

**JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 1, 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	Jay Miller-left @ 9:07
Michael Yeastedt	Bob Schaninger	Jessica Crowley-left @ 9:10
Michael Rivkin-absent	Mayor Sofranko	Solicitor Nanovic-absent
Police Chief Schatz	Public Service Mgr. Bolesky	Borough Manager Sterner
Borough Engineer-absent	Secretary Brooke Klotz	

Announcements

Thank you to the residents who came out to the first annual Festival of Trees tree lighting ceremony.
Thank you to the committee members for all the hard work they put into making this event happen.

Borough Board-Commission-Committee Seats – There are several terms ending this year. The seats are listed on the Borough's Facebook page. If anyone is interested, please submit a letter of interest to the Borough office.

2022 Recycling Grant Award-\$3,619.74

UnLocke the Light Foundation-Presentation on Mental Health Awareness; December 15, JTHS Auditorium

Hotel Tax Grant Application Award-2022 Fall Foliage Festival \$15,525.00 – This will offset the Emergency Services costs.

Mayor Sofranko thanked the Committee members for all they did with the Festival of Trees and the tree lighting ceremony. Santa received a ride from the Police. The Jim Thorpe Tourism Agency tree lighting is taking place Friday the 2nd downtown at 5:00 p.m. Krampusfest is being held on Saturday the 3rd at Pocono Whitewater. A shuttle service will be available back and forth from downtown to Pocono Whitewater. The rain date for the event is Sunday the 4th. There was a fire today. Thank you to the volunteer fire departments who came out to help put the fire out. Because of the time of year, Mayor Sofranko asked the residents to consider donating to the families who lost their homes.

Public Comment

Chris Vandine-He stated he was working on various projects for his family's properties. One of the properties has outstanding trash bills. He asked if properties that are being lived at are charged for garbage, even though water and sewer have been turned off. He was told yes.

Laura Young-She is impressed with the amount of grant money the Borough has been awarded. She had heard that the Borough would be requiring bed and breakfasts to supply parking for their staff. Manager Sterner said she never heard of it. Jessica Crowley said she saw what Laura Young was talking about from a post on Facebook of a picture from the draft Ordinance that was uploaded online by a resident. Manager Sterner said that draft that is online is not a proper document.

Chris Nahhas-He had a hit and run on his property over the weekend and wanted to thank the Police Department for their prompt response.

SALDO-Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance

Kanick Subdivision- The Kanick's Engineer submitted an authorization of time extension through March 31, 2023.

605-609 Fawn Circle Lot Consolidation-The property owners were there to explain the plans they submitted for the lot consolidation. They would like to build a garage once the lots are approved to be consolidated. They were notified that the draft deed they submitted needed one item changed. They are trying to have that change made in time for the Borough Council meeting on the 8th.

Canyon Rim Estates (CRE)- Jake Arner's lawyer submitted a request to start subdivision construction. He explained that he has 14 people who are interested in buying lots. He submitted a new subdivision plan. The new plans take the other plans and consolidate them into one plan. His attorney will be present at next week's meeting for questions. Mayor Sofranko asked why there is so long of a protection period; he's never seen one that totals 38 years. Jake Arner explained that this is due to the predicted recession and because his subdivision plan is broken up into phases. Jay Miller said he wants to hear legal advice from Solicitor Nanovic before discussing this any further.

Action

The following items were reviewed:

Council Meeting Minutes from November 3, 2022.

Council Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2022.

Expenditures from all Funds as presented- Manager Sterner explained there are items on the Bill List that are for the Fire Department. The sewer truck repair was covered by insurance, minus the deductible. Mike Yeastedt explained that there is an outstanding bill from the fire department.

Treasurer's Report

2023 Budget-this was advertised for adoption

Ordinance 2022-07 – Tax Levy Ordinance-There will be an increase in property taxes.

Resolution 2022-26 – H2O Grant: Silk Street sewer main-The office is waiting on final numbers from the engineers. The actual document will be available in time for next week's meeting.

Resolution 2022-27 – PA Small Water and Sewer: South Street sewer main- The office is waiting on final numbers from the engineers. The actual document will be available in time for next week's meeting.

Resolution 2022-28 – PA Small Water and Sewer: Front Street stormwater.

H2O Grant-Silk Street funding commitment-The office is waiting on final numbers from the engineers. The actual document will be available in time for next week's meeting.

PA Small Water and Sewer-South Street funding commitment- The office is waiting on final numbers from the engineers. The actual document will be available in time for next week's meeting.

PA Small Water and Sewer-Front Street funding commitment- The office is waiting on final numbers from the engineers. The actual document will be available in time for next week's meeting.

End of Year Meeting-Schedule and advertise for December 29, 2022.

Yaich Retirement-Public Service Manager Yaich submitted his notice to retire at the end of this year.

Bank of America Credit Card Accounts -- approval of changes-Two cards would be canceled and one name would be changed on the cards.

High Street Repointing Proposal -- \$8,925.00-There are funds in the budget allocated to this project.

Onoko Fire & Rescue Roof – COSTARS-Materials are contracted through a COSTARS vendor. That vendor will solicit RFP's from COSTARS contractors. Once a contractor is selected, a schedule will be worked on for time of completion. Jay Miller expressed he does not want to see this project rushed.

Facilities Projects

- A) August 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes Correction – amounts recorded incorrectly for legal/bond proposals
- 1) Bond Council-Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot, LLC-correct amount \$39,950.00 to \$50,450.00 (not \$84,950.00)
 - 2) Legal Services-Nanovic Law Office – correct amount \$19,750.00 to \$18,000.00 (not \$41,250.00)
- The amounts for both proposals were added together and it should not have been. Mike Yeasted asked if there was an update on the Memorial Hall project. Manager Sterner explained it's been challenging. There were issues renewing the SAM registration, not at the fault of the office staff, but a technical glitch on the website's end. Jay Miller asked if office staff has still been in contact with Federal Representatives, which they have been periodically.
- B) Collier Engineering & Design Invoice 10/2/22-Updated Phase I Environmental Site Assessment \$1,161.05.
- C) Collier Engineering & Design Invoice 11/6/22-Updated Phase I Environmental Site Assessment \$3,677.90.

RFA -- Cub Scout Pack 138 request to use Memorial Hall for Christmas Party on 12/18/22-They have already submitted their proof of insurance. The Borough office is to follow up with the Cub Scout Pack to see if they need use of the kitchen.

RFA – Strubinger request for installation of a street light at 7th Street and Cypress Street. Greg Strubinger explained that there is a far distance between the street lights in this area and it's very dark at night.

Borough of Nesquehoning Request-Blight Act 87: Deed/Mortgage County Fees – The Borough of Nesquehoning is looking to attend the County Commissioner's meeting in January to inquire about the County's interest in adopting this Act. They would like to know if any of the other municipalities in the County would send councilmembers to this meeting as well. There was a meeting hosted by the Borough a few years ago discussing this Act, but nothing amounted from this meeting. Jay Miller expressed that he would like to talk to the Borough of Nesquehoning and other Boroughs within the County on their thoughts, as well as request grant funding to start a land bank.

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (1)

Exoneration Request

Report was submitted for review

Committees

Administration

2023 Fee Schedule – There weren't many changes and any that were made are done so in red. A few changed items noted were the update to pavilion rentals. The cost would increase for non-Borough residents. Hearings before Council are the same price, but listed differently.

Zoning Ordinance working draft comments – Jessica Crowley submitted notes and updates she would like to see included or excluded from the draft and questioned some of the verbiage.

Borough All Call System – The Borough currently uses Swiftreach, which has been bought out by Rave Mobility. Leighton currently uses Rave Mobility and they are not happy with it. Civic Plus has a similar

program for the same as what the Borough is currently paying for Swiftreach. Geo Decisions was a program that was looked into, but they are more geared for water companies. Greg Strubinger asked about the terms of the contract with Civic Plus. The first year would cost \$3,000.00 and the second year would cost \$4,200.00 with a required 60-day cancellation notice.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

CFA Multimodal Grants-Decision deferred (Downtown & High Street Vehicular and Pedestrian Safety Improvements Projects) – This was never put on the State's agenda, therefore it was not discussed.

Well Ordinance-Jessica Crowley would like to see basic items for protection proposed. She received a sample Ordinance from DRBC (Delaware River Basin Commission). Jessica Crowley would like to do some more research. This item will be moved to old business.

Vehicles- Two sewer trucks and one streets truck is needed. Purchasing a used vehicle doesn't make sense financially. Council received a list of trucks that are currently on the lots, available for purchase. These are all gas-powered trucks, not diesel. Diesel vehicles wouldn't get driven around enough, which cause maintenance issues. The trucks that the Borough would purchase would need to be able to plow and cinder the roads. It was decided that at least two of the trucks would need to be F-550's in order to do this. Council asked Public Service Manager Bolesky to get quotes on F-550 vehicles.

Before leaving, Jessica Crowley read a letter to the Borough from Carbon County Commissioners in reference to the Proposed Zoning Amendment for the Special District sewage requirements.

Police

None

Buildings/Parks

LSA Statewide Grants-Decision deferred (Mansion Project) – This was never put on the State's agenda, therefore it was not discussed.

Memorial Hall Streets Supervisor Heat/Air Quotes -- There are two different unit quotes

Emergency Services

None

Old Business

None

Adjourn

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **adjourn the meeting**. There were no comments. Motion carries 4-0. The meeting ended at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Borough Secretary