

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
APRIL 4, 2019
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Park Hall, 115 East Tenth Street, Jim Thorpe by President Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for the men and women serving our country.

Roll Call of Members & Officials

Gregory Strubinger	Kyle Sheckler (a)	Joanne Klitsch
Thomas Highland (a)	John McGuire	Edith Lukasevich
Jay Miller (a)	Manager Maureen Sterner	PSM Vince Yaich
Police Chief Schatz	Connor Rodgers (a)	Solicitor James Nanovic (a)
Mayor Michael Sofranko	Secy. McClafferty	Matt Boggs, Entech

Public Hearing

1st Public Hearing for 2019 CDBG

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko asked if anyone has questions on the Police report.

Mayor Sofranko complimented Police Chief Schatz for submitting a grant through the LSA grant. We have received \$26,000.00 for license plate readers.

Mayor Sofranko said he spoke to the individual that is interested in running the 4th of July event this year.

Police Chief Schatz would like permission to hold the National Night Out in the Memorial Park on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 with the rain date being Wednesday, August 7, 2019 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Mayor Sofranko said the Summer Program that is run in the Memorial Park will continue this year.

SALDO

Public Comment

President Strubinger said we have another Scout Danny Demarco CC Community Foundation Grant Project. He said this is an Eagle Scout project in the park pavilion area.

President Strubinger said we did receive a packet of information on the Jim Thorpe Hometown Festival (Fireworks).

Michael Rivkin said when it was announced that the prior organization was not holding the annual 4th of July event, he spoke with Mayor Sofranko. He went to their organization to ask for permission to work on some sort of a plan to ensure that we had a firework display and a festival. They were granted permission.

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
APRIL 4, 2019
MINUTES

Michael Rivkin said Sandy Reese from the Sam Miller Field, approached them to see if they could be a part of this. They had a meeting and came up with some dates. Council received a copy of the license permits and insurance for ZY Pyrotechnics, LLC. The JTTA and Sam Miller Field will accept the responsibility for organizing, they will work with the Borough for any necessary permits. The goal is to have this as a fund raiser event for the Sam Miller Association. What they need from Council is permission and approval of any required permits and work with the emergency services for their equipment at the scene.

Mr. McGuire asked where will the fireworks be put off, he asked that the people be kept away from this area.

Michael Rivkin said by the court is where the discharge area is. He explained the whole event to everyone present. He said this will be scaled down because of the physical location and because of budgeting factors, it will be about a 25-minute show. If it's drought condition, and there is wind the fire marshal or fire chief will step in and say it's a no go, then it's a no go. The event will be held on July 6, with a rain date being the following day July 7, 2019.

Mayor Sofranko said this will require a Police Service contract.

Michael Rivkin said they will need someone for traffic control. When the show lets out, they will want somebody down at the bottom of the Heights where it meets SR #209. He would like preliminary approval, so he can tell the pyrotechnical company that this will be approved by Council.

RUNegades

Mike Ragozzino said RUNegades will be hosting the run in May. He would like to talk to Council about Ordinance 2018-4 that closes traffic to commercial traffic. He would like Council to relax that ordinance for that day.

Police Chief Schatz said this course takes everything off of the roads and puts it on the trails. It's the safety of the runners.

President Strubinger asked Police Chief Schatz what his thoughts were on approval for next year's event. Should we evaluate this year's run?

Police Chief Schatz said they have been in communication since you gave them conditional approval, yes, you can do that.

2018 Recycling Performance Grant

Borough Manager Sterner said we have submitted the application to DEP. The amount that we are looking at is approximately \$5,365.00.

Day's Landscaping Beautification Project Donation

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
APRIL 4, 2019
MINUTES

Borough Manager Sterner said this is the Lehigh Valley Chamber and the Beautification project is 102 North Street, Day's Landscaping donated mulch for this project, the CCTI is making a bench for us and the directional sign has been ordered.

LSA Grant – License Plate Readers

Police Chief Schatz said we applied for the LSA grant last year for the license plate readers. Currently in the state of Pennsylvania there is no more registration stickers. We go on Case Figures with the computer systems that are in the vehicles. The reader will sit in the vehicle and reads both sides of the street. This will be a big plus for the department.

Mr. McGuire asked if this is going to pick up more things that could be wrong?

Police Chief Schatz said yes, this is a needed tool.

Mr. McGuire asked if this will change the way our man power hours are? Will we have enough officers to cover this and keep track of the man power. The State, the way they calculate how many police officers we should have for our size of town it calls for 6 officers – patrolmen, this does not count Chief or the detective. Do we have enough patrolmen to do this? He said once this gets going keep track of the manpower.

Police Chief Schatz said the reader – camera system takes pictures of the license plates. Penn Dot put all the information into the shared file, and then from there the reader reads every license plate that travels past the patrol vehicle and from there it picks up. The cost of these things is \$25,000.00 for one.

President Strubinger said the rock scaling on Mansion House Hill Project is estimated to start May 1 to May 15.

Patrick Gremling, 62 Race Street he is here to get some clarification on the utility definitions. He received a letter in the mail that the building he owns is classified as a commercial unit. There was an audit on his building and it was determined to be different than what it was previously, therefore his utilities went up substantially. He lives on the third floor; his garage is on the second floor on Race St. The rest of the building is 77 Broadway and that is retail. It is a combined use building. What defines commercial units? The layout of the building are very small businesses and some of them are only weekend businesses, with 200 to 300 square feet. He explained the layout of the building inside; he considers this a mini mall. He would like to be considered one commercial unit and one residential unit. Some of these stores are not connected to water or sewer. He spoke about the rate he is now being charged, \$653.16 per month for a small business.

Borough Manager Sterner said this is on the agenda, it was on the utility change report and you did receive information because it was a large jump. We continuously do audits on all of our accounts.

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
APRIL 4, 2019
MINUTES

President Strubinger said we have similar requests from businesses. It is difficult for us to determine when a business is open and when it is closed. As far as the garbage, the alternative you would have is you would have to obtain a dumpster.

Borough Manager Sterner said a dumpster would not be allowed in that location. He could contract with a trash company himself.

Patrick Gremling said his request to Council is to have all of his businesses be charged one commercial bill. He stated if he owned all of the businesses in the building called Patrick Gremling's Douglas House Market place, he would only get one bill and he hired people to sit in the shops.

Mrs. Klitsch asked how many businesses do you actually have there?

Patrick Gremling said 3 on the first floor and 3 on the second floor, 6 businesses. There are 5 people that rent from him. His family has owned this since the 90's.

Borough Manager Sterner said we can have the solicitor look at the ordinance and get his comments. We went based on the ordinance; we can't change the ordinance Council would have to do that. You have had other people come in and you stuck to the ordinance.

President Strubinger said we will have the solicitor take a look at the ordinance to make sure we are all on the same page and get his comments. We have been enforcing this uniformly.

Patrick Gremling would like to be part of this conversation.

Danny McGinley 259 West Broadway, he is here for an update on the parking permit issue.

Mr. McGuire said you are talking about the parking permits in your area, not the NEPA Parking Study.

Borough Manager Sterner said they are trying to schedule a meeting late April early May when the consultant would be available.

Mr. McGuire said we had a meeting with them, NEPA, and update once, but no committee meetings. The parking permit draft is to the Planning Commission. The Planning has questions on it because it doesn't meet every possible issue out there.

Betty Lou McBride said her question is what about church parking? You won't be able to park on the streets unless you have a permit. This is just West Broadway, what about people having a party? You will be allowed 2 permits, you can't have your kids or anybody come over because they will get a ticket. When she came to council for her business, the Old Jail, they have 14 parking places that they use and on occasions people park on Broadway. Now you are not going to be able to park there. This ordinance has so many flaws in it. This needs to be discussed.

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
APRIL 4, 2019
MINUTES

Betty Lou McBride said the Vacation Rental permits is also in discussion. Her thoughts are, hold on the parking on Broadway and you put through the VRBO ordinance which does require them to have 2 onsite parking. You would release a lot of the parking issues. There are 100 VRBO's in town. This needs to be solved first before you penalize the residents on West Broadway.

Borough Manager Sterner said the purpose of this ordinance is to help the people on West Broadway.

Council discussed the parking permit ordinance for several minutes.

James Dougher, 169 W Broadway said he does not see a problem with the ordinance the way it has been written. He thinks the visitors should be directed to park in the County parking lot. He also suggested putting kiosks all the way up Broadway.

Mr. McGuire said this will be discussed at the next Planning Commission meeting the meeting is scheduled for April 16 at 6:30 in the Memorial Hall, they would like to change the meeting date to April 23. He needs to confirm with Louie Hall that this date is good, this will be advertised and the meeting will be held at the hall.

Mrs. Lukasevich stated maybe she lived too long, and maybe she is too old to sit at this table and her ideas are out of line. If anyone that is sitting here that wants her seat on Council, that they will do something for the betterment of this community, she would gladly relinquish her seat. She is for the people of this community. She wants everything that's good for them, the young and the old. She would like to see the young come back to town when they are done with college, which they don't and she would like to see the elderly being taken care of and they are not. She respects everyone at this table and their ideas but she doesn't have to agree with them.

Darren Reinart, said they are having a problem with the tourism in Little Bear Creek, Marty Axman and Sunrise Ridge developments in Penn Forest Township. There is a property in the back, 416 acres that is Scott Detrick's. He said Penn Forest Township has allowed him to put in recreational cabin/tent rentals on his property. He explained they have been renting out cabin/tents since May 2018. They would like to know what Jim Thorpe Borough can do to help them stop them from coming into their developments. You can find this on tentr.com. The way they dispose the human waste is the concern. He spoke about him trying to do the zip lines on the property about 6 years ago. He wants the borough to know what is going on north of Jim Thorpe.

Mayor Sofranko stated the borough has the zoning variances and you have to go through a hearing or a set of events for recreational cabins and all of that.

PSM Yaich said, back years ago that was Authority land and when they disbanded, the property was put in to the Borough's name.

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP

APRIL 4, 2019

MINUTES

Mayor Sofranko said you may want to have Jim Nanovic look into this. We had concerns with the zip line and he handled the whole zip line issue for the borough. He said you should speak with the Borough Manager.

Borough Manager Sterner asked Darrin Reinart to stop in the office to talk to her. This is in Penn Forest Township; she does not know what we can do. If you have copies of plans, we can look at them.

Judy Salava stated there were no plans that went through the Penn Forest Planning Commission. The part that is upsetting is he is surrounded by State park lands. She said this was approved by 2 members of the 3-board member. If there is a fire, this is a big concern and it is frustrating because they only have one road in and one road out of their development.

Action

Discuss Council Workshop Meeting Minutes from March 7, 2019

Discuss Council Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2019

President Strubinger said if you have any concerns with the minutes please contact Louise.

Discuss Expenditures from all Funds as presented

Borough Manager Sterner said we do have a transfer from the Water Funds to the Capital Reserve Funds and that is because we have a CD coming due, we want to get more money into the CD.

Discuss Treasurer Report March, 2019 as presented.

Discuss Resolution 2019-14 Bituminous Materials

Borough Manager Sterner said this is the same resolution that we are required to do annually per State law the escalator clause for paving materials.

Discuss Ordinance 2019-03 Susquehanna Street No Parking

Borough Manager Sterner said this was tabled last month. This would be on if Council so inclines to vote to advertise it for adoption for next month.

President Strubinger said he is not sure how Council feels. Do you want this on the agenda?

Borough Manager Sterner said if you are not ready, we can table this again.

President Strubinger said ok.

Discuss Street Paving Project Bids

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
APRIL 4, 2019
MINUTES

Borough Manager Sterner said we received 5 bids. The low bidder is New Enterprises Stone & Lime amount \$99,985.00. Their bid is in order.

Discuss Chemical Bids.

Borough Manager Sterner said these were sent out to several different companies, low bidder is Main Pool & Chemicals.

Discuss 2019 Police Ford F150 Lease Purchase

Borough Manager Sterner said you have a copy of the invoice for the 2019 F150. We requested rates from 5 different companies. The low interest rate is from MCTC, first payment will be September.

Discuss Water CRF PLGIT Term Renewal

Borough Manager Sterner said she will get new rates next week. The amount was \$225,000.00 we will be adding another \$25,000.00 to that plus any interest we have earned from that CD while it was in there.

Discuss Little Libraries Permit Fees Waiver

Borough Manager Sterner said fees are required, they will need to fill out the zoning permit. We are requesting that Council waive the fees for any permits that come in from the Library for the little Libraries.

Mr. McGuire said this is a non-profit. Anything that we write he asks that we mention the Rotary Club and the CCTI started this project with the library and Zoe Cotton. So it is done right, when someone wants one of these they must put in a PA One Call for safeguard. These will need to be registered with the library, they will give a registration number.

Discuss RUNegades Flagstaff Request

President Strubinger said he would have no issues. He would put it conditioned upon the outcome of this year's event and any suggestions that come from this year's event.

Police Chief Schatz said he does not see this being a problem, we will shut the road down from 6:45 to 10:00

JTNB Community Banking Day

President Strubinger said they will be requesting barricades for Friday, May 3, rain date Friday, May 10, 2019.

JT Rotary Summer Recreation Program

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
APRIL 4, 2019
MINUTES

President Strubinger said they are requesting to use Memorial Park again.

Borough Manager Sterner said they will not be doing it June 28, they thought that was National Night out. She will inform them that is not the night. They do run their payroll through the borough.

D & L Trail

- D&L Trail DCED Time Extension Request

Borough Manager Sterner said this is to ratify the extension that we forwarded to DCED, this is until the end of the year.

WWTP Upgrade Project

Eastern Environmental payment application #28 - \$26,061.75

Howard Company payment application #23 - \$2,802.07

Requisition #32 – \$47,221.94

Matt Boggs said they had a progress meeting today. The final completion is the end of this week. Paving and seeding of grass will be done next week, and the access road. One thing that is left is the painting will be done later in April. After that it is just the testing, when we get warmer weather is when Ovia wants to do the testing.

Matt Boggs said he and PSM Yaich met with Penn Dot and Mr. Rehab. Mr. Rehab sub will be doing the work at Center Avenue and Cedar Avenue, they will be doing that on April 22, 23 & 24, 2019.

Matt Boggs said they will find out how much funds are left for Mr. Rehab to do more sewer work repairs.

Matt Boggs said they submitted the Chapter 94 and the AWWA reports.

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (4)

Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (1)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Temporary Off Lien Report (0)

Inactive (0)

Uncollectible Accounts Report – (0)

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (4)

Account #2855 request

Account #9323 Payment Plan

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP

APRIL 4, 2019

MINUTES

Tax Exoneration Action

George Vetsikas

Karen Hough

Committees

Administration

Permit Parking was discussed earlier in the meeting.

JT Lion's Remembrance Ceremony May 11, 2019 at 10:00 am

President Strubinger said the Borough has been invited to attend the ceremony at the Asa Packer Mansion. They are asking the borough to present a citation. They will be presenting Asa Packer's cane to the Lion's at this event.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

TNC/Wildlands Conservancy Working Woodlands

Borough Manager Sterner said Dennis Demarra, this is preserving working woodlands. There are two parts to this: 1) is carbon credit revenue, what they do is they have a developer who wants to develop something and they are required to reduce their carbon foot print. They can buy carbon foot print from someone that has vacant land.

2) Forest Certification, they will come in and review your forest to determine if there is money any type of wood that would be able to generate you some money. You had this done about 10 years ago, it probably didn't grow in 10 years.

Mr. McGuire said we would have broken even. They looked at the trees and it wasn't the deal for us.

PSM Yaich said there was very little timber to take back then. As far as the pulp goes they like to get 40 to 50 tons of pulp per acre, and we got about \$45.00 or \$50.00 a ton. It wasn't going to do anything for the borough.

Borough Manager Sterner asked Council if they are interested in this? She cautioned the borough that whatever they would do, that you keep the rights to decide the usage of the property.

Street Sweeper

Borough Manager Sterner said the license plate did not arrive. There will be some type of form to inspect the equipment when we take it and when it's returned. She needs information on it to add it to our insurance. She has a call into COG.

Mr. McGuire said we spoke about the clean up on Flagstaff. We are trying to get help from the school and volunteers.

Police

Nuisance Ordinance Enforcement Program

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
APRIL 4, 2019
MINUTES

Borough Manager Sterner said Chief and Greg talked about this. Look at this and let us know if you have any questions, are you in favor of this or not?

Mr. McGuire said when you enforce this, people can get nasty.

Mayor Sofranko said he is in favor of this, we are trying to maintain life here.

Borough Manager Sterner asked if this should be moved to the action agenda.

General consent of Council yes.

Buildings/Parks

Park Master Site Plan Proposal

Borough Manager Sterner said this is the proposal for BIA. There were some questions from the solicitor. We did receive a waiver from DCNR. Review and if you have any questions call her, this will be placed on the action agenda for next week.

Emergency Services

Old Business

Readdressing Phase II

Executive Session

Personnel

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second John McGuire to adjourn and go into executive session for personnel.

YES 4

NO 0

ABSENT 3 Jay Miller, Kyle Sheckler
Thomas Highland

Adjourned at 9:22 pm

Respectfully submitted



Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary