

**JIM THORPE COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**JULY 7, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 6:34 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	Kyle Scheckler-absent
Michael Yeastedt	Bob Schaninger-left @ 8:50	Jessica Crowley-arrived at 6:38
Michael Rivkin	Mayor Sofranko	Solicitor Nanovic-absent
Police Chief Schatz	Public Service Mgr Yaich	Borough Manager Sterner
Borough Engineer-absent	Secretary Brooke Klotz	

**Mayor's Report**

None

**Announcements**

Three LSA Grants were awarded -- \$30,000.00 for Community Center Equipment Upgrades, \$64,423.00 for Memorial Park Phase I Construction, and \$25,714.00 for JT Little League Facilities Upgrade Project. The last grant was completed by Brad Hurley.

The PMVB Grant was awarded for the Mausoleum Drive Improvements for \$9,000.00. There were 2 quotes for the project and is to be placed on the action agenda for next week's Borough Council meeting.

The LV Chamber Foundation's Main Street Grant was awarded for a beautification project along Lentz Trail for \$575.00.

Borough Council held an executive session on June 8 for personnel

**Public Comment**

Jim Pompa of 88 Broadway, heard that a new parking kiosk would be put in place near his home. He asked that Council reconsider. He was told that nothing was planned in regards to that.

Jim Gilmore of 50 West Broadway, was there to discuss the permit parking. He asked if Council was considering a proposal to change the current ordinance. He also went on to explain and distribute copies of the current status of all the permits that were issued to the actual spots there are. Currently there have been 290 permits issued, 286 of those permits are active; 22 live on Broadway, 12 on Race Street, 2 on Hill Road, 16 on High Street, and 234 on West Broadway; 4 of the permits are approved B&B's and 20 are Short Term Rentals and of the 20 STR's, 17 are on the approved list and 3 are not. There are 129 spaces on West Broadway, 19 on High Street for a total of 148 parking spaces. That's 138 more permits than there are parking spaces. The County lot has approximately 450 parking spaces and there are approximately 110 parking spaces on Broadway, Race Street, Quarry Street, Hill Street, Hazard Square, and Susquehanna Street with 32 of the spaces are free. He also went on to thank Chief Schatz and the rest of the Borough Police for coming out and enforcing the permit parking.

**SALDO**

The Schweibinz subdivision submitted a time extension until September 30, 2022. They also submitted a SALDO plan scale waiver, SALDO lot to depth ratio waiver, and preliminary plans after the deadline for the meeting. Planning Commission approved the waivers and preliminary plans conditioned upon the 22 notated items being addressed and corrected.

**Action**

The following items were reviewed:

Council Meeting Minutes from June 2, 2022  
Council Meeting Minutes from June 9, 2022  
Expenditures from all Funds as presented  
Treasurer's Report

Resolution 2022-11 – CFA Multimodal Grant Downtown Project  
CFA Multimodal Grant Downtown Project Matching Funds Waiver Request  
CFA Multimodal Downtown Project Total Grant Amount Request  
Resolution 2022-12 – CFA Multimodal Grant High Street  
CFA Multimodal Grant High Street Project Matching Funds Waiver Request  
CFA Multimodal Grant High Street Project Total Grant Amount Request

Manager Sterner explained that the number's are not updated and that the Borough is still waiting to hear back from engineers for final numbers and figures.

JTNB – Increase ACH limit to \$60,000.00

Public Services – Employment Outside Advertising, no one applied for the 2 positions internally, so it was recommended to post the positions in the Times News and on Indeed.

2022 Paving Bid – 3 companies submitted bids. The funds from the School Street Grant must be used for trench restorations and cannot be used for paving. The cost for Chapman Street would be \$38,264.00 and the cost for North Avenue would be \$22,448.00. There would be no other money left over to cover the other 3 streets that were proposed, so they will have to wait until next year. Jessica Crowley asked if Flagstaff was included to be part of the paving project and she was told no. Michael Rivkin asked who we have used in the past, which was all the companies listed with the exception of one who was new to the bidding this year. Jessica Crowley asked how much more expensive it is this year compared to prior years. Manager Sterner explained that costs have almost doubled due to fuel prices and that many municipalities in the area have decided not to pave their roads this year due to the costs.

2022 Lions Halloween Parade & Pavilion Use Request – October 22 with a rain date of October 23. The parade route is not changing. They cannot use Lehigh Street due to it being a residential area and nowhere to set up the viewing booth.

2023 Running with the Angels – May 13

Trice Request for Action – tree, the tree in question belongs to Trice's neighbors, not the Borough even though it's in the Right-of-Way. This is covered under the Shade Tree Ordinance. The Shade Tree Committee checked on the tree and they are recommending that the whole tree comes down and that the tree will continue to die off if not cut down. It was suggested that next week recommend to the home owner to contact a professional on what should be done to the tree.

Livestream Request – Council, Planning, and Special Meetings; President Strubinger doesn't recommend that the Borough does this. Michael Rivkin asked if this was requested before. It was never officially requested, but has been spoken about at prior meetings and the concern was about the Right to Know Act, as well as being interrupted with comments throughout the meetings. Jessica Crowley said there is a need for livestreaming, which she does on her own Facebook page for the residents who are unable to make it to the meetings. It was brought up that everything that the Borough residents need is put on the Borough's website.

High Street Water Main Project

Doli Construction Corp Change Order #1 - \$12,287.42 credit

Doli Construction Corp Payment Application #2 - \$107,762.14

There is a 1% retainage and the project is done, as well as under budget.

### **Utility Action**

Account 0280 – sewer credit request due to leak

Account 0280 – payment plan for excess water charges due to leak

Account 6776 – payment plan, for garbage.

## **Exoneration Request**

Report was submitted for review

## **Committees**

Administration: New Employees Health/Dental/Eye Insurance Coverage

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets): 101 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street – sewer lateral, the property has sold and the sewer line needs to be separated; the lateral is 35 feet, in front of the neighboring property. The easiest solution would be to tap a new lateral in front of the property. President Strubinger asked who pays for the work that has to be done. PSM Yaich said there is a customer facility fee. President Strubinger asked if there has been a comparable situation like this one. There hasn't been. This item to be placed on action agenda.

Police: Angled Parking -- the lines are mainly done, just the 5 spaces in front of the Inn have to be posted. It was recommended that Solicitor Nanovic change the parking ordinance and review before placing on the action agenda. Bob Schaninger suggested that the parking spots across from the bank should be "boxes" which compact cars must fit into in order to be able to park there.

Permit Parking – there was an staff meeting which discussed the permit parking, what's working with it, what's not working with it. It was recommended that affidavits be made. There was idea brought up about giving 7 businesses on West Broadway 2 parking passes to give to their customers. Jim Gilmore came up to speak stating he was upset that JTТА was represented at the meeting after being told at last month's Borough meeting that JTТА would not have any say. He was told that JTТА wasn't represented and none of their ideas were shared. Jim Gilmore also disagreed with giving the 7 businesses on West Broadway the 2 passes each, which would take away 14 spots from residents. Mayor Sofranko asked if Jim Gilmore be given a memo of what was discussed at that meeting. Borough Council agreed to give him the information and recommended it be placed on the Borough's website. Jessica Crowley recommended any sort of committee meeting be open to the public.

South Avenue & Poplar Avenue – stop sign evaluation, Chief Schatz recommends putting up a stop sign adjacent to the other stop sign on South Avenue. Manager Sterner asked if the Borough needed an engineering study. Chief Schatz said no due to him doing a 5-day camera study. He said that it is a very heavily traveled area, more than he originally thought.

Buildings/Parks: JT Mausoleum Trees, the trees are currently blocking the flags and need to either be cut down or trimmed. Currently have a quote from Kyle Oliver's Tree Service. Manager Sterner suggested the Borough holds off on any decisions due to the fact 4 trees were planted by Grace Thorpe, a relative of Jim Thorpe, that came from Oklahoma. We need to investigate if these trees are part of those 4. Michael Yeastedt suggested the Borough get other quotes and just trim the trees.

Emergency Services: Manager Sterner informed Council that the dates for the final inspection of the ordered fire trucks were pushed back to November and December

Michael Yeastedt asked what the County was doing in front of the mansion with the pole? Manager Sterner said that she contacted PPL in the beginning of the week for an update and is still waiting to hear back from them.

Kyle Sheckler submitted a letter intending to resign from Borough Council. It is to be considered at the next meeting. Discussion was that any letters of interest for the seat must be submitted by August 2<sup>nd</sup> so it can go on the August workshop agenda and be voted on at the August Board meeting.

## **Old Business**

Remove duplicate zoning ordinance proposed amendment – sewage in Special District  
Add Angled Parking and JT Mausoleum Trees.

### **Executive Session**

Personnel

**MOTION** to adjourn and move into executive session by Michael Yeastedt, seconded by Jessica Crowley. There were no comments. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting ended at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Klotz  
Borough Secretary