

JIM THORPE BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2017
MINUTES

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	John McGuire	Thomas Highland (a)
Joanne Klitsch	Jay Miller	Kyle Sheckler
Gregory Strubinger	Mayor Michael Sofranko	Police Chief Schatz
Manager Maureen Sterner	PSM Vince Yaich	
Solicitor James Nanovic	Boro Secy McClafferty	

President Strubinger asked that we acknowledge and honor the Veterans. He thanked the Veterans for their service and sacrifices by all of the Veterans for their services to this country.

Public Hearing

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Agritourism

Andrew Roberts asked what district this is in on the ordinance?

Borough Manager Sterner said R1, R3, S zoning district, its permitted use.

No other comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko talked about the amount of criminal drug cases and drug arrests. He thanked Officer Schwarz for his work and the Chief for realigning the work schedule. It has been an active week for the Police at the Market and the work at the Courthouse.

Police Chief Schatz said they recently seized 300 bags of fentanyl. This is a very highly dangerous drug. We just went through training for the handling of this drug. He commends the officers for the great job that they did. They do not drug test this stuff anymore because of the fact of airborne dust coming up which could overcome the officer.

They have an area where the officers have been taking this, we need to think about the safeguard revisions for the officers and for the officer's safety. This is all paid through the federal government program.

Mr. Miller asked if there is anything that they need for handing this stuff. You need to let Council know if you need stuff.

Police Chief Schatz said if it gets contaminated they would call in a professional lab team to clean up and de-contaminate the area.

Mayor Sofranko said we received a concern about the parking on Quarry Street. He met with PSM Yaich, Jim Trainer and he did some research on this. His recommendation to Council is to leave this issue alone until the parking and traffic study is done.

JIM THORPE BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2017
MINUTES

Public Comment

Leaf Pick-up October 30 through November 9, 2017

PSM Yaich said they will extend the leaf pick-up because of a rock being picked up by the machine.

Shade Tree Commission Vacancy (1)

Police Pension Board Vacancy (1)

Emergency Management Coordinator Vacancy (1)

Executive Sessions held Oct. 5 and Oct. 26 for personnel

Sierra Fogal property owner and business owner, thanked Council for not taking any action on the parking issue on Quarry Street. Changing the parking would affect all of the residents that live in this area.

Andrew Roberts asked if the High Street Steps were discussed. He would like to know if the survey is a public document.

Borough Manager Sterner said we don't believe these are public documents, there are a few sections in the Right to Know Law that tell us it is not. The property owners will get a copy of this because we are notifying them that we had a survey done and the maintenance is their responsibility. They are entitled to this.

Andrew Roberts said his concern with the kiosk is they will be installed in January and you are going from a half hour to an hour parking, this will affect the residents that shop downtown. He asked Council to consider keeping this a half hour minimum for the residents.

Mayor Sofranko said the Borough helped by being able to use a credit card for anyone, you pay for the services in the community. We chose to do this in the slow time of the year, this can be adjusted along the way, this is going to be a learning curve for all of us. Based on the numbers, this is less than 1% of the budget collected from the parking meters.

Betty Lou McBride said the Fall Foliage Festival has more people and more cars. The income for any of the businesses is way down. Those of us that are retail businesses are battling to stay alive. Don't look at Fall Foliage days, every time the parking goes up the business drops.

Mayor Sofranko said the number one complaint he gets from people that come in to town is that the town shuts down at 5:00 pm. Council has studied this there are places that run the meters until 9:00 or 10:00 o'clock at night but Council chose not to do this so that local residents can visit downtown Jim Thorpe by going out to dinner.

Betty Lou McBride said some of the businesses are not open because they can not afford to pay the people. Council should have looked at smart meters instead of kiosk, raising the taxes is not going to help.

Michael Rivkin said JTTA has a survey out this was sent to retailers, attractions, food/beverage, and lodging. The retailer sector is a mirror, what is happening nationally.

JIM THORPE BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2017
MINUTES

Mark Reitz said as a business owner, businesses are over regulated, BIA control the show, it shut his business down. You should help the home owners and businesses out.

Jerry Strubinger mentioned the Zoning & Planning. There is selective enforcement. The Borough needs to talk to the County about what they are doing there, get involved with that project.

Borough Manager Sterner said she has been checking and she was told they have nothing for us yet.

Jerry Strubinger said as long as there is a need for parking downtown you should look into a parking deck. The Borough should go on record that you are against Andy Mueller trestle bridge up at the Glen so he can connect the Lehigh Valley track with the Nesquehoning track. We need that for a bypass downtown. Help the people improve the traffic flow.

Mr. McGuire said we received a letter from Mr. Malatak, and his concern in the letter is that he saw a woman pushing a baby carriage over by Subway, this is a clear safety issue for people walking the sidewalks then walking to the parking lot, and the cross-walk area. This is a concern for the residents walking there, we do have a parking study going on with NEPA. The parking study will include how the traffic could flow through town, items with the parking lot, pedestrian traffic and things that will help us. They are in the process of picking a consultant to complete the parking study. This study will take about a year, this is all of Broadway and the hill. This will help with getting grants.

Action

MOTION: Curtis Jackson second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes from October 5, 2017.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Curtis Jackson to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2017.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Curtis Jackson to approve the Budget Workshop Minutes from October 19 and October 26, 2017.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve Expenditures from all Funds as presented.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

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

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

JIM THORPE BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2017
MINUTES

MOTION: John McGuire second Curtis Jackson to approve the Kuhn Subdivision Waiver Request.

COMMENTS:

President Strubinger said these are the topographic contours on the plans.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Kuhn Major Subdivision.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Kalavoda Minor Subdivision

COMMENTS:

Borough Manager Sterner said that would be on the conditions that the plans be signed and notarized.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Jay Miller to approve Ordinance 2017-11 Auditor Appointment.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second John McGuire to approve Ordinance 2017-12 Stormwater Management Amendment.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Curtis Jackson to advertise the Ordinance – UCC Appeals Board Amendment.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second John McGuire to advertise public hearing and take action on Ordinance – Act 172 Tax Incentives Volunteers.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to approve Resolution 2017-20 Police Pension 2018 Contribution.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second John McGuire to approve Resolution 2017-21 Fee Schedule 2017

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

JIM THORPE BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2017
MINUTES

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to approve to advertise the 2018 Budget Public Meeting Nov. 16, 6:30 pm

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Curtis Jackson second John McGuire to table the 2018 Budget Approval.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to send a letter opposing the HB 798.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second John McGuire to approve the replacement of the fire tower at the existing location.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second John McGuire to withdrawal the prior motion.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Kyle Sheckler that the Borough approves either location for the fire tower.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Joanne Klitsch to approve the High Street Wall Project - Axis Stabilization payment application #1 - \$9,990.00

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve WWTP Upgrade Project Eastern Environmental payment application #11 - \$487,138.39

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve Howard Company payment application #8 – \$132,258.43

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve Requisition #14 – \$748,597.44

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

JIM THORPE BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2017
MINUTES

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second John McGuire to approve Entech Amendment #3 - \$95,500.00

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second John McGuire to approve Eastern Change Order #6 – \$4,134.74

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second John McGuire to approve Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (6)

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (2)

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (0)

MOTION: Curtis Jackson second John McGuire to approve the Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (11)

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Curtis Jackson to approve the Temporary Off Lien Report (4)

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Uncollectible Accounts Report – (34)

Questions

Mr. Miller asked how many are there, are these all over water/sewer/garbage and are there water shut offs on these?

Borough Manager Sterner said these are all of them. Most of these are pre-2012, this is for the accounting purposes only, it does not mean we aren't going to try to collect on these accounts. This is all part of the audits.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

JIM THORPE BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2017
MINUTES

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (0)

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Jay Miller to approve account #4835 Payment Plan.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Joanne Klitsch to approve account #1365 Payment Plan.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

Tax Exoneration Action

Committees

Administration

Mr. McGuire said the Dimmick Library, is looking to branch out to Penn Kidder. The JTASD ok'd to give money to the board. This is a non-profit organization they depend on public money to keep going. They will be moving forward on this.

Public Service(Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Mrs. Klitsch thanked Greg Strubinger, Clem McGinley and Jay Miller for taking over for the recycling event.

Mr. Miller said he would like to reiterate they were at 6th and School Street again. They need to keep on replacing water lines. He needs council to back them on doing this.

Police

Buildings/Parks

Mr. McGuire said he met with BIA about some issues. He brought things up to them, that contractors have brought to him. He will have an update for council at the next meeting.

Emergency Services

Fire Department Appointments

MOTION: John McGuire second Curtis Jackson to advertise to adopt the Zoning ordinance amendment.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Curtis Jackson second John McGuire to go into executive session for litigation and personnel.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

Into executive session at 7:50 pm
Back at 8:31 pm

JIM THORPE BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2017
MINUTES

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Curtis Jackson to accept the following applications for the Fire Department:

Jarrad Yeastedt	Greg Steward	Chuck Leinthall	Francis Lukasevich
Eric Cinicola	Thomas Lager	Gerald Nederostek	Robert Valusek
Michael Quigley	Bruce Solomon	William McDonald	Frank Lauth
Tyler Ketchledge	Joseph McArdle	Thomas Polischak	William Sheehan
Matthew Reppert	Dwayne Sterner	Dennis McGinley	James McGinley
Nicholas Shorten			

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Curtis Jackson to not accept the unauthorized alterations to the applications and they won't be allowed to re-apply for another year:

Darrin Anrndt	Michael Yeastead	Thomas McClafferty	Kodie Pituch
Chris Gunsser	Robert Newton	Samantha Miller	Mark Bokeko
Samantha Bokeko	Peter Mazur, Jr.	Luke Becker	

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Curtis Jackson to nominate Darrin Arndt for the Emergency Management Coordinator.

YES 4

NO 2 Joanne Klitsch & John McGuire

ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

Old Business

- A. W. Front St & River St Dedication Ordinance
- B. Collection Agency for delinquent utility fees
- C. Police Contract
- D. Disorderly Conduct
- E. Nuisance Ordinance
- F. Memorial Hall Stormwater Project
- G. Parking Zones Ordinance
- H. Handwerk Retaining Wall

MOTION: Curtis Jackson second Kyle Sheckler to adjourn.

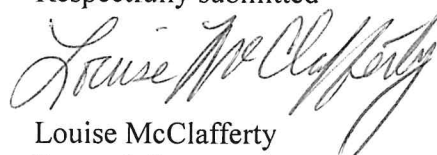
YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Tom Highland

Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted


Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary