The Memorial Park commission took care of the facilities. It came to a point that that was no long and it then became a budget item for the borough to take care of the facilities. It will give us the opportunity to get all of our offices under one roof and the ability to have a community center.

Ms. Crowley asked why was the decision made to put the Police department in the roller-skating rink?

President Strubinger said the Police department came to the borough with safety concerns, a study was conducted and study came back indicating many inefficiencies.

Mayor Sofranko said he does think for the benefit of the community and this council it would be beneficial that you hold a meeting with the residents and put the facts out there.

Owen Beckett, 38 Fox Lane, he would like to see the skating rink brought back for the community to use, it would give the kids a place to go and something to do.

Kaylee 33 Burnshaw Lane, there is not a lot of things to do around here for the kids and she would like somewhere for her kids to go and have fun.

Thomas Loughery, 37 W. Broadway, gave an update on the property dispute of the High Street Steps. He was forced to start a legal case against the borough. He doesn't want to do this, but if he has to follow through to trial, they have to.

Frank Sebelin 601 South St, he would like to know why don't we have lights on the East side of town? The Memorial Park commission he was on, that when the council abolished the commission. This building survived over the years with volunteers.

Mr. Yeastedt said the lights were purchased by the Lion's club and we had power ran on all of those poles and we were able to light the lights. North Street they are PP&L poles which makes it difficult.

Jim Gilmore, 50 W. Broadway he was able to park within a 100ft of his house. Thank you, Council, for working with the residents on parking on the permit parking ordinance.

Chris Gehres 52 W. Broadway, thank you for the residential parking it's greatly appreciated. He is in favor of the way it is now, it's too soon to change anything.

Dan McGinley, 259 W. Broadway thank you for the permit parking on West Broadway.

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Jennifer Dages, 245 W. Broadway, asked about the guest permit parking \$5.00/24 hours. She would like to recommend to council that the residents that live on West Broadway be able to get a guest pass and not have to go into the office every time for the permit. This way they could use the pass and not have to register a guest every time, it would be simpler for the residents.

Ms. Crowley asked if there is a way that the form can be downloaded on the website for the residents so they wouldn't have to come into the office?

Borough Manager Sterner said the application can be downloaded, it's the way that we do the permits, they are color coded permits. They have been thinking about this.

Betty Lou McBride, 802 Center St, the lights downtown aren't purchased by the borough. They raised the money; everything is purchased by the businesses downtown. She will help anyone that would like to do this she can help them out.

Mr. Schaninger said the girl that brought it up about the skating rink and you see there is nothing for the kids here. He grew up in Allentown spoke about boys and girls' clubs, etc. We don't have anything here for the kids. He is in favor of what they are saying the kids do need something to do.

Action

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2021.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2021.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from December 29, 2021.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the Expenditures from all Funds as presented.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the Treasurer's Report.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the COVID Disaster Declaration Extension to April 15, 2022.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Robert Schaninger second Joanne Klitsch to appoint Jessica Crowley to the Shade Tree Committee.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to adopt Ordinance 2022-01 Vehicle and Parking Ordinance Amendment.

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YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to adopt Ordinance 2022-02 Stormwater Management.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to advertise the Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Marijuana Facilities; Amusement Rides.

COMMENTS:

Ms. Crowley said she is opposed to this. She thinks some things need to be changed on this.

YES 5 NO 1 Jessica Crowley ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to adopt Resolution 2022-01 Bituminous Materials.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to authorize the borough manager to bring on an Office Temp Staff.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to approve Entech 4159-EWO-11643 – 2021 Chapter 94 Report \$2,800.00.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve Entech 4159-EWO-11750 – 2021 AWWA Water Audit \$1,500.00.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to authorize PA Dept of Agriculture granting them consent for Spotted Lanternfly Treatment.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Robert Schaninger to approve the Carbon County Courts Hall use request rental fee of \$500.00 a day, conditioned upon approval of the borough manager and solicitor.

COMMENTS:

Borough Manager Sterner said she did have solicitor Nanovic review the agreement those comments went to the County. They do not plan on bringing any of their own furniture they will just use ours. They will meet with her to see how the room is set up. They will try to move it as little as possible. It is day time use; they should be done by 4:30. Council would have to set the rental rate and she would recommend you approved the agreement conditioned upon the agreement being acceptable to the solicitor and the borough manager.

Mr. Highland asked what are they doing for security?

Solicitor Nanovic said they would bring their own security, they would bring the Sheriff's dept.

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Borough Manager Sterner said it would be three different weeks, two weeks in March and one in April, 4 days each time. They don't believe the Food Pantry will have to move anything; they are looking into some kind of barrier to block that off.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the MC Events – Mug Walk February 19 & 20.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Borough Manager Sterner said you should have an updated email from Chris Lukasevich Tree Removal Request, he is withdrawing his request, this is a paper street.

Williams Request for Action

President Strubinger said they spoke on this at the workshop last week. The request was asking for a no turn around sign on High Street and West Broadway area. He is having some damage to his home because of vehicles turning around in that area. The recommendation is not to put sign there.

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to deny the Williams request.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Blight Remediation Grant Projects
Jim Thorpe Borough – 204 Center Avenue

Council discussed the property at 204 Center Avenue.

Borough Manager Sterner said Council should make some decisions: we should speak with the property owner. Are you at all interested in buying that property owner out in order to demolition the entire structure?

President Strubinger said yes, he would be interested.

Borough Manager Sterner asked where would you get the money to purchase this?

Solicitor Nanovic said you could contact the grant to see if this is possible.

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to contact DCED to determine whether or not we can use the Blight funds to purchase 206 Center Ave.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Robert Schaninger to approve the Jim Thorpe - Barry Isett Invoice #162342 - \$2,800.00.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Michael Yeastedt that Jim Thorpe Borough will contribute \$18,500 to Leighton Borough for 209 North 1st Street blight project.

YES 5 NO 0 ABSENT 2 Jessica Crowley & Kyle Sheckler

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Palmerton Borough nothing

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch the High Street ARP Project use the Multi Modal funds for the additional funding for this project amount \$17,087.98.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Robert Schaninger to award the bid to Doli Construction Corp. amount of \$459,232.50

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to approve Entech 4159-EWO-11756 - \$45,300.00.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to advertise special meeting for February 17, 2022 at 6:30 to discuss the new procedure for Road Projects Standards (Front Street Project).

Question:

President Strubinger said public meeting to inform the residents of this new procedure the borough will be following when doing road paving. In addition to paving the road we look at other items: storm water management, curbing, inlets, sidewalks.

Ms. Crowley said she was under the impression the meeting was to discuss the ways to fund the curbs so that the residents didn't have to pay for it.

Borough Manager Sterner said that is not what the public meeting is for. The meeting is to explain to the public the new way we are doing road projects that could include costs to them for curbing and sidewalks.

Ms. Crowley said she does not think it's right to make people pay thousands of dollars for curbs.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

- Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (6).

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

- Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)
- Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (0)

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (1).

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

- Temporary Off Lien Report (0)

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- Inactive (0)
- Uncollectible Accounts Report (0)

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to approve the Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (8).

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Exoneration Request

Monthly Report nothing

Committees

Administration

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Strohl Request

Borough Manager Sterner said she did contact Bill Sheehan and asked him about this and he will talk to Mr. Strohl, he is doing the neighbors from inside. He is on hold right now with his letter and we will keep him informed.

SR 903 Paving

President Strubinger said Mr. Yeastedt did respond to Penn Dots letter about the paving of SR 903.

Borough Manager Sterner said the only thing she would add is that along with the ownership being spelled out, the borough will not be the owner.

Police

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to accept the solicitor interpretation of the Permit Parking ordinance allowing residents to register their company car.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Buildings/Parks

President Strubinger said will get a meeting together with his committee to discuss Christmas trees in Memorial Park and the Krampus festival request to use the grounds and discuss the cost to use the whole grounds.

Emergency Services

Old Business

- A. Brummell Request – to take unopened portion of Quarry St.
- B. Readdressing Phase II
- C. Blight Landbank
- D. Facilities Projects
- E. Parking Authority
- F. Klitsch – Request for Action
- G. 2022 Krampus Fest

Executive Session

- A. Personnel

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B. Litigation

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

YES 5

NO 0

ABSENT 2 Jessica Crowley & Kyle Sheckler

Into executive session at 8:45

Back from executive session at 9:26

MOTION: Robert Schaninger second Michael Yeastedt to place employee #128 on 90-day review period from 1/14/22 to 4/13/22.

YES 5

NO 0

ABSENT 2 Jessica Crowley & Kyle Sheckler

Adjourn

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to adjourn.

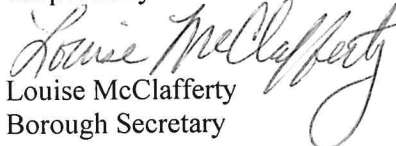
YES 5

NO 0

ABSENT 2 Jessica Crowley & Kyle Sheckler

Adjourned at 9:29 pm

Respectfully submitted


Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary