

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
JANUARY 6, 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-absent	Joanne Klitsch
Jessica Crowley	Kyle Sheckler-absent	Michael Yeastedt
Robert Schaninger	Mayor Michael Sofranko	Police Chief Schatz
Solicitor Nanovic- absent	PSM Yaich	Manager Sterner
Entech Engineer – absent	Secretary McClafferty-absent	

Public Hearing

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Marijuana Facilities; Amusement Rides

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko said starting this year he will not be giving a complete police report at the workshop sessions he will do that at the council meetings. If there is something for the Police Committee, he will bring it here.

Announcements

DCNR Grant for Memorial Park awarded - \$79,000.00
2021 Hotel Tax Grant awarded - \$39,536.36

SALDO

Schweibinz Subdivision – grant of time extension 3/31/22
PC Request – reverse subdivision/lot consolidations

Borough Manager Sterner said what they want permission to review the subdivision ordinance and make amendments to the requirements for lot consolidation. So that it is not so difficult and expensive.

President Strubinger read the email from Lauren Butler who could not attend the meeting tonight about the permit parking, she uses a work vehicle.

Borough Manager Sterner will ask the solicitor for advice on this.

Public Comment – limited to 1 minute per person – public is encouraged to submit public comments via regular mail, email or place in drop box at municipal office

Michael Rivkin, 5 W Broadway, JTTA winter fest is on the agenda. MC Events could not attend they will sell 500-600 tickets split amongst the two days Feb. 19 & 20. This will minimize the volume of traffic over 2 days. Luminary walk it will be more grass roots.

He discussed the permit parking ordinance. He would request that the original draft ordinance the time frame, 5:00 pm to 6:00 am, the time could be determined. He is looking at the business aspect, that day time anybody can park.

Mr. Yeastedt said the residents requested this.

Laura Young, 29 W. Broadway would like an explanation of the zoning ordinance amendment marijuana facilities and amusement rides.

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Borough Manager Sterner said it's an amendment to our zoning ordinance for the marijuana it provides the zoning districts in which the grower, manufactures, dispensaries, & clinics where they can be located. Much of this is based on the state law that we are required to follow. The amusement portion is allowing certain amusements in R-2 zoning district.

Laura Young asked when she has a plumber or someone work at her house, there is no place for them to park. If she has a guest on the weekend and the office is closed, that means we cannot have a pop in guest. What they do a beach town they give them placards and are given 2 per house. That way you don't have to worry about getting a ticket.

President Strubinger asked Police Chief Schatz how are the meters bagged for contractors working.

Police Chief Schatz said they fill out a request for action form and then they are granted that space but they have to pay for the day. If they have a contractor working up on WB all they have to do is call us to leave us know they will be there working.

Nancy, she lives in JT she cleans on Broadway, no she can't park there, she cleans a lot of houses, how can she keep her business being a success working in Jim Thorpe. If she has to pay \$10.00 each time she has a job, that is half of her pay.

Jake Arner regards to the Canyon Rims Estate residential plan. What he has shown on this plan is a grey area. The lots that are greyed out are flexible parking lots. Flexible parking can be used for parking if needed or they can be used for residents if the borough decides to go into parking business and make their own parking lot. He knows the borough has plans to do this and he encourages them to do it. There are several issues with the plans: the first and most pressing is Mauch Chunk Creek is now proposed to be turned to a high-quality stream. That will make your parking lot plans extremely expensive. It will destroy all development along the creek. He would recommend the borough go against that plan. He could produce a parking lot within a year. This is a proposition to help the borough out with the parking issues. He spoke about this for several minutes. He is for the amusements, Ferris wheel, trolley site. What he is looking for is in this ordinance is approval to do public parking in the S-district. This is the exact plan that was approved. The only difference is the grey area which lots 40, 41, 127 through 137 those are flexible lots, they can be used for housing, this can be used flexibly for parking. This will go through all of the proper channels, JTPC, engineer, and solicitor.

Mayor Sofranko states he will not willing to let the quality of water and the safety of the water be jeopardized by parking. We need water to live.

Mrs. Klitsch stated you have 3 ½ acres that you are going to take down trees, she would see how that will affect our water.

Jake Arner stated what he doesn't want is to put an amusement park on Flagstaff Mountain that is going to bring 1,000 cars there. When there is no place for those cars to park, they will be parking on Flagstaff Road.

Police Chief Schatz said keep in mind Flagstaff Road has limited access travel on it. We are only allowing only passenger vehicles on it now, no truck traffic, the trolley is not exempt.

Mr. Yeastedt asked that we need to investigate that because the entire length of the stream down to the Lehigh River that may throw more conditions into anything on Broadway if you want to build a parking deck. Can we find out what the ramifications are for that?

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Borough Manager Sterner said you will have to jump through more hoops.

Jake Arner asked if council is interested in this or not?

David Weinrich, 38 W. Broadway he has a driveway, he rents parking spots. When it comes to the day passes it seems unrealistic to go to the borough to get the permit. You can look at a way of doing this online for the people to pay. People are going to start parking in other parts of town, and picking them up to go to their places.

Action

Discuss Council Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2021

Discuss Council Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2021

Discuss Council Meeting Minutes from December 29, 2021

Discuss Expenditures from all Funds as presented

Discuss Treasurer's Report

Discuss COVID Disaster Declaration Extension to April 15, 2022

Mayor Sofranko asked that the COVID Declaration be kept in place until April 15, 2022.

Discuss Shade Tree Committee Appointment

Borough Manager Sterner said Jessica Crowley is interested in sitting on the committee.

Discuss Ordinance 2022-01 Vehicle and Parking Ordinance Amendment

Borough Manager Sterner said this is increasing the fines for tickets and handicapped parking.

Discuss Ordinance 2022-02 Stormwater Management, this was advertised and is ready for adoption.

Discuss Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Marijuana Facilities; Amusement Rides

Borough Manager Sterner said this is to advertise the ordinance.

Discuss Resolution 2022-01 Bituminous Price Adjustment.

Discuss Entech 4159-EWO-11643 – 2021 Chapter 94 Report \$2,800.00

Discuss Entech 4159-EWO-11750 – 2021 AWWA Water Audit \$1,500.00

Discuss MC Events – Mug Walk February 19 & 20

Discuss Lukasevich Tree Removal Request

Borough Manager Sterner said the trees are in the swale behind his property.

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Discuss Blight Remediation Grant Projects

Jim Thorpe Borough – N/A
Lehighton Borough –
- KCE Invoices - # -
Palmerton Borough

President Strubinger said we receive some costs breakdown for the 204 Center Ave cost of \$141,168.00, \$59,668.00 for demolition of the structure and repairing the adjoining property at 206 Center Ave estimate of \$55,000.00 and \$26,500.00 in engineering. Quote from September 2018, inflation should be considered, inspection and removal is not included, permits not included, restoration of sidewalks & curb are not included.

Borough Manager Sterner said the BIA report on these repairs there are other components that cannot be valued without an invasive investigation. That \$55,000.00 repair is a minimum and will go up. Council will have to decide how they want to move forward with this property. You have discussed contact the owner of 206 Center Ave for some funding on this, it is to repair their structure.

Mr. Yeastedt said we have to decide if we want to expend the funds to do all of the work or do the other projects.

Borough Manager Sterner said you have to decide how much of the remaining funds you are willing to pledge towards Lehighton bid overage.

Discuss High Street ARP Project

Total Estimated Project Costs – addition funds required
Bids Received
Entech 4159-EWO-11756 - \$45,300.00

Borough Manager Sterner said total project estimates \$487,444.52 this is the total amount we are receiving. Low bid received was \$459,232.50, construction engineer amount \$45,300.00 for a total of \$504,532.50. That is just for this. There were four different bidders, the recommendation from the engineer is the low bidder Doli, final item Engineer Work for the construction portion.

PSM Yaich said Entech's work order \$33,300.00 for observation services. That is if you had someone there the entire project, field observer. Matt & I don't feel we are going to need full time field observers there. Where Entech will come in to play there is down at the lower end of this project, where the water line has to cross over the creek arch, that is where he personally wants to make sure Entech is there to watch that creek arch.

Utility Action

A. Utility Accounts Lien Reports

- Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)
- Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (6)
- Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)
- Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (0)
- Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (1)
- Temporary Off Lien Report (0)
- Inactive (0)

B. Uncollectible Accounts Report (0)

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C. Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (8)

Exoneration Request

Monthly Report – nothing to report

Committees

Administration

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

PA Dept of Agriculture – Consent for Treatment Spotted Lantern Fly

Borough Manager Sterner said they did spray down at the WWTP for spotted lantern fly. They were over on W Broadway and are looking land that we own there near the parking lots and they would like to spray over there. They are asking for permission to do that. If you are inclined to do that you will have to sign the agreement, it doesn't cost us anything.

New Truck

Borough Manager Sterner said all Costars program stuff from last year is closed. The 2022 is not open, we cannot get a quote until that is open, it maybe spring until that is open.

Front Street Project

Borough Manager Sterner said council needs to give some direction on the updated prices and do you want to have a special council meeting to discuss how you are going to move forward with the storm water, road construction paving projects as far as curbing for property owners.

Strohl Sewer Trap Request

Borough Manager Sterner said last year the property owners were going to have concrete work done and they asked the sewer dept. to go out and smoke test the property. Eddie Gula went out and did a smoke test and there was no smoke coming out where the cement work was going to be done. However, there was smoke coming out of a small vent pipe in the back of his house. He said nothing was said about this smoke. They went forward and did all the cement work. Then this year they got notice of a violation because the smoke was seen. She spoke with Eddie and he doesn't remember if smoke came out the first time they were there or if he walked around the back of the house to see if smoke was coming out. He wants to know what he should be doing. Because this was not pointed out when they requested the smoke testing to be done, they feel they should not have to put this trap in now because they will have to dig up all of the concrete work that they just put in or if they have to do it that the borough should be responsible to for replacing the cement work that was just installed. She asked council if she should contact Tiny Sheehan?

President Strubinger said yes.

Mr. Yeasted spoke about the letter from the State about the SR 903 paving project. There were a lot of issues discussed about curbing, and lack of, they will install a 4" asphalt curb and ADA reengineering the handicap curbing. He will write the response letter to them. The crosswalks will have to be replaced and we will request that they do the 6" thermoplastic in-beaded heat that will last longer than the line painting.

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Police

JTTA Correspondence

Williams Request for Action

Police Chief Schatz said he would not recommend a sign.

Buildings/Parks

Carbon County Court request to use Memorial Hall for jury selections and trials

Borough Manager Sterner said they gave us an update February has been withdrawn from their request. They have March 7, 10, 14, 17 April 11, 14. The only thing we have is Library board, & Planning Commission meetings at 6:30. We would have to make sure the property is vacated prior to that time. The draft agreement we can have the solicitor look at this and the rental rate would have to be discussed.

NEPA – Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Classes

Borough Manager Sterner said PSAB have been here before for trainings. He has been informed about our project and they will wait until our project is done, so they will keep us in mind. Summer time they are looking at possibly using the pavilions in the park.

2022 Krampus Fest

Marianne Rustad was present and asked council if the Carbon County Chamber of Commerce could use Memorial Park for the Krampus fest. They would like to keep it in town, Kemmerer Park was nice but it was hard. This is the first weekend in December.

Mrs. Klitsch said we are looking to do the Christmas trees in the park, it will depend on how many trees we put in the park.

Borough Manager Sterner said the buildings and parks committee will need to discuss the fees for the rent of the whole park.

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

Executive Session

- A. Personnel
- B. Litigation

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Adjourn

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger to go into executive session for personnel.

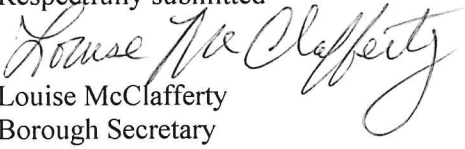
YES 5

NO 0

ABSENT 2

Adjourned at 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted


Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary