

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MAY 2, 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	Joanne Klitsch
Thomas Highland (L)	John McGuire	Edith Lukasevich
Jay Miller	Manager Maureen Sterner	PSM Vince Yaich
Police Chief Schatz	Connor Rodgers, JCP	Matt Boggs, Entech
Mayor Michael Sofranko	Secy. McClafferty	

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko asked everyone to review the Policer report. The new Police vehicle has arrived and is in service. He said there is a lot of construction going on in Jim Thorpe, with the Mansion House project. He asked the people to slow down, the Police will be in enforcing the work zone areas that are posted. Center Ave will be busy with the detour up over the Flagstaff Road.

SALDO

Public Comment

ArtisaShip Piano Project

Cheryl Rodger from ArtisaShip Piano project request to place a piano in a public area in the borough. They have an artist painting the piano, place it in a public place that is not in the walkway, it will be covered in inclement weather, it would be open 9:00 am to 7:00 pm the keys will be locked at night. She found a couple spots that they will contact the property owners to see if they would allow them to place it on their property, they did look at the little park on Race Street. They need permission first to do this project. She spoke with a gentleman that operates a piano studio and he said the piano will be able to handle the weather.

Mrs. Klitsch said Council will need to know where it will be placed, and what is going on with it.

Borough Manger Sterner said you will need property owner's permission, in an area that is not going to exceed the sidewalk area, the Police need to be made aware of where this is at.

Mayor Sofranko asked what negatives have you had?

Cheryl Rodger said they had no negatives.

Mrs. Lukasevich said this is a beautiful idea.

Borough Manager Sterner asked if the intent is to set this up and then turn it over to the town, do you have that intent?

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Cheryl Rodger said no, they do not have that intent.

Mr. Miller stated this is a nice idea, he thinks there is going to be maintenance problems.

President Strubinger asked how the organization is funded?

Cheryl Rodger said they get donations for the project, they are a 5013C. They will take responsibility for the maintenance; they will be applying for a grant and fund raising for the project.

Mr. McGuire will discuss this with the Library board.

Mrs. Klitsch asked if a property owner gives you permission to put it there, will they be liable for anything?

Cheryl Rodger said they will have a waiver for the people to sign. She will come back to Council when she has a location for the piano.

Street Sweeping

Borough Manager Sterner said this will be done the week of May 13, 2019. There will be an all call on it and it will be on the website.

Mansion House Hill Project – estimated start moved to May 6.

Borough Manager Sterner said this will be starting on May 6, 2019, this will be posted on the website.

Tire & Electronic Recycling Event – May 18, 2019 7:00 am to 11:30 am

President Strubinger said this is for borough residents only, 2 TV's per resident, computer monitors, computer equipment, printers, no microwaves, air conditioners, tires nothing mounted, no racing tires, tires must be whole.

Connor Rodgers JCP, said he will be there.

Mr. Miller said ID will be required.

Action

Discussed Council Workshop Meeting Minutes from April 4, 2019.

Discussed Council Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2019

President Strubinger asked Council to review and let Louise know if there are any corrections.

Discussed Expenditures from all Funds as presented

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Borough Manager Sterner said they are the normal bills.

Discussed Treasurer Report April, 2019 as presented.

Borough Manager Sterner said the only thing in the General Funds, there is a transfer to the Capital Project funds amount of \$755,000.00, which shows a loss. That is because the auditor wanted us to create that new fund for Capital projects. So those items that were in the General Fund have been transferred to the capital projects fund, the largest one is the D&L Project. That has that profit and loss off.

Discussed Shade Tree Commission Recommendation 912 North St

Borough Manager Sterner said if Council would like her to notify the property owner, they need to remove the dead tree.

President Strubinger asked if anyone has talked to the residents?

Borough Manager Sterner said no.

President Strubinger asked what the procedure would be to contact the resident to remove the tree?

Borough Manager Sterner said we would write them a letter at Council's direction. We would give them a certain amount of time. Generally, they are cooperative because the liability is theirs.

President Strubinger asked do we at some point remove it.

Borough Manager Sterner said she believes there is a provision in the ordinance that we could, and then bill the resident. If they don't pay the bill, we would put a lien on the property.

Discussed Shade Tree Commission Recommendation 923 & 925 Center St.

Borough Manager Sterner said the recommendation from the Shade Tree Commission is that the trees are young and healthy and they see nothing wrong as far as disease or anything like that, that would warrant taking down the trees. The property owners concern is the trees have berries and they get on the vehicles and it is not easy to clean off.

President Strubinger asked if the home owners have the option to take the trees down at their expense?

Borough Manager Sterner said they have to get permission from the borough, per the ordinance. Discussed Runegades, Plan Update.

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Borough Manager Sterner said this is to clarify the updates to their plans that they presented to the Police Chief. Everyone is in agreement; it is just a matter of ratifying the plan.

Discussed JTТА Fall Foliage Festival.

President Strubinger said the JTТА letter announcing the 2019 early 2020 calendars of events. Fall Foliage Festival the three weekends of October. There will be limited support on Oct 26 & 27, 2019, not promoted as part of the festival.

Mayor Sofranko said he does not have a problem with the festivals when they are coordinated with the Police Chief, they do pay fees. This year you will have the Mansion House closed; this will add to the traffic issue. He suggested there be a meeting set up with the JTТА, PSM Yaich, Borough Manager Sterner to discuss the concerns with the traffic and come back to Council with a proposal.

Discussed Municibid Sale Items.

Borough Manager Sterner said these are mainly Sewer dept. items and one Water dept. item. Bids are due 5/9/19 by 10:00 am.

Discussed High Street Wall Repair Warranty Period Expiration

President Strubinger said High Street Wall repairs Axis Stabilization the warranty period will be ending June 1, 2019. We inspected this with the company. All looks good.

Mr. Miller stated he thinks this is the method to go with for any of the wall repairs, the concrete pinning process.

Discussed D & L Trail

Borough Manager Sterner said they are still working on the project. There is an Entech invoice for this, amount of \$112.50.

Matt Boggs said they had a progress meeting today. They have a punch list, the last thing is the testing of the IFAS system which needs to be done in warm climate weather, that is scheduled for mid-June, the rest of the items will be taken care of by the end of May.

Mr. Miller asked if we are done with the railroad?

Matt Boggs said the railroad is for the sewer project and the wall. The sewer will be done but the wall will continue and they will need to use the railroad.

Mr. Miller asked if we are done paying for the railroad?

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Borough Manager Sterner said no, we are sharing with the D&L now. If the WWTP contractor is there we are paying for the hours and time that they are there. If they are not working and the D&L are, will pay for that day.

Discussed WWTP Upgrade Project Eastern Environmental payment application #29 - \$59,426.25.

Discussed Howard Company payment application #24 - \$4,750.00, for closeout and retainage.

Matt Boggs said he is keeping retainage of about \$1,000.00. The only thing they have to give them are another day in the field and comments on the as built drawing. Their final payment application will be next month.

Discussed Requisition #33 – \$80,106.25

Discussed Entech Amendment #6

Matt Boggs said the amendment is for engineering, this will be the last engineering amendment. This will tie into Eastern finishing the job. They are anticipating some funds left to do some I/I work. They need to review the sewer video and see what the best use of the remaining funds will be for the borough. There will be about \$95,000.00 that they would like to have Mr. Rehab use to do repairs to manholes and major problems that are out there. This is even with having Center Ave & Cedar Ave done. Mr. Rehab is looking for contractors around this area that can do this kind of work. He does not see the need for any more amendments. He has been in contact with RUS.

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (5)

Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (2)

Temporary Off Lien Report (2)

Inactive (0)

Uncollectible Accounts Report – (0)

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (4)

Discussed Payment Plan #2975

Borough Manager Sterner said this was a leak and is an extra cost, this is extending it over 2 payments.

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Tax Exoneration Action

Discussed Gabe Ferko, Susan Bernhard and Mildred DeLash

Committees

Administration

July Work Session

Borough Manager Sterner said the workshop falls on July 4, you don't need to take action this month, you will need to in June.

Zoning/SALDO Ordinance Update Project

Borough Manager Sterner said the update on our application to DCED for matching funds to match the Natural Lands funds on the project, we are going to work with Summit Hill. We were not awarded the DCED funds in the spring round but we will automatically go into the October round. DCED we will be in the top of the list in the October round. This project will be put off until the fall.

Blight Seminar

Borough Manager Sterner said she put a booklet in everyone's box to review. If council would be interested in moving forward with a land bank with some of our neighbors, possibly County Redevelopment, Rep. Heffley said he would be willing to facilitate moving that along and getting everyone together.

Mr. McGuire said this is something that we need to have joined efforts to get things fixed up.

Mr. Miller asked if anyone has taken a look at 204 Center Ave lately, it is getting really bad.

Borough Manager Sterner said we just received verification that the property has been transferred. This has been given to the zoning officer.

Youth Group Homes

President Strubinger said the School has gotten notice that two of the long-standing youth groups are closing. It hasn't worked well for the school district, there are many issues.

Borough Manager Sterner said you have to, by law, provide for all uses in the municipality. You can regulate it but you cannot bar it. We do have the regulations and council received a copy of this. It is special exception, the zoning hearing board does have the option to institute additional regulations as necessary. They did send us a letter and it sounded like they are closing due to lack of business.

President Strubinger said he thought this would be a good time to look at this.

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Signs on Borough Properties

President Strubinger said we had people calling into the borough office inquiring about the new properties that the borough obtained through the bridge project. The office staff would like to know how to handle these complaints. In general, we have not restricted any of those political signs on any borough property unless they are obstructing the view. During political season as long as the signs are not up too early and not left there too long after, leave it. He asked Council if they have any desire to prohibit the signs?

Mr. Miller stated let it go. We are a very politically motivated county.

General consent of council is to allow the signs to be there during the voting season.

Mr. McGuire said as long as they are political signs.

Mrs. Lukasevich said people that have the signs on their property, gave the people permission to place the signs on their property.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Water runoff directed onto Borough roads/properties

Borough Manager Sterner asked Council how they want to handle this item. We have properties that are directing water from their properties onto borough roads and water running out of people's property that don't have curbs. Council needs to give us some direction on what to do.

Mr. Miller said they should not be daylighting the runoff to the borough road, it should be on their own property.

President Strubinger said we have been having these heavy rains. He spoke about 11th & North Street storm drain basin not taking the water, the water runs down to 10th St then to Lehigh St.

Mr. Miller said there was an article in the Borough News, we should apply for grants for curbing and sidewalks. He said what is practical is maybe next year we include the curbing with the paving. If we start doing curbing, he is in it for the long haul. Otherwise we will hear you paid for this guy and you didn't for me.

PSM Yaich said this is one of the issues with the water runoff. This came up last year with Penn Dot, the water is coming off of home owner's property, running down borough streets, and freezing up state roads. That is why they came after the borough to notify the property owners to get the water off. It's coming from their property onto borough property then onto the States roads. The borough would be named in a law suit if there is an accident.

Water – DEP New Testing

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PSM Yaich informed Council that the borough has been notified from DEP that we now have to do a Comprehensive Monitoring Plan on the wells. We have to do a lead & copper sample site plan, coliforms, disinfectant sample site plans we have already done. This is only on the East side of town. The other side they have everything done including the source water assessment plan. He has been in contact with DEP and Rural Water. Rural Water is a contractor for DEP that do a lot of the site plans at no cost. This will have to be done whenever we want to put a well on line they will have to do all of these water tests before they are allowed to turn it into the system. If it is an emergency, it will be an automatic boil advisory until all of the testing is done. He talked to them about having that classified as a well field. This would encompass both wells, then it would only be one set of tests. Because well 4 is artesian, they will not leave us classify it as a well field. Each individual well needs the testing done on it. The other thing we could do is put both of the wells online that they are both running at the same time, then it would be one set of tests. After so many years of tests you go onto their monitor calendar, some of the tests may be down to every three years, or every nine years. As long as that one well is only online certain time, that has to be tested every time before we turn it in to service. He is checking with Dave and a couple of others to make sure we can swab the wells down low enough to run the both of them. This all has to be in line for August 15, 2019. He is still waiting for DEP to fax us some of our options. We definitely have to do the testing. He has already contacted the labs, we are going to start the testing now, we are not going to wait until August.

Borough Manager Sterner said keep this in mind this will be added costs. This is on the list tonight for two DEP permits, one for each plant because they consider it two plants \$8,000.00 a year for annual permits.

Police

Buildings/Parks

Borough Manager Sterner said she gave council a copy of the BIA report to review, this information is on the grant. She asked that they get back to her on this.

Mayor Sofranko asked the Buildings Committee to sit with the Lion's club to discuss issues that they have had at the Asa Packer Mansion.

Emergency Services

Old Business

Permit Parking

Readdressing Phase II

Susquehanna Street No Parking Ordinance

Executive Session

Personnel

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MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to adjourn and go into executive session to discuss personnel.

YES 7

NO 0

Adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted


Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary