

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
June 8, 2023  
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders, and their families, as well as the service members who lost their lives while serving our country.

**Roll Call of Members**

Gregory Strubinger	Joanne Klitsch	Jay Miller
Michael Yeastedt	Bob Schaninger	Jessica Crowley-absent
Michael Rivkin	Solicitor Nanovic	Secretary Klotz
Police Chief Schatz	Borough Manager Sterner	Mayor Sofranko

**Mayor's Report**

Leighton sent a letter to the Borough requesting Fire Police help for their 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks celebration. The Borough currently has one active Fire Police member and he may be working that night. Currently, there are some residents who are working on filling out applications to join the Fire Police. If they are accepted, the Borough will ask for them to help assist Leighton.

The mayor asked Council to approve the request of hiring a Part-Time Meter Attendant when they go into executive session.

**Announcements**

The Borough is looking for residents who would be interested in filling the following vacancies: International Property Maintenance Board and Vacancy Board.

LSA Monroe Grant -- \$142,255.00 was awarded to the Asa Packer Mansion for renovations.

Tire & Electronics Recycling Report – The Borough collected 110 TV's, 88 miscellaneous electronics, and 268 tires. Greg Strubinger thanked Connor Rodgers for his help with the event.

New All Call System in effect June 1, 2023 – The only change residents will notice is the voice change, everything else will remain the same.

**Public Comment**

Jay McElmoyle – He thanked Borough Council for continuing to allow the Lion's Club to run the Asa Packer Mansion. There was a field trip for Towamensing Elementary School on May 15<sup>th</sup> that was guided by some of the new tour guides since the departure of the prior guides. They then had a brief closure for hiring and training of new tour guides and reopened Memorial Day weekend and has been opened every weekend since then. The Lion's Club installed a new credit card reader for payments.

Charles Fayash – He explained that he has been the hired groundskeeper and landscaper for the Asa Packer Mansion. He expressed concern that since the Lion's Club has gotten more involved with the Asa Packer Mansion, his invoices are not getting paid. He explained the only difference in pricing from last year to this year is grass cutting went up by \$50.00.

Jack Sterling – He expressed concerns about all the tour guides quitting at the Asa Packer Mansion and said it's a problem.

Joan Morykin – She explained that she had Police officers come to her business about stickers on the permit parking signs in front of her business. She said she felt targeted and she asked why the Borough would be using their resources for this issue when there are other signs within the Borough that have stickers. Greg Strubinger, Mayor Sofranko, and Chief Schatz explained that this isn't just one single incident and that there have been five separate occurrences since the permit parking signs were placed along West Broadway in front of her business that include theft of signs and the poles the signs were attached to, as well as defacing the signs. Because of this, the Police Department is seeking the public's help for any information involving these occurrences. It was explained that every time incidences like this occur, it costs the tax payers money.

Theresa Edmondson – She is a former Asa Packer Mansion tour guide and read a letter to Council from a former tour guide who no longer lives in the area about ending the agreement with the Lion's Club running the Mansion.

Stephanie Kratz – She is a former Asa Packer Mansion tour guide and read a letter to Council from a former tour guide about ending the agreement with the Lion's Club running the Mansion.

George Stoffa – He expressed his concern about the direction the Asa Packer Mansion is going in. He wants to see the Borough running it, not the Lion's Club.

Joe Boyle – He thanked the Police Department for everything they do. He asked when the next Silk Mill Restoration Committee meets again next. He was told that there just recently was a meeting and the next one would be in July sometime and it would be posted on the Borough's website and Facebook page as to the exact date. He also asked if the Borough gets bank statements for how much money is coming in from the Asa Packer Mansion. He was told the Borough does get bank statements.

Kerri Gallagher – She spoke about the positive things going on that the Lion's Club is doing for the Asa Packer Mansion.

Gerry Strubinger – He would like to see 1st Street get changed from a one-way with parking back to two-way traffic like it used to be.

Greg Strubinger thanked the previous Asa Packer Mansion tour guides.

#### **SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance)**

None

#### **Action**

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **continue having the Zoning Officer review Jake Arner's Agritourism application and make a determination.** Jake Arner originally requested to Authorize the Borough's Solicitor to determine if a change of use permit is needed in order to get the required permits for Agritourism for his property on Flagstaff. Joanne Klitsch asked if this would be at the expense of the Borough. Manager Sterner explained she is having the Zoning Officer track her time with Jake Arner and he will be invoiced for it. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from May 4, 2023.** There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Bob Schaninger being out of the room.

**MOTION** by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2023**. There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Bob Schaninger being out of the room.

**MOTION** by Jay Miller, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Expenditures from all Funds as presented**. There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Bob Schaninger being out of the room.

**MOTION** by Jay Miller, second by Joanne Klitsch, to **approve the Treasurer's Report**. There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Bob Schaninger being out of the room.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Michael Rivkin to **approve Ordinance 2023-02 On-Lot Sewage Management Program**. There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Bob Schaninger being out of the room.

### **Ordinance – Permit Parking**

There was continued discussion about the passes that would be available to businesses. It was recommended taking the number of 40 available to 20 available. It would still be at a first come first serve basis. Manager Sterner noticed the Ordinance states Hill Street, instead of Hill Road, along with a grammatical error. There were questions about the costs of the permit, would it be the same cost as residential? Manager Sterner was also concerned about there being confusion on where to park in the two zoned areas-she suggested going to timed permit parking or allowing them to park in the entire permit parking section, as well as being an enforcement issue. Bob Schaninger recommended using kiosks and explained the Borough does have the money for them. He also brought up having some sort of paid parking at the Movie Hill lot. Mayor Sofranko and Chief Schatz discussed enforcement and the challenges the Police Department sometimes face. Manager Sterner recommended that if Council should decide to choose kiosks, during the busy times of the year (Fall Foliage, etc.), the kiosks can be placed out of service in order to accommodate the residents. This item was then tabled to be voted on later in the meeting.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Michael Rivkin to **approve Resolution 2023-09 Housing Unit Numbering to Comply with County 911 Public Safety System**. Mike Yeastedt questioned why the properties on 13<sup>th</sup> Street were being numbered how they are as one of the properties sits behind the other and isn't on 13<sup>th</sup> Street. It was explained that there is an easement from 93 13<sup>th</sup> Street to 97 13<sup>th</sup> Street and these housing numbers have already been approved by the County. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Jay Miller, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve Resolution 2023-10 Authorizing the Lease of a Custom Tanker Fire Truck**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Jay Miller, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve Resolution 2023-11 Authorizing the Lease of a Custom Pumper Fire Truck**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Jay Miller, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve LSA Monroe Fire Grant- Onoko Roof Payment Application #1**. The roof work has been completed already and leaves a retainage of \$2,900.00. Motion carries 6-0.

### **2023 Water Main Projects**

Jay Miller explained there are four streets that still have water mains that need to be replaced as they are over 100 years old. It will take \$8,000,000.00 to complete the projects. There will be a

loan that will be paid back this year, which will free up \$200,000.00 in order to get a \$4,000,000.00 Pennvest Loan.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **authorize the Solicitor to review information from the Regional Blight Taskforce meetings.** This is to see if the Borough can utilize any of that information to potentially make a Blight Ordinance. The Regional Blight Taskforce is trying to get the County to enact Act 152. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Michael Rivkin, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the WIN 911 3-year subscription renewal.** The cost is \$3,600.00 and it would be a 3-year locked in rate. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Entech EWO- PWS Minor Permit Amendment for WTP SCADA Upgrades.** The cost is \$7,500.00 and once approved, Engineer permitting work would start right away. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the Waste Management Contract extension for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.** The contract ends on June 17<sup>th</sup> with the option to extend an additional two years for a slightly higher price than the original contract. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Larz Barnes to Assistant Plant Operator/Laborer conditioned upon obtaining his Sewer Plant Operator License at a rate of \$25.98/hour.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **adjourn the meeting for executive session regarding personnel and litigation.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting paused at 8:20 p.m.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **resume the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting resumed at 8:36 p.m.

**MOTION** by Joanne Klitsch, second by Michael Rivkin to **authorize the Police Chief to conduct an interview and if found favorable, offer employment for the part-time meter attendant for no more than 29 hours a week at a rate of \$12.00/hour.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the Solicitor intervene in the 1112 Broadview Drive Zoning Hearing Board appeal to the court of common pleas.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Utility Account Proposed Updates.** There is one change from residential to short-term rental. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve a payment plan for Account #8935.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

#### **Exoneration Request**

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the monthly Exoneration Report.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

### **Committees**

*Building/Parks* – Mike Yeastedt asked if the Borough was moving forward with the Asa Packer Mansion roof grant project. Yes, the Borough is moving forward with the project.

Jay Miller asked if the committee is meeting with the Kemmerer Park Association. The committee is meeting with them on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

*Emergency Services* – The Borough is still waiting on an update from Jessica Crowley on the status of her FEMA NIMS Certifications.

### **Old Business**

The signs have been ordered and came in for High Street, but they have not yet been installed.

The Well Ordinance information Jessica Crowley submitted was given to Solicitor Nanovic to review. She requested via email that this be placed back on old business.

Kemmerer Park Pavilion work – This is the purpose of the Committee meeting with the Kemmerer Park Association to discuss.

**MOTION** by Jay Miller, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve allowing Fire Police assistance for the Lehighton Borough 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks celebration.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Michael Rivkin, second by Jay Miller to **table Ordinance- Permit Parking.** There are still items needing further clarification before voting for it. Motion carries 6-0.

### **Adjourn**

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **adjourn the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting ended at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz  
Borough Secretary