

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

February 11, 2016

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 in the Borough office conference room, 101 East Tenth St, Jim Thorpe.

Meeting called to order by President Gregory Strubinger at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving our country.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Paulette Haupt	John McGuire	Thomas Highland
Joanne Klitsch (a)	Jay Miller	Kyle Sheckler
Gregory Strubinger	Mayor Michael Sofranko	Police Chief Schatz
Manager Maureen Sterner	Vince Yaich, PS Manager	Boro. Secy. McClafferty
Kim Mazur, Entech Engineering		

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sofranko asked if there are any questions or comments on the Police Report.

Mayor Sofranko informed everyone that Cub Pack #138 is present.

Police Chief Schatz said the server in the Police Dept. has been installed. They are ready for the e-ticketing to start on March 3, 2016.

Police Chief Schatz said he is working on the kiosk program for the grant with Manager Sterner and doing all the final stuff for this.

Mr. McGuire spoke about the stickers on the license plates not being needed on the vehicles, do we have the equipment to do this or is there grants around for this.

Police Chief Schatz said he is looking at the equipment grant and the LSA grant. He will be looking into this. The price of a reader is about \$18,000.00 per car. They run off of stickers, they will have to run the plate through the system. Having the new technology in the cars the vehicle is offce rolling. He thanked council for doing this for the JT Police Dept. He said with the new kiosk we will have hand held that will actually read the meter, take pictures, etc.

Mayor Sofranko said they had a Traffic/Parking Committee meeting this past week. It has been very good, they meet on a bi-monthly basis. This is moving along. When the Chief has all the kiosk information together he will give this information to council to review. He spoke about the LSA money being paid to the State and not being paid out due to the budget not being passed on the State level.

Mayor Sofranko said Police Chief Schatz provided him with a list of grants that he will be looking into for the police dept. There will be a traffic study being done in the downtown area. They discussed the traffic becoming one way going up the front hill (Packer Hill). One of the commissioner's did express his concerns about that becoming one way going up. They use this road going down when there is an emergency. He informed them they cannot give them permission to do that.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cub Pack #138- Cub Scout leader Mike Huber. The boys gave a small presentation of items they would like to see done in Memorial Park. They would like to see newer rides, a zip-line, signs to keep the older kids off the smaller rides, they'd like to see the lights on longer at night, and more wood chips under the rides. Cub Scout members James Cicchinelli, Joseph DeMarco, Jack Decker, Zane Harman, Cole Harwood, Jacob Monahan, Liam Off, & Max Priore.

Mr. McGuire said the last time we used grant money in the park was about 8 years ago and part of that was everything that you see there now. We need to start looking for grants for new rides in the park to update the rides. We will contact you when the times comes.

Thomas Priore said in regards to the automatic license plate readers, he would recommend that the borough look into data retention policy.

Police Chief Schatz said the borough already has a retention policy.

Hugh Dugan from the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) here to discuss the St. Patrick's day parade. They received two contract for the Borough one is for Police Services amount of \$4664.00 and the surprise given to them was the Public Service contract. They made the deposit of \$1,000.00 for the Police contract. The Public Service contract they didn't understand it until the Manager provided them with an explanation of expenses for the Public services labor. The estimate is \$954.40. He said this is going to hurt them.

Manager Sterner explained what this is for on 3/11/16 will be for dropping off the barricades and on 3/14/16 will be for the cleanup and returning the barricades. These are the Borough's costs. This is totally up to council. The guys are here during the day it is not additional hours or brining in additional help. This is the final cost, council will have to tell you what the final cost will be.

Noel Behan – AOH they bring money into the borough with the parade. The costs for the parade is about \$30,000.00

President Strubinger said he understands the strain on the parades and other events. The municipalities that are requiring that they help pay for some of the costs. Everyone knows that is why we initiated the Police Service contract. We also instituted Public Service agreement because a number of events have increased over the years. We did do a mill increase in taxes this year. What it comes down to is what the borough can afford.

Mr. McGuire said they AOH have always given a donation to the borough and this should be considered.

Ed McArdle said there are a lot of rumors going through town about the Public Service Manager. You have 3 supervisors, and one supervisor is given a \$14,000.00 raise what is going on?

President Strubinger said now we have one person that is in charge of the outside crews. One person that reports to the borough manager not three, the one person will coordinate the use of the equipment and men. Council as a group thought this was the most efficient way to run the operation. In the past the dept. weren't working together this will make communication between the depts. a lot better.

Ed McArdle said all the equipment and roads are falling apart. Nobody seems to be accountable for all of that for the past 10 years.

President Strubinger said he thinks over time we will get more done.

Ed McArdle said with the new bridge going in, the new road, sidewalks, he was told there is no sewer at the lower end of River Street where Turek's live.

P.S. Manager Yaich said they are all on holding tanks.

Bill Malatak said out in Germantown out by the pump house the road is sinking down more what is the situation there.

Kim Mazur said that is on the capital improvement project list. He is working with the Manager. The stream pipe needs to be replaced, one pipe is larger than the other we need permits to do this work. The Army Cor. Of engineers will be involved, with them involved it will become expensive.

Bill Malatak said the County makes all that money in that parking lot over town, the AOH should ask them for some. He asked what is going on with the Silk Mill property.

Police Chief Schatz said they spoke to the owner.

Mr. McGuire said a few years ago there was a developer that wanted to make apartments in there and the plans fell through. The property is up for sale.

Ed Dewire bought a piece of property up in Leisure land. He spoke about the dumpster needing to be fixed. He wanted to know where do they go with the recycling items. He spoke about the road being a private road and ATV riding the road. He doesn't understand if the road is private how they can go on these roads.

Manager Sterner said Mrs. Klitsch is working with the garbage company on the trash issue and she will talk to her about the recycling. Private roads we don't have jurisdiction on them.

Mr. Jackson said they need two dumpsters up there to accommodate the volume of garbage. The other issue is the people up at the end don't have the curb side pick up services.

Police Chief Schatz said they can't enforce any vehicle violations on that roadway, but they can enforce disorderly conduct issues up there.

PS Manager Yaich said if there is an emergency and they are out plowing or cindering and something would happen up there we would have one of the borough trucks go up. This would be just for an emergency. The road are in horrible condition, a piece of fire equipment would not make it up there.

Ava Bretzik complained about the garbage guys throwing all the recycling and garbage together in one truck.

Mr. Jackson said he has the addressing information to start the addressing issue in Leisure Land area. The Glen Onoko board met and they will be doing a mile of roadway. The point in bringing this up is the oil price is cheap. Palmerton approved a loan they are planning on repaving all of their roads. He encourages the borough to look at this also, take advantage of the low prices.

Ava Bretzik thanked Ms. Haupt and Mr. Strubinger for their help. Pa. Cable Network will be doing a documentary on Asa Packer on March 12, 2016 at 6:00 in the Jim Thorpe Area School District.

Kim Mazur – Entech Engineering gave a 15 minute presentation on the upcoming Sewer project.

MOTION: John McGuire second Thomas Highland to approve the minutes from January 14, 2016.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Jay Miller second Paulette Haupt to approve the expenditures from all funds for January 2016, as presented.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Jay Miller second Gregory Strubinger to approve the treasurer report as presented.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Gregory Strubinger to approve the organizational chart.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Jay Miller to approve the Ancient Order of Hibernians to hold their annual St. Patrick's Day parade on Sunday, March 13, 2016 and that we forego the labor cost and assess the equipment cost of \$342.00.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Jay Miller to approve the annual Earth Day festival to be held Saturday, April 23 with rain date Sunday April 24, 2016.

COMMENTS:

President Strubinger said on the Police & Public Service agreements, we ask that they both go out. Then the Police Dept. and the Borough will determine what is needed.

Police Chief Schatz said the Police don't do anything for this festival. We still have them fill it out. We tell them what they need.

MOTION RECINDED

MOTION: Jay Miller second Paulette Haupt to approve the Janette Bruzgulis, 259 West Broadway handi-cap sign.

QUESTION:

Mr. Miller asked Police Chief Schatz if everything is in order with the application.

Police Chief Schatz said yes.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

Police Chief Schatz asked if there are any regulations that council would like them to follow?

Mr. Miller stated a handi-cap sign is not a reserved parking spot, they need to know that.

Mayor Sofranko asked that the Borough Manager look into how the other municipalities do them.

MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to approve the Manager to direct the adjustment to the line items from various budgets to cover the Public Service Managers position.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Gregory Strubinger to approve the Utility payment plan for Charlie Mae Irvin at 14 West 6th St.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Miller stated these are payment plans, when they don't make payments we have problems with the payment plan.

Manager Sterner said in these agreements, if they do not stay current – keep their current bill current or make the payment on the past due amount they voided the agreement.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to approve the Utility payment plan for Thomas Marsden Acct #5261, 36 Susquehanna St, Apt #2.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Gregory Strubinger to approve the Utility payment plan for Thomas Marsden Acct #5263, 36 Susquehanna St, Apt #3.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: John McGuire second Paulette Haupt that the County pay the late fees on the utility bills.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

Solicitor Nanovic said at the last council meeting council discussed Cuocco property at 56 West Broadway. He advised her to contact BIA.

Manager Sterner said she has not contacted BIA.

President Strubinger said last week at the workshop session Jake Arner was present and discussed the Canyon Rims Estate. He had request that his development agreement with the borough for Flagstaff road. He requested that the borough modify the agreement with him, so he can move forward with this project.

MOTION: Jay Miller second Paulette Haupt to retain the original agreement with Jake Arner for Canyon Rims Estate development.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Jay Miller second Paulette Haupt to approve the lease purchase for a 2015 Case 580 SN Loader Backhoe amount of \$93,080.00 from the Water Budget and to include the financing from M& T Bank.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second John McGuire to approve the lease purchase for a 2017 International 4400 SBA 10 ton dump truck with snow removal equipment from the Liquid Fuels budget and the financing from M & T Bank.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Jay Miller second Kyle Sheckler to approve the advertising of chemicals for Water & Sewer plants.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to approve Spillman Farmer Architects to do a feasibility study for new borough offices, including Memorial Hall and Public Service garage amount of \$6,900.00

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Jay Miller second Paulette Haupt to approve a letter of support to United Neighborhood Community Development Corp. grant request for renovations at 1 Broadway.

QUESTION:

Mr. Miller asked what type of organization is this are the purchasing this from the present owners.

Manager Sterner said there were 3 owners it is now down to 1 owner. They are looking into grant funding for upgrade to the building. The apartment are not being made larger, new bathrooms, kitchens and the outside of the building.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Jay Miller second Paulette Haupt to approve a letter confirming the utility will continue at One Broadway.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Thomas Highland to approve the current Civil Service eligibility list to be abolished.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Thomas Highland to approve the Civil Service Commission to start the process to update a certified list.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to approve the advertising for Front St and Second Street one way ordinance.

QUESTION:

Solicitor Nanovic asked when the new bridge will be opened.

Manager Sterner said when Calvin Ulshafer was in the office he said he is hoping to have this open for Memorial Day weekend.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: John McGuire second Gregory Strubinger so approve the advertising of the ordinance for Packer Hill one way going up.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Highland said with the bridge project going on do we want to direct the people into the construction zone. He would like to rethink this and just post signs for snow. The other item the Asa Packer construction, the angel of that driveway there is no way they could get trucks into that driveway.

TABLE THE MOTION

MOTION: John McGuire second Gregory Strubinger to approve the award for the IFAS Equipment procurement contract to Entex Technologies, Inc. amount of \$728,995.00.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second John McGuire to approve the E & S permit for the Conservation District amount of \$820.00 for the sewer plant projects.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Paulette Haupt second Thomas Highland to approve the purchase of a new trash pump with hose and strainer for the Water Dept. from Medico amount of \$1,751.43.

COMMENTS:

Mr. McGuire asked for the \$1751.00 is that within the limits that the manager could approve. This can be handled by the P.S. Manager and the Borough Manager.

Solicitor Nanovic said you can do this, understand when you do that you give the control to the manager.

Mr. Miller said he is a firm believer of the committees. The water project on Broadway the met every 3 weeks and moved along smoothly. We put a manager in place we need to trust her judgement.

The PS Manager, Borough Manager and the committee heads he is fine with \$5,000.00. He is a stickler with the budget, if the budget is changed one penny it has to come to council to approve it.

Solicitor Nanovic said this would be a resolution for council to approve.

Mayor Sofranko said the Police Chief has \$500.00, can this be increased so that it is across the board what amount can be spent as long as the Manager, committee head and the Police Chief or PS Manager agree.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Paulette Haupt to approve the Jim Thorpe Rotary Club - Summer Program skating rink use request – July 3, 2016, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

QUESTIONS:

Manager Sterner said we have not received notification on the Stay at home festival yet. She spoke with Rand Smith and he doesn't have a problem with it. He is going to pay someone to look at the skates and the insurance company is fine as long as they sign a waiver and name us as an additional insured on their insurance there isn't a problem with it.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

Manager Sterner said she received one price quote from Bortek to rent a Street sweep. This is the rental fee with no operator or driver for 2 weeks it is \$8,620.00 plus the other costs that need to be added on.

TABLED

ADMINISTRATION

President Strubinger said we will get more information on how County COG program works.

PUBLIC SERVICES

(Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Mr. Strubinger said the communication has been working out great with the Manager and PS Manager, the call outs.

Mayor Sofranko said there are a few procedural things that need to be addressed.

Mr. McGuire said the road in Germantown is a priority. They are working on the priority list.

Mr. McGuire said he will be contacting the school district to discuss the project for the run off down over 10th Street to Germantown Road.

WATER

Mr. Miller said they have the mixers coming and the back hoe has been purchased.

POLICE

Mr. Highland said the LCB will be holding a public hearing on February 18, 2016 at 11:00 am in the Memorial Park hall concerning the Noise ordinance.

President Strubinger said Rich & Ellie Rowe request for No Parking signs by their garage at 929 Center St. Council discussed this at the workshop session and there are a lot of other similar situations. We will not act on this.

Police Chief Schatz said this is the first time, it's because of the snow plowing the people getting off the roads for them to be plowed back to the curb.

BUILDINGS

President Strubinger said Anthon Sebelin had a request to the borough about using Kemmerer Park property for a sign, this portion of the lease that is not the boroughs. He has been contacted to let him know it's not our property.

EMERGENCY SERVICE

Mr. Sheckler informed the public that 6 different County fire departments worked together for a FEMA Grant. The Diligent & Fairview Fire companies were involved with receiving the grant. Jim Thorpe was awarded \$120,000.00 to purchase air packs. He thanked Kevin McArdle, Chris Gunsser and the other fire dept. that are involved.

President Strubinger thanked all of the volunteers and first responders for their continued efforts.

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second to adjourn.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Joanne Klitsch

Adjourned at 8:53

Respectfully submitted

Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary