

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL
JULY 12, 2018
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 in the Memorial Park Hall, 101 East Tenth Street, Jim Thorpe by President Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for the men and women serving our country.

Roll Call of Members & Officials

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

Mayor's Report

Police Chief Schatz said everyone received a copy of the Police report.

Public Comment

Police Pension Board Vacancy (1)

President Strubinger said the Rodger's family donated a new flag for Memorial Park, he thanked the family for their donation.

Borough Manager Sterner said it was donated in memory of Philip Rodgers Sr, - Army Veteran from Jim Thorpe and Leo Johnson – Navy Pilot Veteran from Wichita, KS.

Robert B. Conner Foundation Grant

Kelly Heller from the MCTC presented Mark Reitz from the Shade Tree Commission with a \$1,000.00 check for the trimming the trees at the intersections.

Mark Reitz said there are two other grants that the Shade Tree Commission has received. They received Lehigh Valley Main Street, partnered with the D & L bridge for landscaping and signage to the Glen Onoko.

Bill Malatak said the Borough did a nice job on 6th Street from North Street to Center Street, he is waiting for 7th Street to be done. The D&L trail it has been said not a penny has been spent from the Borough. The Manager's time is money, how many hours have you spent on this. The Borough should be compensated for that. The Borough should not be involved with that.

Borough Manager Sterner said her time is administrative.

Bill Malatak the fence going over town, the Borough should put pressure on the County to fix that fence, that is unsafe.

Mr. McGuire said he spoke to the County about this.

President Strubinger said the trail grant is because it is located in the Borough, we had to be the applicant in order for them to secure the funds for the project.

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Jake Arner said he sent a letter to the Borough he wants to confirm that the Borough received it. His plans were discussed at the workshop meeting, and there were some concerns about them being deemed approval, that is not his intention, he wants to alleviate those concerns. He said he retracted his plans and put in the new submission date. His concern is to create a business in the area. He is trying to comply with the Borough Manager's requests, the fees, the application, and the additional information requested.

Mark Reitz thanked the Police Department with taking care of the drug matters in his area. He appreciates all the time they put in.

Tom Kurak, 625 Main Street, they were here about the changing of street names. Borough Council at that time, it was his understanding it was off the books.

President Strubinger said right now the Borough is not taking any action on the readdressing. What the Planning Commission did request Council to give them permission to do the readdressing. They did a portion of it the upper end and now they are doing the lower section. The workshop meeting last week they asked to complete the project, we gave them permission to complete that because its about 85% completed. Council made the request to the JTPC to have them do this. They requested to finish it and give it back to Council for comments, questions, concerns, etc. At this point there is no action being taken.

Tom Kurak said if it is going to be changed he asked that you let the residents vote on whether they want it changed or not. He does not have a problem with putting a street number up, he does have a problem with the street names being changed.

Mike Paulus asked Louis Hall what the reason is for changing the lower end of Leisure Land?

Louis Hall said the Planning Commission was asked by Council to look at this. The reason for this is they are not in compliance with 911.

Mike Paulus said there is no reason to change existing numbers. The upper portion of Leisure Land you did a good job. He asked Council if its uniformity will you change West Broadway to Broadway, are you going to change the Heights to Streets, the East Side to Avenues. Council said it Onoko Lane is a Borough road. There is no sense to changing any street names.

John Martino, 620 Onoko Lane, said his property was originally Coalport then it was changed to Onoko Lane. Council is not asking them to change addresses.

President Strubinger said the Planning Commission is working on the readdressing, it is not complete.

Louis Hall said they are taking the recommendations then they will present the 2 plans to Council to review.

President Strubinger said the plans will come to Council to review, then we make the determination if we would like to do anything with it, do we want to have a meeting with the residents on it.

Louis Hall said this will take 30 days to come up with the plan to Council. Then it has to go to the Emergency Management to review, then the Post Office in Harrisburg to review, then to Council to review, this will take 4 to 5 months.

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President Strubinger said we will make sure the residents are contacted if Council is going to move forward with this.

Todd Mason said he is on the agenda for his liquor license.

Borough Manager Sterner said it is not necessary to hold a public hearing. LCB said we only need to take action if you have objections to the transfer.

Solicitor Nanovic said when it comes to liquor license transfers for restaurant or hotel those have to have a hearing, retail licenses the rules are different.

Bill Maehrer said you should go through all of the lots in town to correct the address problem.

Mr. McGuire said there is a correct way to do this. We followed the State regulations for the Glen Onoko Estates readdressing. The town it's the old sections were done that way, when the developments came in to town, we didn't know to follow the rules to do it. Now we don't met code, this needs to be done.

Jeremiah Tibo, 641 Onoko Lane, when they talked to the JTPC and they were told they weren't going to be doing the readdressing.

Louis Hall said they presented the plans to Council to review. Council decided if they wanted the JTPC to go through with it. They worked on the GOE side to do the address changes. They started on Main Street and Chapman Street, this is 80% done. Everyone will be notified.

Jerry Strubinger said Council should buy a new pa system, we can't hear what Council is saying.

Jerry Hoare said the people should hear what Council is saying at the meetings.

Jerry Strubinger said Council should meet with the County and be involved with what is going on with the County with the parking deck.

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Council Workshop Meeting Minutes from June 7, 2018.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Edith Lukasevich second John McGuire to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from June 14, 2018.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Expenditures from all Funds as presented.

Comments;

Borough Manager Sterner said we had a bill come in late for the HRA reimbursement \$755.84

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

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MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second Gregory Strubinger to approve the Treasurer Report June, 2018 as presented.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to adopt Ordinance 2018-4 Flagstaff Road, limiting it to passenger vehicles only.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve the Penn Forest Wind Turbine Proclamation as presented.

Comments:

Solicitor Nanovic said there is nothing wrong with the proclamation, legal aspect he is not telling Council to adopt it.

President Strubinger said this was not requested from the Township and he thinks if they wanted the local municipalities to support this we should have something from them requesting our support for this.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Edith Lukasevich	Gregory Strubinger	Thomas Highland
Joanne Klitsch		
Jay Miller		
John McGuire		
Kyle Sheckler		

YES 5 NO 1 Greg Strubinger ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to approve the sale of the old Parking Meters.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

Borough Manager Sterner said to sell the Parking Meters, she contacted the two municipalities that are interested in purchasing them from the Borough and asked them for proposals. We received one proposal from the city of Hazleton, for the 111 parking meters the total of \$2,220.00, sold as is.

MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to approve the sale of the parking meters to the city of Hazleton amount of \$2,220.00.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to approve the Pickett Street Light request as long as there is no cost to the Borough.

Comments:

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Borough Manager Sterner said she checked with PPL and the technician said they don't believe there is going to be any cost, he is to double check this. Council can approve this with the condition there is no cost, if there is a cost it will come back to Council.

YES 5 NO 1 Jay Miller ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Edith Lukasevich to approve the 2019 Jim Thorpe ½ Marathon request.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Edith Lukasevich second Gregory Strubinger to approve Police Chief Schatz Addendum to Agreement.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Gregory Strubinger to accept the withdrawal of Jake Arner Farms, plans as stated in the letter from his attorney James Katz, Steven & Lee dated July 6, 2018 and received in the Borough office on July 9, 2018.

Question:

Mr. Miller said as they are on the agenda should they be addressed.

Solicitor Nanovic said the first one should be what John and Greg made the second to be, to accept the withdrawal of the plans. Attorney Kratz. His suggestion is to acknowledge the withdrawal of the plans.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second John McGuire to acknowledge the receipt of the new plans dated LDP revision date 6/28/18, submitted 7/3/18 and forward them to the County Planning and JT Planning Commission as per the SALDO ordinance.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: John McGuire second Edith Lukasevich to deny the Carbon County – Susquehanna Street Project SALDO Waiver request.

Comments:

Borough Manager Sterner said they requested a waiver from a section of the ordinance which requires submission of a preliminary plan and a separate submission of final plans. The County & Borough Engineer's letters there is quit a bit that needs to be addressed. The JTPC also recommended the request be denied. The motion is to deny their request for one plan and make them go through two plans, preliminary & final.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

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MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Edith Lukasevich to approve the termination of Employee #369.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

Borough Manager Sterner said the EIT Collection Study, there is no further action needed. She did review what Berkheimer has sent to the Borough and a majority of our points were addressed at the meeting. Some of our questions won't be answered until after the study is completed.

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch Gregory Strubinger to approve the D & L Trail Entech Invoice #0059807 \$688.75.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Joanne Klitsch to table the D&L Trail Project bid Specs.

Comments:

Borough Manager Sterner said this was tabled because there was an additional \$565,561.00 needed for the project. She did receive an email from DCNR and they have been able to identify an additional \$500,000.00 for the project, which leaves the \$65,561.00. D&L is working on it. She contacted RUS with the WWTP project, she had two questions part of the D&L project involves replacing one of the sewer pipes and raising the manhole, that is just under \$57,000.00. She asked if it would be possible to amend the grant to add that amount on, that is not possible. It is possible to include that in our project and use contingency funds if Council wishes to do so. We have contingency funds in the WWTP project that are available at this point and time. This is grant funds. Any money we have left over will be to make repairs to any of our sewer lines. We have identified repairs at Cedar Ave & Center Ave. for \$50,000.00 and South St between 5th & 6th Streets for about \$100,000.00.

Mr. Miller said that is grant money that is to be used solely for the sewer project.

Mr. McGuire asked who has to find the money for the D&L project?

Borough Manager Sterner said the D&L has to find the funding for the project.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Edith Lukasevich to approve the High Street Wall Project Axis payment application #5 \$15,368.25.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second John McGuire to approve the 10th Street Stormwater Project Kobalt Payment #2 - \$45,000.00.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second John McGuire to approve the 10th Street Stormwater project Entech additional EWO-9344 - \$10,800.00.

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Question

Mr. Miller asked if this is within our parameters?

Borough Manager Sterner said yes.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second John McGuire to approve WWTP Upgrade Project Eastern Environmental payment application #19 - \$528,862.25.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Edith Lukasevich to approve WWTP upgrade project Requisition #22 \$589,992.84.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second John McGuire to approve Eastern Environmental Change order #12 - \$7,770.13.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second John McGuire to approve the Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (2)

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Temporary Off Lien Report (0)

Inactive (0)

Uncollectible Accounts Report – (0)

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler second John McGuire to approve the Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (2).

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second John McGuire to approve account #2885 Payment Plan.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

Tax Exoneration Action

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Committees

Administration

Mr. McGuire said the Jim Thorpe Library they are upgrading to the cataloging system, so any card holder will have any access to any electronic books in the state. There is ongoing branching efforts with Penn/Kidder.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Police

Buildings/Parks

Borough Manager Sterner said the American Legion has a chest freezer that is not working that is in the block building, they are going to have a scrapper come and take it. There is a deep fryer and a stand-up refrigerator that does not work. Do you want them to take them also? They had someone look at the items and they are not working.

President Strubinger said it is not worth the repairs it will exceed the cost of the value to replace them, it is not worth keeping. He would say yes to scrapping them.

Borough Manager Sterner said there is a gentleman that works for a realty advisor, he has a client that is looking to sell land that is in Penn Forest Township. Part of it abuts part of the Borough's land. He would like to know if the borough is interested in any or all of the land.

Borough Manager Sterner said she worked on some figures one project verse two project. Doing a combined project is not going to save us it may actually cost us a little more. She will work on getting the one application in for the end of this month.

Emergency Services

Mr. McGuire asked when is the State going to say enough is enough with the falls at the Glen?

Mr. Miller stated the Fire Chief told him if one of our guys gets injured we are going to consider coming out and saying we are volunteers. There were 2 fatalities within a week. Putting a sign up is not doing anything. The State owns it and both of the legislators are aware of this. The safety for all of the communities involved is their concern. They are saying they don't care about the safety of others.

Mr. McGuire said that part is State Game Lands. The State keeps saying they are trying to swap land with Game lands and State parks.

Old Business

- A. Permit Parking
- B. Burning Ordinance

Executive Session

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MOTION: John McGuire second Kyle Sheckler to adjourn.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Thomas Highland

Adjourned at 7:56

Respectfully submitted

Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary