

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 6, 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-absent
Michael Yeastedt	Bob Schaninger-absent	Jessica Crowley
Michael Rivkin	Mayor Sofranko	Solicitor Nanovic-absent
Police Chief Schatz-absent	Public Service Mgr. Yaich-absent	Borough Manager Sterner
Borough Engineer-absent	Secretary Brooke Klotz	

Announcements

Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 29th from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Residents are urged to please have your lights on during this time.

President Strubinger was pleased to announce the Borough was awarded a \$200,000.00 DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Grant Award for Memorial Park Phase II.

The Fall 2022 Tire and Electronic Recycling Event will take place Saturday, October 15th from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. This is open for Borough residents. Please be there no later than 10:45 a.m. as the recycling hauler leaves promptly at 11 a.m.

The Jim Thorpe Lions Heroes Banners will be retired. The program will end after Veteran's Day. Any resident who purchased a banner and would like to keep it should contact the Borough Office for pickup.

Public Comment

Judy Williams – She is upset that the Blight money from the grant received by the Borough is being rerouted. The other ½ double attached to her son's house is ready to collapse. They don't have the money to put towards the renovations needed to save their house. She stated that they pay all their taxes and that there should be no reason why the Borough cannot cover that portion to save her son's house; the Borough doesn't care. President Strubinger explained the Borough does care. The Borough residents raised \$7,500 to help them several years ago. The Borough also applied for the Blight Grant to help.

Louis Hall – He spoke about the petition he had County resident's sign. He does not want to see the ½ buffer reduced in the current Special District Ordinance. He went to the County Commissioners and they are concerned about the proposed amendment.

He also is encouraging residents to vote on November 8th. On the ballot, there will be a question asking if County residents approve of the County borrowing ten million dollars for conservation of water quality and the purchasing of land. Over the course of five to seven years, it will cost each person in the county two dollars a month to pay back the ten million dollars.

Andrew Roberts – He is trying to get the sidewalks fixed along his property at Race and High Street. He is looking for a variance to have the sidewalks go from six inches to eight inches as well as adding curbing. He is having issues with Barry Isett and Associates to give this variance. They claim it's a SALDO project, which it is not.

Jake Arner – He asked Borough Council if they have made any progress on his request that his lawyer submitted last week. He is ready to start construction. He was told that Solicitor Nanovic had questions that he sent Mr. Arner's lawyers and have not heard back from him.

Attorney Grant Simmons – He spoke on behalf of the Kanick's. He asked for clarification if the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Special District sewage would be part of next week's Borough meeting action agenda. It was explained that it would be part of tonight's discussion. The step Council could look to take would be to authorize the solicitor to forward the draft to the Borough and County Planning Commissions for review and comment. Manager Sterner explained the earliest it could go to a public hearing would be the December meeting to potentially be voted on in January. Michael Yeastedt asked if Solicitor Nanovic made all the corrections addressed by the Borough's SEO (sewer enforcement officer). All changes were made. Questions were asked about how pollution levels were tested at the lake,

how often, and how often there were issues. County Commissioner Lukasevich stated the County tests the lake every week over the summer and that it has been at least two years since any type of closure. Michael Yeastedt asked how many properties would the land be subdivided into. Attorney Simmons confirmed a maximum of nine lots.

SALDO- Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance

None

Action

The following items were reviewed:

Council Meeting Minutes from September 1, 2022

Council Meeting Minutes from September 8, 2022

Treasurer's Report – The Borough is currently on track for the year

2022 Line Item Transfers -- This is done to help out planning next year's budget. There are no changes to the bottom line of the current year's budget.

Resolution 2022-20 Memorial Park Improvements Phase III – The deadline to apply for the DCED grant is October 27, 2022. Council will be voting on the costs before the plans are drawn.

2000 Homes Program Repayment – The Borough received \$129,934.00 in program repayments. This money is to be paid back to the PA DCED. There are still two outstanding loans, with one house sale closing within the next week. The Borough will have to track the last remaining property to ensure the remaining balance is paid. There is currently \$130,413.56 in the Homes Account due to interest accrued. There are 2 invoices from the Solicitor that will be paid with the interest in this account.

Foreign Fireman's Insurance Disbursement to Mauch Chunk Relief Association-\$24,609.34 – This money comes from the state and each municipality that receives this money has 90 days to distribute to their Fire Departments.

Teamster's Contract Addendum-Wages for Truck Driver/Laborer-Plant Operator Trainee only – The addendum adds this position, but all other aspects of the Union contract for this position will be followed. The potential new employee will be required to obtain a license to operate a water plant, which is issued by the DEP.

Leighton Ambulance Association Fee Waiver Request – This is for the inspection fee for the installation of new curbing by the ambulance station. The inspection fee by Barry Isett and Associates is approximately \$500.00.

Jim Thorpe Area Running Festival 4/29/23 and 4/30/23-Event Approval Request – RUNegades Inc. is the group who runs the event annually. The ½ marathon will take place Saturday and the 7-mile run and full marathon will take place Sunday. The races will be along the D&L and Lehigh Gorge Trails.

Raising the House-Lights at the Lake Event approval – This will be a drive through light show around Mauch Chunk Lake Park on select nights in November and December 2022.

School Street-PA Small Water–Ondeck Concrete Payment Application #1 – The cost of the project is \$11,728.75 for an ADA sidewalk at the intersection of 4th Street and School Street.

Facilities Projects

A) Auditor Proposal financial update proposal – This is for the preparation of the projection of the Borough's statements of revenues, expenditures, and changes in cash balances for the years ended December 31, 2022 through 2027 for Memorial Hall and construction of a Public Service Garage. The fees for this will not exceed \$7,500.00.

B) Environmental Assessment update proposal – This is for an updated Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for Memorial Hall and Public Service Garage. The fee for this is \$6,000.00

Utility Action

Active Utility Accounts Garbage only Lien Report (5)

Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (4)

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (1)

Account #1142 Request for sewer credit due to water leak (\$27.49)

Account #7545 Payment Plan

Account #7545 Request for sewer credit due to water heater leak (\$128.27)

Exoneration Request

Report was submitted for review

Committees

Administration

Live Streaming/Facebook -- Secretary Klotz explained the type of camera the Borough was looking to purchase based on the needs for live streaming meetings in the future. Michael Yeastedt asked why the Borough wouldn't use two cameras instead of one because of filming Council and filming the residents in the audience for public comment. Jessica Crowley explained Facebook live will only allow one camera to record for the account.

NIMS Required Training-Council Update – Michael Rivkin started his training. Jessica Crowley has yet to start.

Draft Zoning Ordinance – Planning Commission and Borough Council were issued copies. The deadline for Planning Commission to submit any changes is November 18th and for Borough Council is December 12th.

2022 Audit – The auditor gets appointed every year. Borough Council must decide if they would like to keep the current auditor or hire a new one. The Borough will have to get a single audit performed if they receive \$750,000.00 or more in Federal money. President Strubinger asked if Manager Sterner could get a proposal from the Borough's current auditor for the next meeting.

Code Enforcement Policy -- Currently the only Borough in the area using Pro-Active Enforcement is Palmerton for property maintenance only. Franklin Township, Lehigh Township, Lehigh Township, and Summit Hill Borough are Reactive Enforcement. Michael Yeastedt said he would like to see all contractors register with the Borough if they perform work within the Borough. Manager Sterner explained that if Council would like to proceed with Proactive Enforcement, they have to decide how much money they would be willing to spend and how many hours they want someone to do this. She would also like to check with Solicitor Nanovic about the legality of contractors registering with the Borough. She will speak with Bureau Veritas about reiterating with residents posting permits so they are visible. She will look into contacting other code enforcement agencies for ones that do Proactive Enforcement.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

County/Railroad Project – Sidewalk Extension SR 209 across from post office – Council requested that Manager Sterner email the County Commissioners for an update.

2022 PennDOT Multimodal Grant Options – This is for the Downtown Vehicle & Pedestrian Safety Project and the High Street Wall Vehicular & Pedestrian Safety Project, which were applied for through CFA. Through CFA, the project matching amount was waived, whereas applying for the same two grants through PennDOT requires a 30% match. The required match for the Downtown Vehicle & Pedestrian Safety Project would be \$269,765.00 and for the High Street Wall Vehicular & Pedestrian Safety Project would be \$349,456.00. Council will pass on this opportunity.

Police

Municibid – ammunition sale – The Police Department switched to different guns, they are looking for Council to approve the sale of left over ammunition from the guns they no longer use. The sewer department also has various items they would like to sell on Municibid.

Elder Fraud Seminar – This will be held on November 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. The Jim Thorpe Police Department will be hosting the seminar and the FBI will present it. It is open to all the citizens of Carbon County.

Leighton Borough Halloween Parade-Fire Police assistance request – this item was tabled until the October 13th borough Council meeting. Police Chief Schatz was not there to confirm if the Borough would be able to provide the assistance needed.

RFA Morris-Children at Play sign request – Ms. Morris is requesting this sign for the corner area of Front and Center Streets. Manager Sterner had the Streets crew check the area to verify a sign is able to be placed there.

Buildings/Parks

JT Mausoleum Trees – Borough Council would like more information on the type of trees that are currently at the Mausoleum before determining completely removing them or a complete trimming. They would also like other estimates from additional companies.

Emergency Services

KME was contacted for an update on the new fire truck. It won't be ready until June 2023. This is due to not having enough manpower to complete the jobs they have. Once the new truck is received, the other vehicles will be sent out for repairs needed.

Other

None

Old Business

None

Adjourn

MOTION by Michael Yeastedt, second by Michael Rivkin to **adjourn the meeting**. There were no comments. The meeting ended at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Borough Secretary