

JIM THORPE BOROUGH WORKSHOP  
NOVEMBER 7, 2019  
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Park Hall, 115 East Tenth Street, Jim Thorpe by President Gregory 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 (a)	John McGuire	Edith Lukasevich
Jay Miller	Borough Manager Sterner	PSM Yaich
Connor Rodgers, JCP	Police Chief Schatz	
Mayor Michael Sofranko	Secy. McClafferty	

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Sofranko thanked all of the residents that participated in Halloween. The Sam Miller field had trick or treat at the field, the children walked around the park for the treats. He thanked the Community Watch who helped with crossing the children at the intersections.

Mayor Sofranko said there were concerns with the traffic during Fall Foliage. We had to take the flagger force off of the job and put the Police back on it. Moving forward, our recommendation to Council is to keep the Police force on.

Mayor Sofranko said you have a request for an event, Olde Time Christmas.

Police Chief Schatz said he spoke with Alicia Kline on this. He did tell her this is something they would have to work on. His concern is the crossing of the pedestrians at Rt 209 & Broadway.

Borough Manager Sterner said they did put in a request for action for some barricades, we are waiting for the insurance.

**SALDO**

Canyon Rim RV, Cabins & Camping Plan date 3/27/19; Time Extension

President Strubinger said the Canyon Rim RV, Cabins, & Camping plan they are asking for a time extension to December 31, 2019.

**Public Comment**

Working Woodlands, Ellen Lock said they are working with the Nature Conservancy, this is a worldwide conservation agency. They were before Council and they talked about marrying a conservation easement of land that would protect our watershed. The Borough has 1,000 ares. The results; the bottom, first 400 acres are healthy, the middle of the forest is not healthy and higher up on the ridge there are smaller trees. This doesn't really work for the carbon project. They highly recommend to protect your watershed lands, turn it over to Wild Lands conservancy. The Nature Conservancy looks at the forest component, Wild Lands looks at conservation.

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Dawn Gorman, Nature Conservancy, they are recommending that council consider the conservation easement on the watershed lands. What they are suggesting, moving forward do an appraisal of the lands, what the conservation easement value would be and talk about how much funding you could receive or bring to the table for the project. There are a lot of details for this. They would like council to choose a representative to work on this and come back to council. She would like to know if council would be interested in this?

Dennis Demarra said the focus area is the watershed. The property that the borough has along with Lehigh Water Authority property is a large tract of land that they are trying to protect and this would bring some revenue back to the borough. You would have their expertise as the conservancy, they would need a number of conservation easements, establish a committee that would take the information back to council.

President Strubinger asked if they spoke to Lehigh about this?

Dennis Demarra said yes, but they have to go back to them again. There are 6 small dams on the east side of the borough that Wild Lands Conservancy would be willing to work with the borough on writing the grant application, hiring a contractor through the borough, having the dams removed and have the streams restored to its natural features. DEP would send letters to the borough to do all types of long-term maintenance on them. They would help the borough with this.

Borough Manager Sterner asked who does the appraisal for the conservation, who does this?

Ellen Lock said they would, they have a number of appraisers that they work with. This is a conservation easement appraisal, which is slightly different than a normal appraisal.

Borough Manager Sterner asked if this is something that Wild Lands would pay for or would you expect the borough to pay for this?

Ellen Lock said that is something that you would pay for.

Dennis Demarra said there is flexibility in this process. They would sit down with the council person or committee, to look at what the future is for this property. The grant application is due in April.

President Strubinger asked when would the meeting be held?

Dennis Demarra said whenever it is best for the council person or committee.

Borough Manager Sterner asked that they provide something to the borough examples; of what you would be looking for from the borough that would cost the borough.

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President Strubinger said LVHN check presentation to JTPD for AED supplies/updates will be done next week at the regular council meeting.

Remaining Budget Workshop Sessions Cancelled

Leaf Pick-Up Oct. 28 to Nov. 15 – weather permitting

Pat Flyte, 1025 North Street spoke about the storm drain at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> & North Street.

President Strubinger said we know when there are big rains, we know there are issues there.

Pat Flyte said her concerns are: their house has been flooded, someone may hydro-plane and land in front of their house, and she is tired of cleaning up her house. She asked for a phone number to contact someone when the office is closed.

President Strubinger said he knows you are looking for some kind of solution to correct this. He knows this is a problem.

Frank Lorah, 1030 North St, said the rain water was running over the top of the drain, the drain was blocked solid. The water was running into his yard, then into his basement, he had 2 sump pumps running. He said the roads are flooding.

PSM Yaich said the problem is once you get past 11<sup>th</sup> Street, there is only one catch basin up by the monument. That catch basin is tied into the dirt swale that comes down behind John McGuire's, that brings it down onto 11<sup>th</sup> St. and blocks them up. All the dirt gets into the pipes, the day before the storm they had the vacuum truck up there to clean it out. You call Penn Dot, says they are only responsible for the grate, the pipes are the borough's responsibility. If we put a catch basin at 12<sup>th</sup> Street, we would have to tie that into 11<sup>th</sup> St. We have to find a place that the water is coming down to take it away from there. If you bring all the water to 11<sup>th</sup> St. you have the same problem. All that water coming down there, the solution is to put bigger pipes in to handle that water.

Mr. Miller said we will direct the Borough Manager and PSM Yaich to sit down with State Representative Heffley, and Penn Dot, share the costs to put another drain in there, get a solution to this problem.

Michael Rivkin, 61 W. Broadway, spoke about the October traffic issues. We are one of the top 10 towns to visit. He said a letter has been sent to the borough, that the JTTA won't be able to promote this again. They need to get a meeting together and start planning this as a group, get financial assistance from the County, Borough, Pocono Vacation Bureau to do a better job with accommodating visitor.

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Mr. Miller said he had a big concern this past fall foliage, very concerned about the safety for the residents. If we had to get a piece of fire equipment downtown or an ambulance we couldn't. Corners parked up, fire hydrants were parked up, people walking, etc. He is concerned about getting emergency equipment downtown. We are responsible for the safety. We were way beyond our limitations in October. We have to limit it.

Michael Rivkin said that is why we need to bring all of the agencies together.

Jake Arner asked when will you receive the traffic study?

Borough Manager Sterner said it is being reviewed now.

Alicia Kline, 616 North St, Turn to Us, they are helping JTTA with the Olde Time Christmas event, this will be a fundraiser for them. They have been working with the Police Dept.

Police Chief Schatz said they have been working with them. The concern is we need to look at this. This is a liability for the borough. His recommendation is to have 2 Police officers for the event. We have to start saying this is what has to be done, it's public safety. We have to make sure the borough approves this.

Mayor Sofranko said when we have these events, we need to have officers assigned there. It's for crowd control if something would happen an officer would be there, with an officer on the scene there is a radio on the scene so if an ambulance or fire company coming through town the only way the Comm Center can get the contact and get clearance is by radio.

Police Chief Schatz said we have to have an ambassador, that sets up to guide people where to go. We need to be preplan these events 14 months out.

**Action**

Discuss Council Workshop Meeting Minutes from October 3, 2019

Discuss Council Meeting Minutes from October 10, 2019

Discuss Council Budget Workshop Session October 24, 2019

Discuss Expenditures from all Funds as presented

Discuss Treasurer Report October, 2019 as presented

Discuss Proposed 2020 Budgets

Discuss Resolution 2019-23 Police Contribution Pension

Discuss Resolution 2019-24 Auditor Appointment

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Discuss Reitz Refund Request

President Strubinger said he is requesting a refund for his property in the 500 block of North St

Discuss Poeldnurk Heart & Lung Request

Borough Manager Sterner said the borough pays 100% of the officer's salary, the workers compensation claim will come directly to the borough to defer that cost. The safety committee audit we realized we have Heart & Lung insurance. This claim and the 2 previous claims will be put into our insurance, we will get some of that back.

Discuss JTASD Bus Parking Request

Borough Manager Sterner said this was tabled, this is just for clarity.

Discuss Sewer Refurbish vacuum unit

Borough Manager Sterner said this is for council ratify, this is for refurbishing the unit amount of \$17,780.00.

Discuss Borough Facilities Projects

- a. Spillman Farmer Administration Invoice #29655 - \$23,580.00
- b. Spillman Farmer Garage Invoice #29656 - \$21,040.00

Discuss Park Master Site Plan

- a.

Discuss D & L Trail Project

- a.

Borough Manager Sterner said they will be installing the fence.

Discuss WWTP Upgrade Project

- a. Eastern Environmental payment application #32 - None
- b. Howard Company payment application #27 - None
- c. Requisition #6 - \$6,423.79

Borough Manager Sterner said the only item we have is requisition #39. The punch list has been completed by Eastern, they have some repair items that they need to do. Howard has about 3 items. Then Mr. Rehab, that work won't be done this year.

**Utility Action**

Discuss Utility Accounts Lien Reports

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- a. Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)
- b. Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (7)
- c. Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)
- d. Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (0)
- e. Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (1)
- f. Temporary Off Lien Report (0)
- g. Inactive (0)

Discuss Uncollectible Accounts Report – (1)

Discuss Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (4)

Discuss Account #5855 Sewer Credit Request

President Strubinger said a hose was left running, she is requesting the sewer be adjusted on her bill. The water portion was used, she is requesting a payment plan to pay this.

Discuss Account #5855 Payment Plan

Discuss Account #1435 Request

Borough Manager Sterner said he did not receive his utility bill in the mail. He went to the post office about this, he is requesting the penalty fees be waived.  
We did just order heavier post cards for the utility bills.

**Tax Exoneration Action**

Patricia Balliet – retired

Suzanne Snyder - housewife

**Committees**

**Administration**

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Old Time Christmas

Police

Buildings/Parks

Emergency Services

**Old Business**

Permit Parking

Readdressing Phase II

Susquehanna Street No Parking Ordinance

Blight Landbank

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Zoning Ordinance Group Homes

**Executive Session**

Personnel

**MOTION:** Gregory Strubinger second Edith Lukasevich to adjourn and go into executive session personnel.

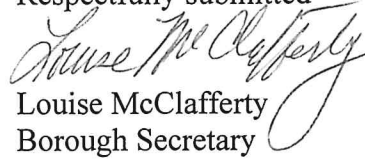
YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

Adjourned at 8:03

Respectfully submitted



Louise McClafferty  
Borough Secretary