

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 1, 2022
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 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	Jay Miller-left at 9:42p.m.
Michael Yeastedt	Bob Schaninger-arrived at 7:54 p.m.	Jessica Crowley-absent
Michael Rivkin	Mayor Sofranko	Solicitor Nanovic-absent
Police Chief Schatz	Public Service Mgr. Yaich-absent	Borough Manager Sterner
Borough Engineer-absent	Secretary Brooke Klotz	

Mayor's Report

Congratulations to Chief's son Justin. He will be graduating from boot camp next week. Due to this, Sargent Bokeko will be filling in for Chief at next week's Borough Council meeting.

Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday October 29, 2022 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Emergency Services will be out directing traffic. He is asking residents to please keep their lights on. This will be held rain or shine, unless there is torrential weather.

Police Report-charges and citations are increasing. He thanked the Police Department for completing one hundred traffic stops in the month of August.

Traffic Emergency Operations Plan is in place for Fall Foliage Weekends. For safety reasons, this is not available to the public, but Borough Council can stop by the Police Department if they would like to look at the plan.

The Police Department is in the process of applying for a LSA Monroe County Grant for two electronic message signs and five radar signs. If granted, the addition of the two electronic signs would bring the Borough's total to four, one for each end of the Borough. The five radar signs would show driver's their speed. The signs will be placed on North Street, Center Avenue, and Broadway. The signs can count the number of cars that pass by them and detect where the majority of the violations happen.

There was a zoom meeting held between Lehighon Borough, Jim Thorpe Borough, and the County to discuss the no left hand turn out of the County parking lot. Due to safety concerns for motorists and pedestrians, the mandatory right turn will remain in place on busy weekends. Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau offered to purchase signs to help detour traffic around to get back to the downtown area, rather than go up and over the mountain to leave the area. The current plan is to place five directional signs along the route picked to detour the traffic back into the downtown area. Manager Sterner suggested to add two additional signs before the first one starting at the bridge to help deter people from making a U-turn at Hazard and in the old Subway parking lot. Chief Schatz added that PennDOT would be adding chevron signs on SR 209 and reduce speed signs on Lentz Trail as people are coming into town to help with the safety.

The night before, the Borough of Jim Thorpe was awarded one of the 2022 Main Street Grants at the Awards Ceremony held at the Northampton Country Club. He thanked the Borough office staff for helping to secure the Grant and that it was a pleasant evening at the ceremony.

President Strubinger congratulated and thanked Manager Sterner and Secretary Klotz on the Main Street Grant. He also congratulated Chief and his son for the upcoming graduation at boot camp.

Announcements

The Fall 2022 Tire and Electronic Recycling Event will be held on Saturday October 15, 2022 from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. This is only for Borough residents. They must show I.D. for validation. Please arrive no later than 10:30-10:45 a.m.

The Fall Pick Up the Poconos Event will be held Saturday, September 24, 2022. If interested, people can sign up and get more information on the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau website.

PennDOT will start its paving and ADA sidewalk repairs September 6, 2022 through November 10, 2022.

Public Comment

Brian Evans – He spoke about the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments being worked on. He was provided a copy of the draft because he signed up for the review group. He took this copy and uploaded it on to his jtnow.org page to educate residents and also to allow them to provide feedback to him so he can relay that to Council. He claimed he was never told he could not share the documents. Michael Yeastedt explained that the reason this wasn't distributed out to the residents was because the review group was to look at each section one at a time. This would keep everything organized and prevent being given feedback for many different sections at one time. Brian Evans asked that Borough Council reconsider their decision mandating he remove the uploaded document from his webpage, returning the hard copy he was given, and canceling the review group.

Edith Lukasevich -- She thanked and congratulated Chief Schatz and the rest of the Police Department for enforcing permit parking. She mentioned that there are two vans parked at Trinity Church that have not moved in a long while and they need to be moved. She expressed concern about a possible appointment to the Kemmerer Park Association Board. It is someone who is not a Borough resident. She said she has a list of about fifteen people who would be willing to join the Kemmerer Park Association. She asked that Borough Council not approve the proposed Special District Zoning Ordinance Amendment and the Kanick Subdivision because if both are approved, Mauch Chunk Lake will be filled with garbage.

Clyde Hill – He asked Borough Council to not approve the Kanick Subdivision due to potential run off from fertilizer into the lake and the possibility in the future of adding sewer lines; both of which can harm the lake.

SALDO- Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance

Canyon Rim Estates – Jake Arner asked Council to approve his starting construction on his development and the fill being taken from the one stormwater basin given to Flagstaff to make a third parking lot. The current stormwater pond will handle the water from the roads. Water will be gradually released and infiltrated into the ground. This would be for Phase I of the 84-lot subdivision. He also asked Borough Council if his subdivision projects can continue to move forward. The Borough in turn would earn an estimated \$474,000.00 in tax revenue. He already has a NPDES permit allowing him to have the stormwater basin. He claims that as a small investor, it is hard to secure loans or be bonded. He currently only has enough money to start construction and not enough money required by the agreements in his 84-lot subdivision final plan to put into escrow to improve the roads on Flagstaff. He claims most of the homes there would be Short Term Rentals. Manager Sterner clarified short-term rental use is permitted in the Special Zoning District by special exception, but would have to follow all the requirements in the Borough's Short Term Rental Zoning Ordinance.

Schweibinz Subdivision – Planning Commission's recommendation from their August 16th meeting is to approve the final plans conditioned upon addressing the items in the Borough Engineer's letter. The Engineer for the subdivision addressed the issues and the Borough's Engineer submitted a letter to the Borough verifying the corrections made. He recommended the Subdivision be approved.

Kanick Subdivision-time extension – Planning Commission’s recommendation is to accept the time extension through December 31, 2022. Their recommendation is to not change the current Special District sewage restrictions and to leave it as is based on the definition of the Special District.

Ogden/Bennick-time extension – Planning Commission’s recommendation is to not accept the time extension and to ask them to submit new plans once they are ready to do so. Borough Council agreed that it wouldn’t be a burden to the group.

Action

The following items were reviewed:

Council Meeting Minutes from August 4, 2022

Council Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2022 – Minor changes were made to correct name issues.

Expenditures from all Funds as presented – The Beer Garden Cooler was an expense that was not budgeted for. It was turned in to the insurance company, but the Borough is responsible for the deductible.

Treasurer’s Report

2023 Budget Work Session – Council would have to motion to schedule and advertise.

Ordinance 2022-06-Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance Amendment-adoption – This amendment addresses compact/subcompact parking on Broadway in front of the Inn, Hazard Square traffic restrictions, and placing a stop sign at the intersection of South Avenue and Poplar Street.

Resolution 2022-17—2023 LSA Monroe Grant application for Packer Mansion \$762,500.00 – The amount being applied for is \$678,500.00, the difference between the project amount and the amount being applied for is the funding pledge by the Borough and the Lions Club.

2023 LSA Monroe Grant Application Funding Commitment-\$64,000.00 – Manager Sterner stated that the realization is the Borough won’t get the full amount that is being asked for, but it reinforces to the state the importance of these much needed funds.

Resolution 2022-18 – 2023 LSA Monroe Grant Application for Electronic Safety Message Boards and Speed Alert Sign Package-\$64,428.00

2021 LSA Monroe Grant – Fire Department Onoko Roof Bid Specs-Authorize to advertise – Manager Sterner said that the Borough is still waiting for the specs to be completed. Sal from Spillman Farmer agreed to work on this project pro-bono.

Barry Isett Authorization for Services -- Memorial Park Phase I-\$50,900.00 – There was an earlier authorization for the original project that was submitted to the DCNR. It has since been expanded to DCED and LSA as well. This replaces the previous authorization to include all three.

2023 Police Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation -- \$162,680.00

2023 Non-Union Minimum Municipal Obligation -- \$135,008.00

High Street Wall Repointing Proposal -- \$7,500.00

Public Service Water Division-Truck Driver/Laborer-Plant Operator Trainee-authorize outside advertising– The position was posted internally with no one interested.

2022 JTTA Fall Festival – Event approval, Quarry Street Road Closure, and Barricades request – JTTA won't be providing the shuttle service, so the Request for Action for 24 West Broadway can be disregarded.

2022 Switchback Scamper Footrace – Chief Schatz is waiting to see how much emergency service help will be provided by Summit Hill at Mauch Chunk Lake. If they are unable to provide help, the Police Department would provide an officer to assist.

Utility Action

Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (3)

Exoneration Request

None

Committees

Administration

Live Streaming-Facebook – A memo was submitted to Borough Council by office staff about the information researched on Facebook and Live Streaming meetings through there. The next steps are recording device research and developing policies and procedures for the Facebook and Livestreaming process. The Borough should have this up and running by January at the latest.

NIMS Required Training – Two Borough Council Members still need to complete their required training, Michael Rivkin and Jessica Crowley. Michael Rivkin stated he would have it completed soon. There was no update from Jessica Crowley as she was absent from the meeting. There is no due date, but it can impact the Borough's PEMA and FEMA funding, including funds for our residents.

Code Enforcement Policy – Borough Council would have to decide how they want code violations to be handled in preparation for next year's budget. Various options were discussed. Michael Rivkin stated that the Borough should have someone that isn't a resident in these roles. It was decided to see how other municipalities that actively have someone in these roles handle the hours and financials and to get more information from Bureau Veritas on the prices and services they offer.

2000 Homes Program – This grant has not been properly closed out. Manager Sterner submitted final information to the state on August 29th and has not heard back from them yet. Currently there are still five properties, two with liens and three with outstanding loans, which need to be monitored to pay back the state the money that is owed.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Well Ordinance – The proposed zoning ordinance regulations gives the Borough a minimum protection for large scale water extraction. Councilwoman Crowley is working to research options to present to council for stand-alone ordinances.

Wittig Request-Borough participation in Halloween Parade – Kim Wittig is requesting permission to enter Jimmy's Work Truck in memory of Jimmy Trainer and Tom Highland. One employee has already volunteered to drive the truck.

High Street Directional Signage – Currently GPS navigation takes people down High Street onto Race Street rather than down Broadway in certain instances. This way has sharp turns and a steep grade. There has been a house along here that has been hit numerous times. Local Traffic Only, No Outlet, and the Steep Grade/Sharp Turns signage were some items recommended. Before a definitive decision is

made, Chief Schatz, Michael Yeastedt, and Bob Schaninger will go inspect the area and report their findings at the next meeting.

County & Railroad Meeting-parking lot, crossing, and sidewalks – The county held a meeting. The Borough, County, Railroad, PennDOT, and PP&L were present. Discussion on the rail crossing and the sidewalk bordering the railroad and county lot took place. The railroad crossing would not be relocated. There would be improvements made to the existing crossing and sidewalks. This will be a collaboration between the County and the Railroad.

W Broadway Lights – Only four poles are scheduled to be replaced, three of them have already been completed. There are limited options on the styles of poles due to state regulations since Broadway is a state road. Decorative poles would require the Borough to take ownership of the poles. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for September 8th.

Police

RFA Drury-Parking in front of Museum – During a recent site visit, it was noticed the parking spaces/lines at the apartment building next to the museum were extremely faded. Chief Schatz stated that one of the old police chiefs did allow parking in front of the apartments next to the Museum. There was a yellow line painted to distinguish parking spaces from the pedestrian sidewalk area. There are still remnants of the line. As per Drury's request, the Borough will not be able to permit any parking on the sidewalks as it violates state laws.

RFA O'Leary-Race Street Closure – He is requesting Race Street be closed for one day to place a portable dumpster on the street in front of his client's home to throw the shingles off of the roof. It would be closed to vehicle traffic only, not foot traffic. Chief Schatz said this would be fine and that the dumpster is portable and would have to be moved if emergency services needed to get through there.

Directional Signage-East Side Circle & Lehighon Signage Request – This was discussed under Mayor's Report also. A meeting was held on August 29th by the County regarding the no left turn out of the County parking lot. It was recommended to have signage be placed to direct traffic leading back to the downtown area. Lehighon Borough asked for permission to place A-Frame signage to lead traffic back towards Downtown Lehighon.

Buildings/Parks

Kemmerer Park – The cost estimate for the project would be \$335,750.00. Matching funds of \$15,925.00 would be required. The Borough will request \$319,825.00 for the LSA Monroe County Grant. There are funds from the annual budget that can be converted over to the commitment totaling \$9,500.00. An additional \$6,425.00 is needed. The Borough is asking the Kemmerer Park Association to also contribute to the match. There was a discussion of members that are appointed to the Association Board. It was recommended that Michael Yeastedt work with Jack Sterling on the appointment of members. Jay Miller said that the Borough's involvement in the Association was to help apply for grants.

Summer Camp Report – This was the 25th year of the Jim Thorpe Rotary's Summer Rec Program. A thank you was given to Clem McGinley and the other camp counselors for having another successful program.

RFA McDonald-Pickleball Court – Measurements were taken at one of the basketball courts in the park. The dimensions of the Pickleball Court would fit there. There were discussions on who would provide the equipment and the storage of it. It was recommended to order the net. Bob Schaninger said he would get someone to paint the lines.

Emergency Services

Jay Miller discussed the decline in volunteers for the fire departments, not just in the Borough, but across the area. He recommended using social media to recruit more volunteers.

Other

None

Old Business

10 East 2nd Street-sewer lateral can be taken off of Old Business. This concern was addressed and fixed.

Adjourn

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch. There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0. The meeting ended at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Borough Secretary