

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION
October 5, 2023
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:32 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	
Michael Rivkin-absent	Mayor Sofranko-absent	Solicitor Nanovic-absent
Police Chief Schatz-absent	Sargent Bokeko	Borough Mgr. Sterner
Secretary Brooke Klotz		

Announcements

Vacancies-International Property Maintenance Board – The Borough is still accepting letters of interest for the International Property Maintenance Board. The Borough received a letter of interest for the Vacancy Board and two letters of interest for the empty Council Member seat.

Fall 2023 Tire & Electronics Recycling- Saturday, October 21st – This will be taking place from 7 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Borough residents should bring their items to the 9th Street garage and then will be directed to exit down 10th Street.

Halloween Festivities – All three events will take place on October 28th. The Halloween Parade start at 2:00 p.m at the high school and end on 3rd Street. Trick or Treat and Trunk or Treat will be taking place from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The rain date for all the festivities is Sunday the 29th.

Leaf Collection – Collection will take place from Monday, October 30th until Friday, November 17th, weather permitting.

2nd Annual Festival of Trees – Registration forms will soon be available. The cost of a tree is \$45.00. Those registered can decorate their tree starting Thursday, November 23rd through Thursday, November 30th. This year there are two sponsors – Shawn Kresge Services Inc. and Kyle Oliver's Tree Service.

Public Comment

John McGuire – He discussed some stormwater management and drainage issues on Center Street from North Street. He has a pipe at the end of his driveway for drainage purposes that is filled with debris. He also explained to Council he submitted a letter of interest for the Vacancy Board and the open Council Member seat.

James Dougher – He spoke about the Fall Foliage Festival starting this weekend. There will be additional parking at Mauch Chunk Lake (by reservation only) and at Sam Miller Field. Both will have shuttles taking visitors to and from the downtown area to where they parked. He also spoke about item #15 on the agenda – JTTA's request for action for the 2023 Olde Time Christmas. This event officially starts during the tree lighting service. The high school band, chorus, and cheerleaders have been invited to the tree lighting ceremony. The Olde Time Christmas event takes place on December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, and 17. JTTA needs very minimal help from the Borough for this event. This year's theme is shop and be merry.

Public Hearing

Zoning Ordinance – a Public Hearing is scheduled for November 9, 2023.

SALDO-Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance

NONE

Action

The following items were reviewed:

Council Meeting Minutes from September 7, 2023

Council Meeting Minutes from September 14, 2023 – Greg Strubinger requested if any changes need to be made, please notify Secretary Klotz.

Expenditures from all Funds as presented – Manager Sterner explained the Police Pension Disbursement is included on the Bill List.

Treasurer's Report

Memorial Park Phase III Construction Project

Resolution 2023-17 LSA Statewide Application Memorial Park Phase III Construction Project – The Borough will be applying for a LSA Statewide grant for Phase III of the Memorial Park Project. In this Phase, the basketball courts will be updated to ADA standards, along with new sidewalks and lighting.

LSA 2023 Statewide application Financial Commitment \$30,000.00 – Grant guidelines do not require a match, but the Borough is planning on matching \$30,000.00 towards the Memorial Park Phase III project.

Resolution 2023-18 Eliminating Police Officer's Contribution to the Police Pension Plan for the year 2024

Kiosks-Flowbird

Text to Park-West Town Account – Borough Council is looking to set up a new account for kiosk payments.

Transfer all kiosk credit card transactions to West Town account – Currently, the Borough has an account for kiosk payments with Celero. The money from this account would be transferred to the new kiosk account with West Town.

Foreign Fireman's Insurance Disbursement \$24,955.21 -- This money comes from the state and each municipality that receives this money has 90 days to distribute to their Fire Departments.

RFA JTТА- Olde Time Christmas

Set up Christmas Tree in Josiah White Park – The tree is set to be installed on November 22nd.

Install Christmas Wreaths on pole along Broadway – The wreaths are to be installed the week of November 27th.

Facilities Project

Memorial Hall-Spillman Invoice 8122.22.10 \$2,785.37

Public Service Garage-Spillman Invoice 8121.22.08 \$3,000.00

Silk Mill Run Restoration

Wildlands Conservancy Statement 062823 \$70,516.00 – There is a request to Wildlands for a breakdown of their staff time that the Borough has been billed for.

Wildlands Conservancy Statement 100323 \$33,100.00 – The Borough pays these invoices upfront and then are reimbursed by DCNR and DEP the grant amounts awarded.

Garbage Only Lien Report (3) – Bob Schaninger stated he would like to see these people be charged for theft of services.

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (2)

Account #8060 Sewer Credit Request – The property owner had a hot water heater leak. The water from this leak did not go into the sewer system, which is why there is a sewer credit request.

Account #8420 Waiver of Penalties Request – The amount being requested to be waived is \$15.77.

Exoneration Request

The report was submitted for review.

Committees

Vacancy Board – There was one letter of interest submitted for this position.

Vacant Council Member Seat – There are two letters of interest that have been submitted for Jessica Crowley's recently vacated Council Member seat.

Lager RFA-removal of two trees in front of property – Mr. Lager's request was forwarded to the Shade Tree Commission. Their recommendation is to remove the trees. The tree roots are currently lifting the sidewalk.

Klitsch RFA-Main Street – The Borough sent a letter to the Homeowner's Association. The President of the Homeowner's Association received the letter and will be at the regular meeting to discuss the request to turn over a portion of Main Street to the Borough.

Administration

NONE

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

PennDOT Multimodal Grant – Manager Sterner sent an email earlier in the week to Borough Council to determine if the Borough should apply for the grant. The Borough would have to match over \$100,000.00 for each of the two potential projects.

CFA Grant Applications – The September Board meeting was canceled. The next meeting is November 21st to announce who has been awarded the PA Small Water and H2O grants.

Police

NONE

Buildings/Parks

9th Street Garage – The Borough received a quote for a full roof replacement, along with quotes for specific repairs. Should Borough Council want a full roof replacement, then the money would have to be budgeted for next year as there are no more additional funds to complete an entire roof replacement. The repairing of the specific items on the roof would be a temporary repair that will get the structure through this winter.

Emergency Services

Mike Yeastedt discussed the second fire truck. It is currently in New Jersey where it was inspected.

Old Business

Bob Schaninger would still like to see rumble strips placed at the intersection of North and Front Street. If that isn't possible, a flashing sign prior to third street notifying drivers to slow down for the upcoming intersection. Mike Yeastedt asked if PennDOT could come out and inspect the intersection. If they won't, he suggested getting Representative Heffley involved.

Executive Session

Adjourn

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Michael Rivkin to **adjourn the meeting and move into executive session.** There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0. The meeting ended at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Borough Secretary