

Jim Thorpe Borough  
Regular Council Meeting  
August 11, 2016  
Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Gregory Strubinger at 6:30 p.m. in the Memorial Park Skating Rink, 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	John McGuire	Thomas Highland
Joanne Klitsch	Jay Miller	Kyle Sheckler
Gregory Strubinger	Mayor Michael Sofranko	Police Chief Schatz
Manager Maureen Sterner	Vince Yaich, PS Manager	Boro. Secy. McClafferty
Solicitor James Nanovic	Kim Mazur, Entech	

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Sofranko informed everyone that the Meter Attendant/Secretary for the Police Dept. will be started on August 8, 2016. The decline in meter revenues is due to the decline in visitors in town.

Mayor Sofranko said Officer Kyle Oliver's official starting date will be August 12, 2016.

Mayor Sofranko said the Police Dept. will be cracking down on the speeding on North Street and Center Avenue. The yellow zone is a concern and they will be addressing this.

Mayor Sofranko said the Police Dept. is left with one Part Time officer on their roster. The dept. will be waiting for the new Civil Service list from the committee. He said we need to watch the budget.

**Public Comment**

A. Charles Bott- Retention and Repurposing of the Jim Thorpe town Bridge

Charles Bott thanked council for their time and the opportunity to discuss the bridge repurposing. He said this does not address council primary concern of the liability of the old town bridge, the reality issue is once this is gone you will never be able to go over that bridge again. The old bridge is more convenient to walk across than the new one.

Mr. McGuire said he spoke to someone that walked across the new bridge and he said it took him less time to get to the other side of town. He said the engineer said this is too far gone. Council sent a letter to Penn Dot that we don't want any part of it.

President Strubinger said he has the same concerns about the residents from the downtown area going to the other side of town. He has concerns about the new bridge.

Borough Manager said Kim Mazur spoke with Rich Ames from AEC on Transportation which is the design engineer for the bridge. He said in order to meet permit deadlines and opening of the bridge a small item he referred to as construction staging around the pier was completed once the bridge was opened. He said there is no issues with the bridge pier. Unless we pay to have an engineer to do an inspection. We won't know if the company is lying or if he is right.

President Strubinger said we have to do our diligence to make sure there is not an issue.

Mr. Miller said we have to trust in the State, we did our due diligence.

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Mayor Sofranko asked council to move on.

Charles Bott said he would like to see the bridge repurposed and preserved.

Mayor Sofranko asked Charles how much money has he pledge to preserve the bridge.

Charles Bott said nothing, but stated once the bridge is gone its gone.

Mayor Sofranko said council does not have any money in the budget. Reality of it is comes down to dollar and cents. He said what you need to do is ask Andy to come to a council meeting and sit down with the Borough to discuss this.

Bill Maehrer said at the light downtown you should put a cop there and by Highland Beverage to ticket people.

Police Chief Schatz said for every traffic ticket the borough receives \$12.50.

Ed McArdle said the yellow lines what is the ordinance on this, what is the length on it?

Mayor Sofranko said some of them have been pushed back on North St for the sight line. He will meet with Ed McArdle tomorrow morning at 9:30 to discuss his issues.

Mark Reitz, 529 North St said he met with BIA about his property, he said the borough has not been fair for people that are rehabilitating their properties. He thanked the Police Dept. for helping him with the neighbor problems. He discussed the sewer issues at the property mentioned above. He thinks there are two sets of rules, he is not happy with the code officials.

John Drury said he feels it's too late but he feels for the people that have to hoof it to the Jim Thorpe Market in town that don't have vehicles, this is a hike for them, a harder walk. He asked who cleans up the gravel on Broadway & West Broadway.

PSM Yaich said that is State Route 3012, the only time the borough swept Broadway was when we were asked by the AOH to sweep it for the St. Patrick's Day parade. When we rented the sweeper this past year it broke down and people didn't move their cars. As far as Broadway that is State Roads they plow and cinder it.

Jake Arner said he addressed council at the workshop about his septic & well permit extension. He has a buyer that is interested.

Solicitor Nanovic said he has not looked at the paperwork.

**Action**

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second John McGuire to approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes from July 7, 2016.

YES 7            NO 0



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**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from July 14, 2016.

YES 7                  NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the expenditures from all Funds July, 2016, as presented.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Miller said under Water note the Utility Services we owe \$5,071.00 he thought this was under the maintenance agreement but it is not.

YES 7                  NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second John McGuire to approve the Treasurer Report as presented.

YES 7                  NO 0

Council discussed the Petition to Vacate a Portion of Second Street.

President Strubinger said this was discussed at the workshop session. The borough has utilities in this area.

Borough Manager Sterner said per borough code we need to advertise and schedule a public hearing.

Solicitor Nanovic said the question is do you want to accept that but do you want the person involved to pay for the advertising. The way the code is written you must have a public hearing.

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Gregory Strubinger to hold a public hearing on September 8, 2016 at 6:30 and pending the conversation with the individual's attorney.

COMMENTS:

President Strubinger said considering the fact we have utilities there we are not interested in vacating the property.

Solicitor Nanovic said he will contact the individual to let them know council is not interested in vacating the property.

Mr. Miller said we are not interested in vacating the portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> street because there are utilities there.

YES 7                  NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Curtis Jackson to approve Resolution 2016-13 Re-establishing terms of Shade tree Commission.

COMMENTS:

Borough Manager Sterner said we had two letters of interest Taylor Handwerk and Patrick Crowley.

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Mr. McGuire asked if there is a report that the Shade Tree will be providing to council, if someone wants to remove a tree.

Borough Manager Sterner said they will have to come to council for permission.

YES 7          NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Curtis Jackson to approve Resolution 2016-14 for the Final Plans & Specs for WWTP Main Project.

YES 7          NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Gregory Strubinger to approve Ordinance 2016-4 prohibiting parking on Second Street.

YES 7          NO 0

JT Planning Commission Vacancy.

Borough Manager Sterner said we received two other letters of interest.

Mr. McGuire said the JTPC has only discussed the one letter of interest from Andrew Roberts. We also received another letter of interest from Clem McGinley and Jolene Evans. These will need to be discussed by the JTPC

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Joanne Klitsch to table the appointing of JT Planning Commission members until the Planning commission can discuss.

YES 7          NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to approve the Policeman's Ball – Donation to "Turn to Us".

YES 7          NO 0

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to approve Entech – Germantown Facility Work order.

QUESTION:

Mr. Miller asked what is this?

Borough Manager said this is for Well #4.

YES 7          NO 0

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Gregory Strubinger to approve Entech – Germantown Culvert Pipe Replacement work order.

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QUESTIONS:

Mr. Miller asked what this is, is this additional surveying?

Kim Mazur said yes.

YES 7          NO 0

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Jay Miller to approve Germantown Stormwater Project Topo Survey.

QUESTIONS:

Borough Manager Sterner asked Kim Mazur if he has a cost for this.

Kim Mazur said he does not, estimated cost is about \$3,000 to \$5,000

Mr. Miller said we are planning on re-routing the money that we had put aside for the piping project by the carwash and adding it to a larger project, the stormwater runoff project.

Mr. McGuire said this will also help with talking to the School District.

Borough Manager said the school, Brian doesn't have a problem with the engineers reviewing this. He will have to take this to the School Board members to discuss this. We have to have this done to see what the school is contributing if anything. There is nothing in the stormwater plans for the school that shows they have the responsibility to do anything back there. There is nothing that shows they had to pave, nothing was in writing.

Mr. McGuire said we have a plan to take care of this. If the school is going to contribute is not determined. We have to put a limit on the work order.

Mr. Jackson is not comfortable with not having expense costs.

Kim Mazur gave a run down on the steps that are involved for this project. The ground surveyor will come out and survey the property and adjoining properties. The GPS will point where other catch basins are in this area. Once they get that they will put together a design which will include a detention pond. They will go down the hill, one concern is the adjoining property owners.

Borough Manager Sterner said we will need easement agreements. If we don't get permission from the property owners are we going to have to do a different type of fix? We can work on contacting the property owners and get permission and in the meantime he can get the estimate for the topo for next month's meeting.

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Jay Miller to table the Germantown Stormwater Project topo survey until next month when Entech has the topo costs are included on the estimate.

YES 7          NO 0

**MOTION:** Curtis Jackson second John McGuire to approve the Red Cross Emergency



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YES 7          NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Curtis Jackson to suspend the Water Department Loan to Sanitation Department including this evening's payment until further notice.

YES 7          NO 0

**Utility Action**

**MOITON:** Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the following items:

Active Utility Accounts Garbage Only Lien Report  
Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report  
Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report  
Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report  
Temporary Off Lien Report

**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Miller said this is a good thing to let council know what the office is doing. Can we adopt a policy that adopts what you are doing.

Borough Manager Sterner said this is drawn up and the auditor is reviewing it. We should have some type of council approval, so it's not just the office staff seeing this.

YES 7          NO 0

**MOTION:** Gregory Strubinger second Jay Miller to approve the Uncollectible Accounts Report.

YES 7          NO 0

**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second Jay Miller to approve Utility Account #6635 Payment Plan.

YES 7          NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Hotel Tax Participants Utility Billings.

**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Miller informed Mark Reitz that this is addressing people renting out rooms. The Manager looked at the billing and there are 5 that need to be adjusted. She will continue to look at this.

YES 7          NO 0

**Occupation Tax Exoneration Action**

None

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**Committees**

**Administration**

Property Maintenance Board of Appeals Three (3) Vacancies  
Shade Tree Commission One (1) Vacancies

Planning Commission update:

Louis Hall said they will discuss the Two (2) vacancies.  
The JTPC has completed the re-addressing in Leisure Land area.

Mr. Jackson said he will sit with the Manager to discuss. They have half of the re-addressing done in the Glenn Onoko Estate area.

Borough Manager Sterner passed the resolution and ordinance onto the JTPC to review.

Nuisance ordinance

Park Planning for 2017 C2P2 Grant

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Parking Requirements C2 Zoning District

Planning Commission request – review of Fee Schedule.

Borough Manager Sterner said she has reviewed and this is based upon our costs. The zoning hearing fees we did not change but she took the last hearing and figured out the costs and it exceed the \$600.00. It is up to council what they would like to do

Mr. McGuire stated if the manager is happy with it we are good.

**Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)**

2015 Recycling Grant submitted

Kim Mazur said they submitted the plans to RUS. The project will be advertised for bids 8/12 & 8/15/16. There will be a pre-bid meeting on August 31, 2016 at 1:30 and the bids will be due on September 15, 2016.

Kim Mazur gave a 10 minutes presentation on part of the WWTP Mr. Rehabs work that has been completed.

Mrs. Klitsch said the Fall Tire & Electronics Recycling – Saturday, October 8, 2016; 7am to 11:30am

Mr. Miller said we are waiting for Kohl Brothers to come up and do the well.

Mr. McGuire said the new 10 ton truck has been delivered and the street paving project has been completed.

**Police**

Civil Service Commission

Fall Foliage – Oct 1 & 2; Oct 8 & 9; Oct 15 & 16

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Mayor Sofranko said there are 5 weekends for the Fall Foliage event this cost the borough \$6,000 for 3 weekends. We only received \$4,000 from the County this year. They will schedule the guys for two weekends.

Police Chief Schatz said there is talk right now with the Commissioners with some type of Mutual Aid agreement, they are looking at the Mauch Chunk Lake Rangers becoming armed to help out.

**Buildings/Parks**

Spillman Farmer Architect

Borough Manager Sterner said they are waiting to hear back from the Fire Chief. They have presented council with the options, they have pretty much completed what we hired them to do.

Mr. McGuire asked where are we going from here. Will this go to the buildings committee to discuss what the next loop is, we have a lot of building issues.

Borough Manager Sterner said let her work on getting the fire dept. final stuff for the next work session.

**Emergency Services**

Mr. Miller said they will be attending the meeting on Aug. 22, 2016 at 7:00 pm. This issue will be discussed at that meeting. What are we going to do with the Phoenix and some of the other issues need to be discussed.

**Old Business**

Burgie Handicap Sign – 223 WB

Packer Hill Road proposed one way Ordinance – no update

Collection Agency for delinquent utility fees – no update

Borough Facilities Feasibility Study

Cuoco

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Cutis Jackson to go into executive session for personnel matters.

YES 7          NO 0

Into executive session at 8:21

Back at 8:26

**MOTION:** Gregory Strubinger second Curtis Jackson to approve to advertise and accept applications for the Public Service dept.

YES 7          NO 0



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

YES 7      NO 0

Adjourned at 8:28

Respectfully submitted

  
Louise McClafferty  
Borough Secretary