

Jim Thorpe Borough  
Regular Council Meeting  
October 13, 2016

Meeting 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	Solicitor James Nanovic
Kim Mazur, Entech	Matt Boggs, Entech	Boro. Secy. McClafferty

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Sofranko said council received a copy of the Police report for the month, the Police dept. has done an outstanding job. He informed everyone they received \$4,000 from the County for the hotel tax and that money was used towards the Fall Foliage festivals for police services.

Mayor Sofranko said he would like council to hire Frank Buonaiuto as a part time officer \$16.00 an hour.

Mayor Sofranko said the Civil Service Commission have presented the Chief with 5 applicants that have passed the other portions of the Civil Service testing.

Police Chief Schatz said the Fall Foliage festival went good, the parking of cars out at the Mauch Chunk Lake helped out with the parking, there were no big tie ups.

Mr. Miller said the trees going toward Nesquehoning by the Liberty's need to be trimmed this is a dangerous situation.

Borough Manager Sterner said she will send a letter again to the State.

**Public Comment**

Ed McArdle would like an update on the burning ordinance.

Borough Manager said council uses the DEP laws to enforce the burning. The property maintenance is non-existing any more nationwide. You have to be notified when they are burning.

Bill Malatak spoke about the sidewalks not being completed from the new bridge to the train station.

Borough Manager Sterner said she has tried to contact Penn Dot and they have not called her back.

Bernie Krebs said the sidewalks are owned by the County, they received the sidewalks & the fence from the railroad with the parking lot.

Bill Malatak talked about people making U-turns on Broadway. He also said the Borough should contact the County and ask them not to allow people to park at their parking meters on the busy weekends, they are tying up traffic.

Mayor Sofranko said he should talk to the County about this, that is where this complaint should be taken.

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**MOTION:** Jay Miller second John McGuire to send a letter to the County expressing our concerns with the parking meters, no parking at the discretion of the police dept.

YES 7                      NO 0

Jake Arner would like to participate in letter I on the agenda, PPL

**Action**

**MOTION:** Curtis Jackson second Thomas Highland to approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes from September 1, 2016.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Thomas Highland second Jay Miller to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from September 8, 2016.

YES 7                      NO 0

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

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Treasurer Report as presented.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve Mr. Rehab – Payment Applications #1 and #2 total amount of \$145,759.06.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller that the WWTP Upgrade Project, send a Notice of Intent to Award General Contractor Contract to Eastern Environmental Contractors.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to send a Notice of Intent to Award Electrical Contractor Contract to Howard Organization.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to send a Contingent Notice to Award General Contractor Contract to Eastern Environmental Contractors.

YES 7                      NO 0

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**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to send a Contingent Notice to Award Electrical Contractor Contract to Howard Organization.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to add Lehigh Engineering to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Inspection Agency list.

YES 7                      NO 0

County Natural Subdivision Determination Request

Solicitor Nanovic said the street is in the middle of a subdivision plan. The question is do we require subdivision plans. The County wants to deed a parcel to the adjoining property owner.

Mr. Miller asked if we allow this do we set precedent. His concern is we have the water tank up there.

Solicitor Nanovic said yes. He said there is nothing in our ordinance on this. This will be between the County and the neighbor property owner. He will talk to the County about this.

PPL Distribution Lines – Flagstaff Road

Solicitor Nanovic spoke to the PPL representative about the developments being required to run all the utilities underground. They would like a letter from Jim Thorpe Borough informing them they have no issues with them running the lines along Flagstaff Road front.

Jake Arner said the issue is Phase II of his project is across the street from Phase I on Flagstaff Road. His plans according to the SALDO plans, says the lines should be underground. He wants to cooperate and he does not want PPL to violate his plans. He asked them to get written permission from the Borough to do this and that he be given a copy of this letter.

Mr. Miller said he does not have an issue with overhead power lines on Flagstaff Road.

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to authorize the solicitor to contact PPL, council does not have an issue or objections to them installing overhead distribution lines along Flagstaff Road.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to adopt the 2016 CDBG Cooperation Agreement with Carbon County.

YES 7                      NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Curtis Jackson to approve the DCED 2016 CDBG Application.

YES 7                      NO 0



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**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Curtis Jackson to close Borough Security Checking – transfer to General Fund Capital improvement.

YES 7

NO 0

**MOTION:** Curtis Jackson second Joanne Klitsch to advertise the budget workshop meetings for October 20, October 27 and November 17 at 6:30 in the borough office.

YES 7

NO 0

The Foreign Fire Insurance Distribution.

President Strubinger said the borough received the Fireman's Relief funds and council needs to determine how they would like to distribute the funds. Up to this point 2/3 of the funds were distributed to the Mauch Chunk Fireman's and 1/3 distributed to the East Mauch Chunk Fireman's relief. He asked council if they would like to discuss this.

Borough Manager said we have 60 days from the date we received the funds to distribute them.

Mr. McGuire said now we have 3 fire companies but there are only 2 acting houses now. We could split this 50/50. The thoughts are it could be down to 2 fire companies. They don't know when this determination will be decided. They have spoken about the Phoenix closing down.

Mr. Sheckler said they meet with them again on October 17, they should know then what they have decided.

Mr. Miller said they will need to decide who is paying the fire insurance for 2017. That is the major idea behind the fireman's relief, it is to insure the firemen are insured. The second item is to buy equipment.

COUNCIL TABLED THE FOREIGN FIRE INSURANCE DISTRIBUTIONS

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Curtis Jackson to approve the PA DGS – Federal Surplus Program Representatives list.

YES 7

NO 0

**MOTION:** Curtis Jackson second Jay Miller to approve Shade Tree Commission recommendations to remove the dead tree at 36 W Broadway, 44 Susquehanna Street – remove the tree and 225 Center Street - to remove and replace the trees.

YES 7

NO 0

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to Appoint of Public Accountant for 2016 Audit amount of \$16,500.00.

YES 7

NO 0

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**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second Jay Miller to approve the borough taking a portion of Onoko Lane and to approve the solicitor to prepare any documents that are necessary.

YES 5

NO 0

ABSTAIN 2 Joanne Klitsch & Curtis Jackson

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to authorize the Manager to send a letter to Weatherford informing them of the different locations of handi-cap signs.

YES 7

NO 0

**Utility Action**

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve the Utility Accounts Lien Reports:

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report

Active Utility Account 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

YES 7

NO 0

**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second Jay Miller to approve the Utility Account #6575 Payment Plan  
Utility Account #2456 Payment Plan, Utility Account #6577 Payment Plan, Utility Account #5450  
Correct Billing Service Type

YES 7

NO 0

Borough Manager Sterner said there are no Uncollectible Accounts Reports for this month.

President Strubinger said on the request from St. Joseph's – to Pardon Bill. They had a leak and it has been repaired. There are other people that have had the same thing happen to them, this is not the borough's responsibility.

**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to approve the tax exoneration request for Jane Culver – housewife.

YES 7

NO 0

**Administration**

Nothing to report

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

Mrs. Klitsch said the Tire & Electronics Recycling event there were 230 TV's and the bill is over \$5,000.00

Mr. Miller said Well #4 is back up an running, next week the fire hydrants will be flushed, the new truck has been delivered, the 5 ton truck should be here by the end of the month.

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**Police**

Mr. Highland said Trick or Treat – Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

**MOTION:** Thomas Highland second Curtis Jackson to hire Frank Buonaiuto as a part time officer rate of pay \$16.00 an hour.

YES 7

NO 0

**Buildings/Parks**

Mr. Jackson said they are working together to get an outline on the projects, costs, and will bring it to council to review. They need to prioritize the list.

**Emergency Services**

Mr. Sheckler said he received a copy of all the by-laws for all of the fire companies, they are working on trying to combine them. They have a meeting on 10/17/16 and he will let council know what they should do with the Fireman's relief funds.

**Old Business**

- A. Property Maintenance Board of Appeals Three (3) Vacancies
- B. Shade Tree Commission one (1) Vacancy
- C. Planning Commission – Nuisance Ordinance
- D. Planning Commission – Zoning Ordinance Amendment
- E. Planning Commission – Park Planning
- F. Packer Hill Road proposed one way Ordinance
- G. Collection Agency for delinquent utility fees
- H. Cuoco
- I. Petition to Vacate Portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street
- J. Municipal Fire Department
- K. Civil Service Commission

**Executive Session**

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to go into executive session to discuss real estate.

YES 7

NO 0

Into executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Back at 9:18 p.m.

**MOTION:** John McGuire second Jay Miller that the Borough will not sell the Memorial park building and that we will continue to hold it with the Borough of Jim Thorpe.

YES 7

NO 0

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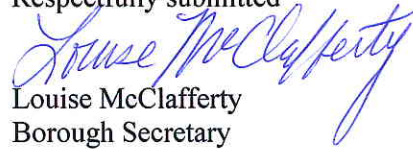
**MOTION:** Kyle Sheckler second Thomas Highland to adjourn.

YES 7

NO 0

Adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Louise McClafferty  
Borough Secretary