

BOROUGH OF JIM THORPE
REORGANIZATION MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016

MINUTES

Meeting held in the Memorial Park Hall, East 10th Street, Jim Thorpe, Pa. 18229.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Michael Sofranko at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving our country..

PURPOSE: This meeting is for reorganization of Borough Council and swearing in of council members.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor Sofranko swore in John McGuire, Jay Miller.
Kyle Sheckler was sworn in by District Magistrate Edward Lewis

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Paulette Haupt	John McGuire	Thomas Highland
Joanne Klitsch	Jay Miller	Kyle Sheckler
Gregory Strubinger	Mayor Michael Sofranko	

Mayor Sofranko asked for nominations for President of Council.

Paulette Haupt nominated Gregory Strubinger to serve as council President

Jay Miller nominated John McGuire to serve as council President.

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to close the nominations for council president.

YES 7 NO 0

ROLL CALL VOTE FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Joanne Klitsch – Gregory Strubinger
John McGuire – John McGuire
Paulette Haupt – Gregory Strubinger
Thomas Highland – Gregory Strubinger
Jay Miller – John McGuire
Kyle Sheckler – John McGuire
Gregory Strubinger – Gregory Strubinger

VOTE: 4 – Gregory Strubinger
 3 – John McGuire

President Strubinger asked for nominations for Vice-President of Council.

Joanne Klitsch nominated Jay Miller to serve as the Vice President of Council.

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Kyle Sheckler to close the nominations for Vice President.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Kyle Sheckler that Jay Miller is voted as the council Vice-President.

YES 7 NO 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jerry Strubinger stated the new bridge is in the wrong place, he also spoke about there being a bi-pass by the railroad tracks to get around the downtown area. He asked council to be proactive.

Ronald Confer he is here to object to the hiring of a Borough Manager, we can't afford it. You need equipment, the roads are falling apart, you can use that money to do other things. He asked where the money is coming from to pay for the Manager.

President Strubinger said this is spread out amongst the departments.

Ronald Confer asked how much is coming out of the Sanitation account to pay for the Manager?

Mr. Miller said \$60,000.00.

Ronald Confer asked if that is going to be every year that you have a Borough Manager? You are draining that account.

President Strubinger said for year one and moving forward. This person will pay for themselves.

Ronald Confer said he didn't realize the General Funds account has been paying the mortgage on the Memorial Park that never happened before. Raising the taxes is not the answer you need to cut things. Now you are hiring another full time Police officer that is a lot of money.

Mark Reitz complained about his building issue and Carl Faust with the inspections of the property not being correct.

Curtis Jackson informed the public how the Borough Manager position is being funded. \$60,000.00 from the Sanitation account as long as the funds are there. He said the Sanitation account makes a profit of about \$1.1 million dollars. The Police officer is being funded by the tax increase and the parking meter increase. The borough is not broke or in bad financial shape.

President Strubinger thanked Curtis Jackson for stepping in and working on projects and commended him for his involvement in the community.

REORGANIZATION MEETING

1/4/16

Curtis Jackson informed the public that he has made the recommendation to council the past 2 years to give a refund back to the residents. Council has decided to use the money for capital improvements in the borough.

MOTION: John McGuire second Paulette Haupt to hold the regular monthly council meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 and to advertise.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Joanne Klitsch to hire Maureen Sterner as the Borough Manager conditioned upon receiving the cleared criminal back ground, child abuse clearance and execution of her agreement.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Sheckler said he is going to abstain from the vote because he has not talked to the lady or has any knowledge of who she is or what she is about.

Mr. Miller said he is going to say no.

ROLL CALL VOTE

John McGuire – NO
Joanne Klitsch – this is a one year contract – YES
Thomas Highland – YES
Paulette Haupt – YES
Jay Miller – NO
Gregory Strubinger – YES
Kyle Sheckler – ABSTAIN

Mr. McGuire said the reason he is saying no is because Jay Miller & Kyle Sheckler have not had the opportunity to interview the person.

Mr. Miller said he changed his mind on the Borough Manager. He thinks we should be looking no further than right here in the borough with Mr. Lukasevich. He agrees we should have had the opportunity to interview.

President Strubinger said we did look at Mr. Lukasevich. What it came down to is we advertised and one of the requirements for the position was having municipal experience. There were 3 candidates that had that and one that did not. That qualification is the most important for this position. We wanted someone that could come in here and hit the ground running. He feels very confident that we have the right person.

YES 4 NO 2 ABSTAIN 1

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Paulette Haupt to authorize the council president to sign the agreement with Maureen Sterner.

COMMENTS

REORGANIZATION MEETING

1/4/16

Mr. Miller said by your office you have the authority to sign that agreement.

YES 4 NO 2 ABSTAIN 1

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Paulette Haupt to approve Maureen Sterner's residency outside of the Borough per section 63-6 of the Jim Thorpe Borough Code.

YES 4 NO 2 ABSTAIN 1

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to retain James Nanovic as the Borough's Solicitor.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Joanne Klitsch to retain Louise McClafferty as Borough Secretary.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Gregory Strubinger to retain Maria Sebelin as Borough Treasurer.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Paulette Haupt to retain Joseph Schatz as Police Chief.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to hire Kyle Kohler as a full time police officer for the Borough.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to retain Lee Marzen as the Detective for the Jim Thorpe Police Dept.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to retain James Trainer as Street Supervisor.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Paulette Haupt to retain Edward Gula as Sewer Supervisor.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Joanne Klitsch to retain Vince Yaich as Water Supervisor.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Jay Miller second Paulette Haupt to appoint William Diehm as the J.T. Fire Chief And Vincent Yaich as the Deputy Fire Chief.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: John McGuire second Thomas Highland to retain the Mauch Chunk Trust Company as depository for Borough funds.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: John McGuire second Jay Miller to retain Entech, Inc. as the Borough's Engineer for Water Sewer, Streets, and other departments on an "AS NEEDED" basis, through agreed upon work orders.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Gregory Strubinger to retain William Solomon as the chairman for the vacancy board for a one-year term.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second John McGuire to retain Barry Isett & Associates as the Zoning/Building Company for the Borough with the exception of nuisance complaints..

COMMENTS:

Mr. McGuire said one of the things that we have talked to BIA about was pulling them out of high grass complaints – keep them out of property maintenance. We need to handle that in the office. The Borough Manager can pick someone to handle these complaints in the office.

Mayor Sofranko said the only thing the Police get involved when it becomes a criminal complaint.

Mr. McGuire said if the Borough Manager is taking care of a complaint and if she feels they need Police escort that needs to be done.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: John McGuire second Thomas Highland to retain William Brior as the Sewage Enforcement officer and as the Well Enforcement officer.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: John McGuire second Joanne Klitsch to retain Bruce Dobash as the alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer and as the alternate Well Enforcement officer.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Paulette Haupt to retain Buckno & Lisicky as the Borough's Auditor.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: John McGuire second Joanne Klitsch to retain Ben Walbert as a member of the Jim Thorpe Zoning Hearing Board.

QUESTION:

Mr. McGuire asked with him being a local architect and someone that we have actually used is there a conflict of interest to have him on this board.

Solicitor Nanovic said it is just a matter that he can't hold any other appointed or elected position for the borough. He does not feel this is a conflict.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Paulette Haupt to retain Roxanne Long as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Paulette Haupt to retain John McGuire as the Borough's representative for the Dimmick Memorial Library Board.

COMMENTS:

Mr. McGuire said the Library Board will be using the Borough office conference room the third Wednesday of the month to hold their monthly meetings at 5:00 p.m.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Joanne Klitsch to retain Curtis Jackson as the Borough's representative for the Federal Emergency Management.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Thomas Highland to appoint Police Chief Schatz as the Borough's representative for the Carbon County Telecommunications commission.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Joanne Klitsch to retain William Diehm as the alternate Carbon County Telecommunications member.

YES 7

NO 0

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Thomas Highland to retain August Long as the Health officer for the Borough.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Paulette Haupt to retain Maria Sebelin as the delegate for the Carbon County Tax Collection committee.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Gregory Strubinger to retain Louise McClafferty as the alternate delegate for the Carbon County Tax Collection committee.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Jay Miller to retain Louise McClafferty as the Open Records officer for the Borough.

COMMENTS:

Mr. McGuire asked if this will become the roll of the Borough Manager when she takes office?

RESCIND THE MOTION

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second John McGuire to table the appointment of the Open Records officer.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Gregory Strubinger to retain Curtis Jackson as the International Property Maintenance Board member.

YES 7 NO 0

MOTION: John McGuire second Thomas Highland to table the reappointment of Jacob Arner as the International Property Maintenance Board member.

COMMETNS:

Mr. McGuire said the borough is in litigation with Mr. Arner, this is not against Mr. Arner but if we are going back and forth with him in litigation we need the solicitor's input, hold until the regular council meeting.

YES 7 NO 0

REORGANIZATION MEETING

1/4/16

Mr. McGuire said last year council made a resolution for a council member may take care of renting of the Memorial Park pavilions. He is fine with that but he would like to see all the contracts are in the office.

Mrs. Klitsch said the contracts are in the office and the payments are in the office.

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Gregory Strubinger to retain Joanne Klitsch as a Jim Thorpe Planning Commission member.

YES 7

NO 0

Mayor Sofranko swore in Kyle Kohler as the new full time police officer

President Strubinger said they will be holding an executive session to discuss personnel issues no action will be required.

MOTION: John McGuire second Thomas Highland to adjourn.

YES 7

NO 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary