

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
January 11, 2024
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Vice President Yeastedt with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders, and their families, as well as the service members who lost their lives while serving our country.

Roll Call of Members

Police Chief Schatz	Mayor Cinicola-appt 7:00pm	Sydney Wernett
Borough Manager Sterner	Mike Yeastedt	Connor Rodgers
Borough Secretary Klotz	Tom Chapman	Ted LaRizzio-appt 7:08pm
Solicitor Nanovic	Joanne Klitsch	Greg Strubinger

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Connor Rodgers to **add to the agenda Resolution 2024-03 Petition of the Jim Thorpe Borough to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board**. This is a time sensitive Resolution that the Borough was not aware was needed until recently, therefore not on the originally posted agenda. There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0.

Mayor's Report

Acting Mayor Strubinger asked if anyone had any questions on the Police Report.

Police Chief Schatz explained that next month, Council will see the yearly Police Report. He submitted it after the deadline, which is why it wasn't included this month. He also mentioned that residents can look at the monthly Police Reports on the Police Department website.

Announcements

The Borough is accepting letters of interest for the International Property Maintenance Board, term ending December 31, 2027.

The Borough is accepting letters of interest for two (2) vacancies on the Shade Tree Committee, terms ending December 31, 2028 and December 31, 2025. Greg Strubinger thanked Mark and Dee Reitz for all of their help and services while on the Shade Tree Committee.

There is a new vacancy on the Planning Commission. Bob Schaninger stepped down from his seat that he was reappointed to. This seat was held by a prior Borough Council member. If there is a current Borough Council member interested in this seat, submit a letter of interest.

Greg Strubinger thanked Mark and Dee Reitz for all of their help and hard work they did for the Borough with the Shade Tree Committee.

Public Comment

Michael Rivkin – He welcomed new Councilmembers Connor and Sydney. He congratulated Greg and Mike for their reappointments to President and Vice President. He thanked all of Council for working so well together to help the business district the past 2 years and is hoping to extend the seat he held for the next two years.

John McGuire – He spoke on behalf of Planning Commission. He is hoping the newly appointed person to Planning Commission is another Borough Council member. Having at least one member of Borough Council on Planning Commission that can act as a liaison is helpful.

Jeff Herman – He was there to discuss the On-Lot Sewage Management Program Ordinance that was adopted in June of 2023. He had questions about inspections, fees, and forms. Greg Strubinger explained this Ordinance came about because of the prior subdivision plans by Mauch Chunk Lake that the Kanick's had

submitted back in 2020. It was explained that the Borough also did not want to go through another incident like at Switchback Ride where DEP came in and inspected the area, found failing systems, and required the property owners to hook up into the Borough's sewer system.

Public Hearing

NONE

SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance)

NONE

Appointments

Connor Rodgers nominated Eric Cinicola for Mayor. There were no other nominations. **MOTION** by Joanne Klitsch, second by Connor Rodgers to **close nominations for Mayor**. There were no additional comments. Motion carries 5-0. Mike Yeastedt then asked for a formal vote; five (5) in favor, zero (0) apposed. Eric Cinicola was then sworn in by Greg Strubinger as the new Mayor at 7:00 p.m. Greg Strubinger thanked Mike Sofranko for coming to the meeting to witness the swearing in of the new Mayor. He said he is looking forward to working along side with Eric on Council and spoke briefly of Eric's background.

The next appointment is for the final two (2) years of the former Tom Highland's four (4) year term. The Borough received four letters of interest: John McGuire, Ted LaRizzio, Alex Lorkowski, and Michael Rivkin.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **open nominations for the open 2-year Borough Council seat**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Connor Rodgers nominated Ted LaRizzio. Mike Yeastedt nominated Michael Rivkin. There were no additional nominations. **MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **close nominations for the open 2-year Borough Council seat**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Greg Strubinger explained since Ted LaRizzio was nominated first, a roll call vote would start with him. There was a roll call vote for Ted LaRizzio:

Joanne Klitsch – Yes
Connor Rodgers – Yes
Mike Yeastedt – Yes
Sydney Wernett – Yes
Tom Chapman – No
Greg Strubinger – Yes

Ted LaRizzio was appointed to the vacant Borough Council seat due to having the majority vote, 5-1 with Tom Chapman voting no. Ted LaRizzio was then sworn in at 7:08 p.m. by Mayor Cinicola. Greg Strubinger thanked Michael Rivkin for serving on Tom Highland's first two (2) years of his four (4) year term. He did many things for the Borough in the short time he was on Council. Greg Strubinger then gave a brief background about Ted LaRizzio.

Action

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from December 7, 2023**. There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2023**. There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from December 27, 2023**. There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Expenditures from all Funds as presented.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Treasurer's Report.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **authorize the Solicitor to advertise Ordinance 2024-01 Vehicle & Traffic Amendment: No Parking Portion of Reservoir Road.** This Ordinance would limit parking to one side of Reservoir Road. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve Resolution 2024-01 Price Adjustment of Bituminous Materials for Small Quantities.** This is an annual Resolution that will allow an escalator clause for Bituminous material to be included as part of Proposals. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the Water Tapping Fee Study.** This study was conducted by Keystone Alliance Company. The last time the Borough had a study done was in the early 1990's. It was an extensive study. It takes the value of the entire water system and divides it with the number of residents currently utilizing the system to get the amount the Borough should be charging to tap into the Water Plant. Currently the fee to tap on is \$1,000.00. The study recommends increasing the fee to \$23,496.96. The tap on fee cannot exceed this amount. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Sewer Tapping Fee Study.** Like the Water Tapping Fee Study, this was conducted by Keystone Alliance Company. The last time the Borough had a study done was 2005. It was an extensive study. It takes the value of the entire sewer system and divides it with the number of residents currently utilizing the system to get the amount the Borough should be charging to tap into the Sewer Plant. Currently the fee to tap on is \$3,500.00. The study recommends increasing the fee to \$11,719.03. The tap on fee cannot exceed this amount. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Resolution 2024-02 Fee Schedule.** This update from December includes raising the water tap on fees to \$23,495.00, the sewer tap on fees to \$11,715.00, and a pumper/hauler license fee of \$50.00. Council can readjust the tap on fees at a later time should they so choose. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve Resolution 2024-03 Petition of the Jim Thorpe Borough to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.** It is a petition authorizing the Jim Thorpe Police Department to enforce noise complaints within the municipality. The last time this was done was in 2019. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Sydney Wernett to **authorize Maureen Sterner to attend the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Conference and appoint her as the voting delegate.** The conference is taking place June 2nd through 5th. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **promote Chris Nahhas to the position of Sewer Division Supervisor #2 at a rate of \$31.74 per hour effective January 12, 2024.** This is a non-union position to replace Ed Gula who is retiring. Motion carries 7-0. Greg Strubinger then asked if the motion could be amended for the promotion starting on January 1st, but keep the pay rate starting on January 12th. No one was opposed to this. **MOTION** by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **amend the original motion to promote Chris Nahhas to the position of Sewer Division Supervisor #2 retroactive to January 1, 2024 at a rate of \$31.74 per hour effective January 12, 2024.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve EWO P240013.00 – 2023 AWWA Water Audit.** This is an annual report that gets completed and the cost is \$1,500.00. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Tom Chapman to **approve Memorial Park Phases I&II Plans.** Phase I&II will be combined. This will replace the old playground. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve the Asa Packer Mansion Roof Project and proceed using the COSTARS vendor.** Alan Kunsman Roofing received two quotes for materials, one from a COSTARS vendor and another from a vendor who is not. Choosing the non-COSTARS vendor would require going through the bidding process. The two grants that were awarded will cover the costs and still have money left over. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the Silk Mill Restoration Plans.** This is for the construction and dismantling of the dams. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **send a letter to the Leisure Lane Association requesting turning over a portion of Main Street conditioned upon this section of road being brought up to PennDOT specs, removal of a sign, and relocation of mailboxes that are in the middle of the road, and being able to turn Borough vehicles around at First Lane.** The section is approximately 200 feet long from Joanne Klitsch's property to First Lane. Currently the Borough maintains this section in the winter during snow and ice events. Borough Council was advised that if they were to act on this and officially take over the road, it sets a precedent for other residents to come before Council requesting their road be taken over. The Borough won't get any state issued Liquid Fuels funding for acquiring this section due to there not being a cul de sac at what would be the end of the road as there is no room for one. Motion carries 5-1-1, with Connor Rodgers voting no and Joanne Klitsch abstaining. Bob Schaninger then asked for the letter to exclude the back up onto First Lane for fear of the Road Association coming after the Borough for damaging the road. **MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **remove turning around at First Lane from the original motion.** Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Pennsylvania Running Company's request to hold the 2024 Jim Thorpe Area Running Festival on April 27th and 28th, 2024.** No Police services will be needed. The races take place on the D&L Trail. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve the USA Endurance Events request to hold the 2024 Jack & Jill Downhill Marathon on June 1, 2024 conditioned upon availability of the D&L Trail and approval obtained from all other parties, including the Lehigh Canal Recreation Commission.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Berger request for action for a Memorial Bench in Memorial Park conditioned upon developing a program.** The request was for a bench to be placed in Memorial Park in remembrance of Brooke Berger. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Tom Chapman, second by Connor Rodgers to **deny the Stianche request for action for a refund of Water and Sewer charges.** Borough Council generally does not approve these types of requests unless it is the fault of the Borough. This is due to the water being treated at the water plant and then being treated at the Sewer Plant. The property owner had a toilet that was running while he was away. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Tom Chapman, second by Connor Rodgers to **deny the Benyo request for action for a waiver of garbage charges.** The property owner owns both sides of the half double house. He lives in one half and uses the other half for storage purposes. Current Borough Ordinance states that if a structure is deemed habitable, garbage collection will be charged to that property. Motion carries 7-0.

Exonerations

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the monthly Exoneration Report.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

Committees

Administration

NONE

Public Service

NONE

Police

NONE

Buildings/Parks

NONE

Emergency Services

NONE

Old Business

NONE

Executive Session

NONE

Adjourn

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **adjourn the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0. The meeting ended at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Borough Secretary