Jim Thorpe Borough Council

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving our county, our first responders and their families and those impacted by the Coronavirus.

**Roll Call of Members**

Gregory Strubinger Joanne Klitsch Edith Lukasevich - absent

Kyle Sheckler Mike Yeastedt Bob Schaninger

Thomas Highland Mayor Sofranko Solicitor Nanovic JCP Connor Rodger Police Chief Schatz PSM Yaich – absent Manager Sterner Louise McClafferty – absent Engineer - absent

**Public Hearing** – none

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Sofranko asked if there were any questions on the submitted police report; there were none. The Mayor thanked Jarrad Hedes of the Times News for the nice article reporting on the Christmas happenings within the Borough during this difficult year.

**Announcements**

Thank You – Christmas

* Crystal Springs Tree Farm – Community Tree in Memorial Park
* Marzen Hardware – lights for tree
* JT Community Watch – lights for tree
* JTHS Honor Society, JCP Connor Rogers President – Memorial Park decorations
* JT Lions – Snowflakes on bridge
* Kresge Electric – installation of Snowflakes
* JTTA – decorations in Josiah White Park
* Sam Miller Field – Remembrance Christmas Tree

UCC Joint Board of Appeals Board Vacancy

Board/Commission Seats Available

* Position Term Expires
* Library Board 1 Year 12/31/21
* Vacancy Board 1 Year 01/03/22
* Planning Commission 4 Year 12/31/24
* Planning Commission 4 Year 12/31/24
* Shade Tree Commission 5 Year 12/31/25
* Zoning Hearing Board 5 Year 12/31/25
* Property Maintenance Board 5 Year 01/05/26
* Civil Service Commission 6 Year 01/05/27

There was an executive session held before this meeting for personnel.

**SALDO**

**Ogden/Bennick Minor Subdivision** – MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to accept the grant of an extension of time for the Borough to make a decision until April 1, 2021. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

**Public Comment**

James DiRado addressed Council requesting relief from paying a garbage bill, as he is not a full-time resident. He takes his trash home and does not believe it is fair he should pay. After discussion, **Council took no action on his request**. He will continue to be billed for, and expected to pay for, the service.

Jake Arner – short-term rental ordinances should be treated equally under the law. Questioned driveway permit he applied for. President Strubinger informed him the intent was to make the change for the Special zoning district so that all short-term rentals do follow the same procedure. Manager Sterner said she would check on the permit.

**Action**

With regret, Council President read a letter of resignation rendered by Councilperson Edith Lukasevich. MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch, **to accept, with thanks and regret, the resignation of Edith Lukasevich, to be effective January 1, 2021**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0. Council President Strubinger thanked Edie for all of her service to the Borough.

After discussion, MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to **solicit interest in the position by advertising with a notice on the Borough’s website and an advertisement in the newspaper and for interest to be submitted by December 30, 2020**. After comments, motioned carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve the **November 16, 2020 public meeting minutes.** No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyler Sheckler to approve the **November 19, 2020 meeting minutes.** No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve the **expenditures** from all funds as presented in the amount of $260,803.44. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve the October **treasurer’s report.** No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

President Strubinger discussed the proposed 2021 budgets. The general fund is proposing a 2.56 tax mill increase, primarily for the Memorial Hall renovation project and the new public service garage. Existing public service garage and area will be turned over to the park. Possible future millage increase will depend upon the bids received for the projects. The water fund is proposing a 5% increase; sewer and sanitation funds propose no increase. We are not expecting fee increases for the water and sewer funds for the next few years. We also are not expecting an increase for the sanitation fund while the current contract is in place. We won’t know about new contracts until they occur. The 2021 tax mills will be 16.01 which is 15.01 for general purposes and 1 for fire equipment. MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler, to approve the **2021 Budgets as presented.** After comments, motion carried 5 to 1 with Bob Schaninger voting no.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to adopt **Ordinance 2020-08, the Tax Levy for 2021**. No comments. Motion carried 5 to 1 with Bob Schaninger voting no.

MOITON by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Tom Highland, to approve the **Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Jim Thorpe Police Department and the Borough of Jim Thorpe for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.** No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to **adopt Resolution 2020-22 setting the Police Pension Officer’s Contribution for the 2021 year.** There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to adopt **Resolution 2020-23, the Borough’s non-uniform pension contribution for the 2021 year.** After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeasted, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve the **extension of the Disaster Declaration for the COVID Disaster to March 20, 2021.** After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to **schedule and advertise a Public Meeting for December 30, 2020 at 6:30 pm.** The meeting will be to close out the 2020 year, pay bills, address board & commission appointments, short term rental next steps and any other business which may come before the council. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Tom Highland to accept the high bid of $775.00 for the **sale of the police Crown Victoria.** After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

Emergency Services Chairman Kyle Sheckler informed council the committee is recommending accepting the low bid of $745,903.00 submitted by KME for the rescue pumper and rejecting all pumper/tanker bids and investigating COSTARS for that vehicle. MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to accept the low bid of $745,903.00 submitted by KME for the **rescue pumper** and rejecting all **pumper/tanker bids.** Bob Schaninger asked which truck was needed more and why they are recommending buying 2 pieces of equipment at the same time. They will need to be replaced again at the same time and that puts a big burden on the borough. Kyle Sheckler explained these two vehicles will be replacing three vehicles. Mike Yeastedt explained that one station is replacing two vehicles with one. The two vehicles are older and value is reduced. The second station is replacing a vehicle that is not quite as old, providing a higher sale amount to be put toward the new purchases. Kyle Sheckler explained that waiting 5 years for the second purchase will only increase the cost of a new vehicle, most likely by about $500,000.00, as the estimates they have received for annual increase is 10% to 12%. Bob Schaninger stated he believes the increase would only be 5% to 7% per year. He still doesn’t see the logic in purchasing two large cost items at the same time. In 20 years, we will again need two new vehicles. After comments, motion carried 5 to 1 with Bob Schaninger voting no.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch **to approve/ratify the Agreement with Job Connection Services for employment services.** There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Kyle Sheckler, seconded by Tom Highland to approve an **hourly rate of $13.50 for part-time, temporary office help** through the employment service. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to release the **Letter of Credit placed for maintenance security on the Jim Thorpe Market Expansion Projec**t, effective January 6, 2021. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve **Entech Engineering’s Work Order for the 2020 Chapter 94 Report** in the amount of $2,800.00. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve **Entech Engineering’s Work Order for the Church Alley Water Main Project,** in the amount of $21,200.00, **conditioned upon the Public Service Manager’s approval**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch, to approve **a waiver of the fees for the Sam Miller Field skating rink zoning permit application.** A zoning permit must still be acquired. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

**Utility Action**

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Tom Highland to approve the **Garbage Only Lien Report**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report.** No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve a **Payment Plan for Account 4835.** No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

**Exoneration Request**

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Tom Highland to approve an **occupation tax exoneration request of Tony Wolfe.** No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

**Committees**

Administration

Permit Parking – council group of Mike Yeastedt, Greg Strubinger and Mayor Sofranko. This is on next week’s office work for the purpose of scheduling a meeting of the group.

Short-term rentals ordinances – this item will be on the December 30 agenda for the purposes of authorizing the proposed ordinances be sent to Jim Thorpe Borough Planning Commission and the Carbon County Planning Commission for the required 30-day review and for council to consider scheduling and advertising a public hearing on the zoning amendment for February 11, 2021 during council’s regular monthly meeting.

Public Services - none

Police – none

Buildings/Parks – none

Emergency Services – none

**Old Business**

No updates.

Council President Greg Strubinger wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilperson Joanne Klitsch thanked Junior Council Person Connor Rogers for all of his hard work in the park.

**Adjourn**

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to adjourn. Motion carried 6 to 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Maureen Sterner

Borough Manager