

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 11, 2019
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Park Hall, 115 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 (a)	Joanne Klitsch
Thomas Highland	John McGuire	Edith Lukasevich
Jay Miller	Manager Maureen Sterner	PSM Vince Yaich
Sgt. Bokeko	Connor Rodgers, JCP	Solicitor James Nanovic
Mayor Michael Sofranko (a)	Secy. McClafferty	Matt Boggs, Entech

SALDO

None

Public Hearing

1st Public Hearing for 2019 CDBG

Kathy Reigel Carbon County Planning & Development office was present. She said the purpose of this public hearing is to receive input and comments by citizens for the 2019 CDBG funds.

Kathy Reigel said the funding for 2018 Jim Thorpe Borough chose street improvements to 3rd & 8th Streets and School Street. This project will benefit residents in block group 2. The borough is considering modifying funds to another project. This will be announced at another meeting.

Kathy Reigel said the funding year 2019. Jim Thorpe will be receiving approximately \$95,989.00. \$17,278.00 for Administration and \$78,711.00 for project implementation. Funds will be used for selected projects: Public Facilities and Improvements, removal of Architectural barriers, Senior Center/Facilities, Parks, Recreation Facilities, Parking Facilities, street improvements, sidewalks, ADA handicap corners, water and sewer improvements, flood and drainage facilities clearance and demolition.

Public Comment

Scout Danny Demarco CC Community Foundation Grant Project.

Daniel Demarco informed everyone present that he is an Eagle Scout candidate for Troop #555. He came to ask for permission to proceed on a project involving the 2 rooms in the pavilion at Memorial Park. They are going to refurbish them with shelving and beautification of them.

President Strubinger said he will be replacing some of the equipment, and raising funds for the project.

Daniel Demarco said he will be applying for a grant for the project, through the Carbon County Community Foundation grant.

Borough Manager Sterner said the grant is approximately \$1,200.00.

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President Strubinger said we are grateful to have your presence and taking a lead role and taking on the project. We are very appreciative you chose the borough to benefit from one of the projects.

Borough Manager Sterner said he will be raising some money in donations; this will reduce what the borough will need to put in.

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to allow Daniel Demarco to proceed with the project.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

2018 Recycling Performance Grant

Borough Manager Sterner said the application has been submitted.

Day's Landscaping Beautification Project Donation

Borough Manager Sterner said this is 102 North Street beautification project.

President Strubinger thanked Jeff Day for his donations and the work he does at the Veteran's memorial on North Street.

LSA Grant – License Plate Readers

President Strubinger said the borough did receive this grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 and we will be purchasing one license plate reader. Thank you Chief for working on this grant.

Mansion House Hill Project – estimated start moved to May 1 to May 15. Monday through Friday's, no weekends or holidays.

Street Sweeping

Borough Manager Sterner said this has been rescheduled, they don't have the license plate for it. Closer to the dates we will have a schedule for what streets will be done.

Tree Crown Raising

Borough Manager Sterner said this is the trimming of the lower branches of the trees to increase sight distance and head distance for pedestrians. On 4/15/19 there will be no parking on North Street from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. The other location that we will be doing is Broadway and West Broadway that will occur after Penn Dot's project. This is the result of a grant we received from the Tree Vitalization program that the Shade Tree Commission applied for.

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Jeff Day, Day's Landscaping, 50 East 5th Street. He thanked Council for their praise for his donation. He would like to praise Mark Reitz who did a lot of work there. Another place he is helping out is the Sam Miller Association who will be putting off the fireworks this year. He will be helping them out with tree removal and trimming of some brush.

Bill Malatak, 1342 Germantown Road, he would like an update on the Germantown bridge.

Borough Manager Sterner said we are continuing to go back and forth with DEP, they will not give us a permit to do this work. We continue to try to find a way that we could do some kind of solution that they will give us a permit to do the work.

Bill Malatak complained about the heavy truck going across that and storing the dirt out at the Germantown plant. He has not seen a public notice in the newspaper regarding our 2018 audited balances for Jim Thorpe.

Borough Manager Sterner said she will check with the Auditor on this.

Bill Malatak said the taxes went up 12.9%, he doesn't mind paying taxes, he knows the jobs have to be done. The Police budget increases \$100,000.00 each year, what are you going to do? The older people can't afford these raises. We are not getting the money from the tourists.

William Miller, Penn Forest Township, he would like to make council aware of Scott Detrick. He was granted a variance to put tents & 4 cabins on his 415 acres of property he owns. The Planning Commission rejected his request, Zoning approved it.

President Strubinger said we have been made aware of this. The Borough Manager did reach out to the Township and got some information on what is going on and if it's impacting anything on lands that are in the borough of Jim Thorpe. We will continue to monitor it.

Darrin Reinart, he is here to discuss the Scott Detrick property, tents & cabins on his property. His concern is the people are crapping in a bag and who knows how this is being disposed, this is hazardous.

President Strubinger said he does not think there is anything pending before the Borough.

Mr. Miller said if you find something that is not legal in the Borough of Jim Thorpe you need to notify us then.

Solicitor Nanovic said whenever there is a complaint, we turn it over to the Borough Manager. She will then go to the zoning officer and have them go out there. You are saying something may be going on up there, we don't know where this land is and we don't know if the zoning officer would know where it is located. This has not come to our town.

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Judy Salava spoke about the clean and green lands. She is very concerned about the camp fires on the land because there is only one way in and one way out for the people that live in the development.

Scott Detrick land was discussed for several minutes.

Borough Manager Sterner said they went before the Penn Forest Township Zoning Hearing board for a special exception approval. The Planning Commission recommended denial due to lack of information in their plans. They added more information when it went to the Zoning Hearing Board. That plan included 4 tents and 4 cabins; they did receive the special exception use from the Zoning Hearing Board. If they want to put tents up, they only need Zoning permits, cabins they have to go through land development. If they go through land development the borough will be notified. If they get land development approval, they will have to follow zoning and building codes just like any other building. She was informed they will have to do some type of forestry or fire plan for DCNR.

Action

MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to approve the Council Workshop Meeting Minutes from March 7, 2019.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2019.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Expenditures from all Funds as presented, including the Reading Northern Railroad payment amount of \$12,240.00 for flaggers for the D&L project.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Treasurer Report March, 2019 as presented.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to adopt Resolution 2019-14 Bituminous Materials.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to adopt Resolution 2019-15 Asa Packer Proclamation.

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YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to TABLE Ordinance 2019-03 Susquehanna Street No Parking.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to approve Nuisance Enforcement Program.

COMMENTS:

Borough Manager Sterner said she sat with the Chief and Greg Kurtz and worked this out. Chief will have a part time Police officer and Greg will train them with the way this will work and we will take so many hours from BIA.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to award the Street Paving Project Bid to New Enterprise Stone & Lime amount of \$99,985.00.

QUESTION:

Mr. Miller asked if we are ok with the finances.

Borough Manager Sterner said yes.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to award the Chemical Bids to the lowest bidder Main Pool & Chemicals.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Thomas Highland second Joanne Klitsch to award the 2019 Police Ford F150 Lease Purchase to MCTC interest rate of 3.81% annual percent, first payment will be September 1, 2019.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to table Master Site Plan Proposal to be conducted by Barry Isett & Associates.

QUESTIONS:

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Mr. Miller said this is the outside of the Memorial Hall. We have \$50,000.00 in the budget to tear the old borough garage down. We know we will put a basketball court or picnic tables there. Why are we paying \$50,000.00 for something that we already know we are going to do.

Borough Manager Sterner said this is a grant project, half of this amount is paid by the grant. The master site plan for the park is a step so we can apply for a grant for new playground equipment and any other kinds of upgrades to the park. We will not be eligible for any of the grant money because we do not have a master site plan. She would have to give back the grant, this is \$25,000.00. We have money in the 2018 budget that was put into the capital reserve fund, some in this budget and we were looking to budget \$5,000.00 in next year's budget.

Mr. McGuire said we went through this in the past with Cowan Associates as our engineer, and that was the way we got grants for the current equipment in the playground. If this is the way to get grants this is the right way to go so, we can get more equipment.

President Strubinger said this would be the opportunity, when the building gets torn down to have a plan.

Borough Manager Sterner said we got the grant last fall.

Mr. McGuire said if we give the grant back, we are putting ourselves in a negative light to receive new grants.

Mr. Miller said he did not like what he saw in BIA, he did not think there is \$50,000.00 worth of work in that scope of work. If we need it for the grant then he would say yes.

Borough Manager Sterner said you accept this or you vote to put out for Requests for Proposals or you vote to stop the project. RFP, there are a whole book of requirements the State has to write them up.

Mr. McGuire asked if the Building Committee could meet with BIA and discuss this further.

President Strubinger said the Buildings and ground committee will meet with them.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second Jay Miller to approve the Memorial Park Ash Tree Removal pending the recommendation of the Buildings and Park Committee.

QUESTIONS:

Mr. Miller asked if we have money for this?

Borough Manager Sterner said yes.

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YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Water CRF PLGIT Term Renewal, for 180 days term of 2.5%.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Edith Lukasevich second Jay Miller to approve the Little Libraries Permit Fees Waiver.

COMMENTS:

Mr. McGuire said the start of this project was the Rotary Club – Clem McGinley, he worked with the CCTI, and the design was built by Zoey Cotton, one of the carpentry class students.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

RUNegades Flagstaff Request

Mr. Miller said we are letting them use the Flagstaff for commercial vehicles when we just banned commercial vehicles for going up there.

Borough Manager Sterner said yes.

Mrs. Klitsch asked what kind of responsibility will we have if something happens?

President Strubinger asked how many busses, one bus?

Michael Ragozzino said the issue they will have is they have 6 busses from MC Lake and 2 from the County lot and they will be taking them up and dropping them off at the Flagstaff Ballroom. The difficulty they will have is they will have to go all the way around, which will take all the busses through downtown Jim Thorpe, this will be a 25 to 30-minute round trip for the busses, they will have to hire more busses.

Mrs. Klitsch asked how many commercial vehicles do you plan to take up the Flagstaff?

Michael Ragozzino said 6 busses, each bus will have one trip

Mr. Mille said we have an ordinance on the books and there and no commercial vehicles permitted.

MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second John McGuire RUNegades Flagstaff request to extend the road closure from 6:45 am to 10:00 am, road is closed to all other traffic.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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Thomas Highland	NO
Edith Lukasevich	NO
John McGuire	YES
Gregory Strubinger	NO
Jay Miller	NO
Joanne Klitsch	NO
Kyle Sheckler	ABSENT

YES 1 NO 5 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: John McGuire second Gregory Strubinger the RUNegades 2020 event will be conditioned upon the satisfaction of this year's event.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to approve the JTNB Community Banking Day on May 3 2019 rain date May 10, 2019.

YES 5 ABSTAIN 1 Jay Miller ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Edith Lukasevich to allow the JT Rotary Summer Recreation Program to use the Memorial Park grounds.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Edith Lukasevich to allow the Hometown Festival to be held on July 6, 2019 rain date July 7, 2019

QUESTIONS:

Mr. McGuire asked if the Fire Chief has been contacted?

PSM Yaich said yes, he talked to Michael Rivkin about the event. The pyrotechnics have guideline that they have to go by, that is up to them to set their set back distances. The only thing is if there would be drought conditions, the borough the county or the state have a drought plan in place that would be the only thing that would stop the fireworks.

Sandy Reese said they will have trees cut down. They will not be putting off the real high fireworks, they will be the lower ones.

Mr. Miller is worried about somebody's roof, that is his concern. We have to keep North Avenue clear for fire equipment or an ambulance to get through. The Borough needs to be added to the insurance for the event.

Borough Manager Sterner said the only outstanding issue is there will be a Police Service Contract that will be needed.

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Sandy Reese said they will have security that will be walking through the event.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland National Night Out on August 6, 2019 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

President Strubinger said we have some concerns about the TNC Working Woodlands, as far as land use what all would be involved with this program.

Borough Manager Sterner said if you would be interested in selling carbon credits on our vacant land to builders that need to increase their carbon credits. She is not familiar with the program; she does not know if there are any kind of restrictions other than the intent is you leave the land, you don't build on the land. The forest plan council does not seem interested in; you have done this not long ago. Just need to ensure that the Borough does not lose any rights to the property. We want to maintain, control and be able to designate what the property is used for.

Borough Manager Sterner said we are looking for permission from Council on what line painting do you want done on Broadway/W. Broadway with Penn Dot's project. They will be painting the center line, cross walks, they are not painting parking lines. We know we need to paint the lines where the kiosks are, those will be done. We need guidance on the rest of Broadway and West Broadway, do you want this painted, this is not included in the budget. We are looking at \$10,000.00 to \$11,000.00 for our labor, then paint, or we could get a price quote.

PSM Yaich said he called 2 companies, they did not get back to him.

MOTION: John McGuire second Thomas Highland to approve D & L Trail DCED Time Extension Request, this will be extended to 12/31/19.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve Wilson Consulting Invoice #14 - \$1,065.82.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve WWTP Upgrade Project Eastern Environmental payment application #28 - \$26,061.75.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve Howard Company payment application #23 - \$2,802.07

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YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve Requisition #32 – \$47,221.94

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to approve the Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (4)

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller to approve the Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (1).

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

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: Thomas Highland second Joanne Klitsch to approve Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (4).

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch Account #2855 requests that Barry Isett & Associates schedule an appointment to inspect the property.

COMMENTS:

Solicitor Nanovic said the resident has 6 commercial units as for garbage and 1 residential for garbage. They have the rights to have their own garbage collection because they are a commercial property. When it comes to water and sewer it has 6 commercial units and 1 residential. Some of these units may not have sewer and water, we don't know if that is true or not. To the extent that they don't have sewer and water it probably would not be appropriate. If there is a unit that does not have water and sewer it probably should not be included as being billed. However, he would have to tell us that they don't have sewer and water in some of those units. A site inspection should be done, he would have to let us in to inspect.

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Borough Manager Sterner said we would schedule the zoning officer to come out and inspect the property.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch that we have our zoning officer schedule an appointment to inspect the property at 77 Broadway.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: Jay Miller second John McGuire to approve Account #9323 Payment Plan.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Tax Exoneration Action

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Thomas Highland to approve George Vetsikas and Karen Hough exoneration requests.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Committees

Administration

Mr. McGuire spoke about the reservoirs being over run by 4 wheelers again. The school uses this for their runs, people use it to walk. He is concerned that someone is going to get hurt.

Mr. Miller said we do have signage there that it is water dept. property, no trespassing.

Mr. McGuire said the tire clean up on Flagstaff Road. We are looking for volunteers from the school, looking to do this April 22, 2019. He will get together with PSM Yaich and JCP Rodgers and discuss the safety issues.

Betty Lou McBride said she has been talking to the Penn Dot engineer about the flooding and storm drains on Broadway. He has been in and said they are trying to find the drain that was in front of Dugan's and the Treasurer Shop.

Mr. Miller said when we did the water main project. The Borough paid to have that over laid curb to curb. At that time, we asked Penn Dot to look at this and they didn't do anything. He said there is a stone channel where that drain would be hooked up to. He does not know exactly where that channel is, he doesn't know where it comes across from the Treasurer Shop to the pizza shop. They will have to do some probing.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Mr. Miller said the Water Dept will be replacing the water main from North St to Center St on 3rd Street.

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Police

MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to give permission for the annual Little League parade to be held on April 27, 2019 at 1:00.

YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Sgt. Bokeko said Officer Oliver had a heroin drug arrest earlier today.

Buildings/Parks

Borough Facility Project Plans

President Strubinger said they have been having several meetings to go over the garage and hall floor plans for Admin/Police offices and the site plans. He said PSM, Police Chief have signed off on these plans, we feel we are ready to move forward.

Mr. McGuire asked if the area here, where we use for the meetings, what are the plans for this?

President Strubinger said at this time we don't have any plans. The hope is to be able to utilize it for community events and open it to the community. The blood drive, non-profits over the years have been put out from having these events. The hall space will be used for community use. We will be upgrading the building, upgrading the building and utilizing the building, we will be all under one building. We did a tax increase to do this. They went over the plans that are attached to the minutes.

Council discussed this for several minutes.

Mrs. Lukasevich stated she thinks the plans are beautiful. She is 100% against the office staff coming over to the hall. She is 100% in favor of the Police moving over to the hall. There is nothing wrong with the building, there is no reason for the office to move over there, this is a waste. This is Memorial Hall, and it was Memorial hall for a reason, for the entertainment of the people. It was not built for an office.

President Strubinger said that was not the intent, times have dictated going in a new direction. This does save Memorial Hall we will maintain the upper level and use it as it was intended as a community space. Over the past 10 years we have put money into this to run it as a business that failed. The building will be upgraded, new windows, doors, HVAC, this addresses these issues and will get this building back in good shape.

Mr. Miller asked on the borough garage, do we have any date on ground breaking?

Borough Manager Sterner said mid-August looking to put both projects out to bid. They want to do some infiltration testing for some of the environmental work at the garage site. The number of pits they want may require some clearing of the trees.

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MOTION: Gregory Strubinger second John McGuire to move forward with the site, floor facade and interior plans for both the Admin/Police, and Public Service projects.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Edith Lukasevich	NO - She is in favor of the Garage & Police Station But not the office	
Thomas Highland	YES	
Joanne Klitsch	YES	
John McGuire	YES	
Gregory Strubinger	YES	
Jay Miller	YES	
Kyle Sheckler	ABSENT	
YES 5	NO 1 Edith Lukasevich	ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

MOTION: John McGuire second Thomas Highland to approve the project update costs as presented.

YES 5	NO 1 Edith Lukasevich	ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler
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Borough Manager Sterner said she is waiting for the proposal for the trees. She will let the Building Committee know.

Emergency Services

Old Business

Permit Parking

Mr. McGuire said the Permit Parking will be discussed at the Planning Commission meeting on April 23, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the hall.

Mr. McGuire said the Immaculate Conception Church thanks everyone for allowing them to use the hall for the Egg Hunt.

Readdressing Phase II

Executive Session

Personnel

Litigations

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MOTION: Jay Miller second Thomas Highland to adjourn and go into executive session for personnel and litigation.

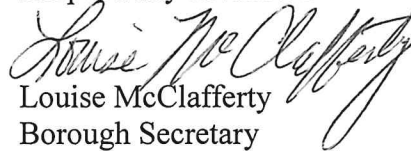
YES 6

NO 0

ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted


Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary