

**Jim Thorpe Borough Council**  
**2018 Budget Work Session Meeting**  
**October 19, 2017**

Meeting called to order by President Gregory Strubinger at 6:30 p.m. in the Memorial Park Hall, 103 East Tenth St, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving our country.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

|                         |                        |                           |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Curtis Jackson          | McGuire                | Thomas Highland (a)       |
| Joanne Klitsch          | Jay Miller (a)         | Kyle Sheckler             |
| Gregory Strubinger      | Mayor Michael Sofranko | Police Chief Schatz       |
| Manager Maureen Sterner | PS Manager Vince Yaich | Boro Secy McClafferty (a) |

**Public Comment**

Proposed 2018 Budgets

Borough Manager Sterner said she made adjustments to the LST tax and the Amusement tax under General Funds account, \$23,280.00 should be under 310.600 and the 310.500 \$63,667.00. #363.210 Parking meter fines \$34,840.00 adjustments were changed by council's actions at the council meeting.

Borough Manager Sterner said under the expenses 410.210 this is a new line items, this is for the credit card fees \$10,000.00

President Strubinger asked if we received any clarification on this.

Borough Manager Sterner said we can do both, credit card price and cash price, this is how we are setting it up.

Borough Manager Sterner asked President Strubinger is he got her message about the Waterborne Vet's monument.

President Strubinger said he wants to see the location, it should be in the area where the other monuments are located.

Borough Manager Sterner said we received a request from the JTPC, recommending we put money in the budget for recreation. Also, Jay was in the other day shredding materials, he would like council to consider going paperless. She did talk to Access, if we did go paperless and go to tablets for everyone. This would be anywhere from \$11,200.00 to \$25,200.00, you would need to bring the internet back into the hall that would be another \$21,060.00. Is council interested in looking into a more definitive price for this or not?

President Strubinger said this would be a good idea.

Mr. Sheckler asked if there would be any savings on this?

Borough Manager Sterner said she does not know.

Mrs. Klitsch said she likes the paperwork in front of her.

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Mr. Jackson said he we could do the \$900.00 to \$1,200.00 range, that is not getting all the ranges that he has on his tablet. He would bring this in and keep it up. The way things are stored documents needs to change. We should set up a drop box that stuff for each month can be put into. So you don't have to email to everyone and it's not trapped in your emails. There are still some that will want the paper. You need to get the drop box going and archiving the document. This is up to council, this would only be for looking up documents.

Borough Manager Sterner said you may want to think about it, the LSA grants are coming up again we can try for that and include planning commission in this.

Borough Manager Sterner said under Water, Sewer & Sanitation, that will depend on part in General Fund account. What could change in Sanitation and Water accounts, we could change some of the road stuff.

Borough Manager Sterner said what changes under Real Estate there is a little increase. The assessed values are the same as last year, because the County has not gotten back to her with an updated assessed value, that may change, last year it decreased.

Mr. Jackson asked if there are any changes on the negotiations for health care.

Borough Manager Sterner said the attorney for the Police is sick, so we have not heard back from them. She did budget a 15% increase for health care.

President Strubinger asked if we are thinking about anything for 2018 for building improvements, service garage.

Borough Manager Sterner said council still needs to talk about that. She did put in garage security cameras for \$8,400.00, if you decide to move the garage that will not be needed. Paving the jail parking lot, paving of the Mansion driveway is in the budget. We should put in the budget half a mill for moving the police downstairs in the hall, which is not enough. The estimate to move the police is \$945,000.00.

President Strubinger asked what type of increase would support this?

Mr. Jackson said \$1.5 for the garage and \$945,000.00 moving the police.

Borough Manager Sterner said we would have to figure out a monthly annual cost for this.

Mr. Jackson said move the police to the lower Memorial Hall, spot improvements in the hall, with no change to the upstairs and the administration would be \$1.675.and the bids for the garage is \$1.5

Council discussed the current Administration/Police department offices and how it is out of space and the use of Memorial hall.

Council discussed the possibility of putting a parking garage up by the new garage.

Borough Manager Sterner said under the Police there is generators for the traffic lights, everything else is about the same. We do have 5 new computers for the police dept. and they are looking at a new copier. Mayor asked that we break the drug force out of the full-time wages.

Mr. McGuire asked if we received the wish list from the Mayor and Police Chief.

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Borough Manager Sterner said yes, we did, what that will add to this is one officer alone is going to add over \$100,000.00. The copier and computers was on the list and this was put in the budget.

Mr. McGuire asked about the vehicle for the meter person, they are going to continue to use the vehicle that she is using.

Borough Manager Sterner said the NEPA parking number #414.310 will have to change, that will be \$5,000.00. Under Public Service we do have a new truck in there – 10-ton truck.  
#436.450 Memorial Hall Stormwater project \$125,000.00, #438.450 wall repointing, and road paving.

Borough Manager Sterner said if you consider increasing the Water we could use some of that for the Public Service Manager and the Borough Managers salary. She would take some of that out of water. Their salaries are split out amongst all the budgets by percentages.  
They do have some recreation in there #454.450 tree removal, paving of basketball court and walkway and Twining park grant work.

Mr. Jackson asked how much of the health care increase is represented – 15%, what is the best-case scenario if it stays the same and the quote we are waiting for, is for the same plan.

Borough Manager Sterner said yes. This has to go to the State to get approval and the State still has not done this yet.

Mr. Jackson stated if that will remain the same, that will help a lot, his place went down 10% on their policies. This information will be good to know.

Mr. McGuire said he received a phone call from County Commissioner Gerhard. The County is looking to put a garage up under the bridge. They asked about the process of going through the building permits, they want to put up a pole building with electric in it. They were told they need to put water and sewer hookup in the structure. He needs to talk to Kathryn about the County project.

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Curtis Jackson to go into executive session personnel matters.

YES 5

NO 0

ABSENT 2 Tom Highland & Jay Miller

Into executive session at 8:10 pm

Back 8:30

**MOTION:** Curtis Jackson second Kyle Sheckler to adjourn

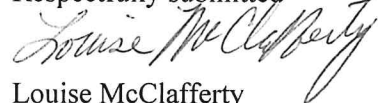
YES 5

NO 0

ABSENT 2 Tom Highland & Jay Miller

Adjourned at 8:30

Respectfully submitted



Louise McClafferty  
Borough Secretary