

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL
JUNE 9, 2022
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Gregory Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders, and their families.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Gregory Strubinger	Joanne Klitsch- arrived 7:05 p.m.	Kyle Sheckler-absent
Michael Yeastedt	Bob Schaninger	Jessica Crowley-absent
Michael Rivkin	Mayor Sofranko	Solicitor Nanovic
Police Chief Schatz	Public Service Manager Yaich	Borough Manager Sterner
Borough Engineer-absent	Secretary Brooke Klotz	

Announcements

May 14th was another successful tire and recycling event. In total 199 tv's, 529 tires, and 262 miscellaneous electronics were collected. Thank you Connor for your help. The Borough applied for the 2022 Main Street Grant for a Lentz Trail Welcome Sign Beautification project. The project would cost \$1,150. Through the grant, ½ of the cost (\$575) would be covered if approved.

Mayor's Report

Police Report-no comments

Mayor Sofranko spoke about the issues with the parking kiosks and being in the process of fixing them. The Police Department looked into getting out of order bags to place over top, cost is \$500 for 2 bags. Decision was made to wait on the bags and make some sort of signage stating they are out of order. Hoping to use money to get a printer, which is \$900, to have in case one would need to be replaced in a kiosk. Still working on getting communication issues with kiosks resolved. The Borough is still in the process of completing the line painting. It was postponed this week due to the weather.

Thank you to the council members and the community for coming out to the kids meeting on June 6. It went very well. Lots of ideas were presented, including a splash pad. Hoping to get a group together to work on getting these ideas moving forward. Mayor Sofranko realizes that costs factor into the equation. The takeaway from the meeting was the kids want to be outside. President Strubinger thanked Mayor Sofranko for holding the meeting.

Public Comment

Bobby Ewashko, 40 W Broadway, recommended looking into blue barrels sold at Marzen's for much cheaper than the out of order bags for the kiosks

Chris Van Dine, 118 North Ave, thanked the Mayor and Council for having the kids meeting. He would like to share some information and ideas that he has been collecting on things for the new Memorial Park Playground.

Bill Malatak, 1342 Germantown Rd, expressed his concern over the money that Carbon County is spending on their parking lots and going to the prison. There was loss of revenue with the construction on Susquehanna Ave. He claims the Borough roads are terrible, but we have beautiful parking lots. He is upset that Borough Council isn't doing anything in regards to the sidewalks. He is aware that there is

an upcoming meeting, but claims that nothing ever gets done. President Strubinger followed up with the county being aware of the issues downtown on their property and they are in the process of rectifying it; there will be a meeting in August. Mayor Sofranko wanted it to be noted that he tried picking up Bill Malatak on 3 separate occasions to bring him to such meetings, but he refused to attend.

John McGuire, 1325 Center St, apologized for missing the SALDO/ordinance meeting on June 7. Manager Sterner explained the purpose of the review group and the process of how the ordinances will be worked on. Mr. McGuire brought up the idea that Brian Evans presented at the May 12 Borough Meeting about possibly realigning the commercial district further into the residential district. He is afraid that if it were to happen, that it could potentially bring more Blight into the area and affect the residents as well. Mr. McGuire also asked about the Borough "suing" in regards to Short Term Rentals. Solicitor Nanovic clarified and said there was no suing, that it is an appeal of the Short-Term Rental decisions and went on to explain how that process worked.

Chris Gehres, 52 West Broadway, thinks that the permit parking is going well. He thanked the police for reinforcing it. He stated that he had heard that were going to be changes made to it. President Strubinger said if any changes are to be made, it won't be until next year.

Jim Gilmore, 52 West Broadway, thanked Chief Schatz and Mayor Sofranko for the enforcement of the permit parking. He suggested that the upcoming meeting being held next week that he and Chris Gehres be allowed to attend to present the data that they have gathered and suggestions they would like to make. After some confusion as to the purpose of the meeting, it was clarified that it is an internal Borough Staff meeting only to discuss facts and figures on the permit parking and that outside ideas are to be presented at the Borough Workshop Meeting. He recommended that there be a special public meeting held for permit parking to gather ideas from the residents who are dealing with this on a daily basis.

Chris Van Dine, 118 North Ave, asked about the Master Site Plan for Memorial Park. Manager Sterner explained Phase I and Phase II for Memorial Park. The Master Site Plan has already been approved.

SALDO

Kanick Subdivision-MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve the time extension to September 20, 2022.** There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch, to **authorize the solicitor to complete necessary advertising to consider the Proposed Lot Consolidation Amendment to the subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.** There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0.

Action

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch, to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from May 5, 2022.** There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0.

MOTION by Mike Rivkin, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from May 12, 2022.** There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Expenditures from all Funds as presented.** There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the Treasurer's Report.** There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Ordinance 2022-04 – Zoning and SALDO Amendments – Zoning- parking regulations pertain to existing structures and SALDO-submittal of plans to outside agencies is the responsibility of the applicant.** There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor Fee of \$125 per hour**. There were no comments. Motion carries 4-1, with President Strubinger abstaining.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **begin the hiring process of Public Services Employees**. President Strubinger explained the timeline of the hiring process. Motion carries 5-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **begin the hiring process of a Police Officer**. President Strubinger explained the timeline of the hiring process. Motion carries 5-0.

Utility Action

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report**. There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve payment plan for Account 2875 of \$150 extra a month**. Manage Sterner explained that there is already an existing lien on the property and that they have already defaulted on a prior payment plan for a different property. They are in the process of trying to sell it. Any overdue balance would be paid off at closing unless the Borough is not notified, then the remaining balance would fall on new owner. It was asked if approving the payment plan would affect the current lien on the property, it won't. Motion carries 5-0.

Exoneration Request

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve the monthly report as submitted**. There were no comments. Motion carries 4-1, with Joanne Klitsch abstaining.

Committees

Administration
Nothing to Report

Public Service (Sewer/Street/Water/Sanitation)
Nothing to Report

Police
Nothing to Report

Emergency Services
Nothing to Report

Other
Nothing to Report

Old Business

Nothing to Report

Adjourn

MOTION to Adjourn to Executive Session by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger. Motion carries 5-0. The meeting ended at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Borough Secretary