

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2021
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Gregory Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for the men and women serving our country, our first responders, those affected by the virus and their families.

Roll Call of Members

Gregory Strubinger	Thomas Highland	Joanne Klitsch
Jay Miller	Kyle Sheckler	Michael Yeastedt
Robert Schaninger - absent	Mayor Michael Sofranko	Solicitor Nanovic
Connor Rodgers, JCP	Police Chief Schatz	Public Service Manager Yaich
Manager Sterner	Borough Engineer – absent	Secretary Louise McClafferty - absent

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko stated the police report has been distributed; police will be out; please adhere to posted speed limits.

Announcements

SALDO

Ogden/Bennick Subdivision – MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to **accept a time extension** for a period of 6 months, **to September 11, 2021**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Public Comment

Kurt Jackson – via email – commented on shooting in Glen Onoko Estates.

Bill Malatak – commented on the small water grant extension; Silk Mill; Liberties trees; downtown sidewalks at train tracks; county parking lot proposed work and reservoirs.

Jacob Martinez – reviewed the Keystone Backyard Ultra Marathon before Council (item BB). MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Keystone Backyard Ultra event** for May 22 through May 23, 2021.

Mark Reitz – commented on shooting ranges in Glen Onoko Estates.

Brandon Fogel – commented on the 2nd Amendment sanctuary status; language too broad.

Dee Reitz – commented on target ranges and shooting.

Bod Dages – commented on ordinances; opposed to the short-term rental ordinance.

Jessica Crowley – commented on the 2nd Amendment sanctuary status; she is opposed.

Marissa Strohlein – commented on the 2nd Amendment sanctuary status; she is opposed.

Action

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **minutes of February 4, 2021**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

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MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **minutes of February 11, 2021**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Jay Miller to approve the **bills** as presented. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Treasurer's Report** for February. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve an **extension to the COVID Disaster Declaration to June 20, 2021**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to adopt **Ordinance 2021-01, an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to provide for short-term rentals**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTIN by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to adopt **Ordinance 2021-02, setting regulations and requiring permits for short-term rentals**. No comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Jay Miller to authorize the Solicitor to advertise for consideration an **Ordinance to amend the Parking Ordinance to increase snow event ticket fees and designating a portion of Oak Street as no parking**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to adopt **Resolution 2021-04, Fees Schedule 2021**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to adopt **Resolution 2021-05 authorizing the application to DCNR for a grant** for Memorial Park improvements. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to **approve the project for the DCNR Memorial Park grant application**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0. Items include playground equipment for 2- to 5-year-old section; stand-alone fitness pieces; associated work.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to **approve a proposal from Barry Isett for the Memorial Park grant project**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Jay Miller to approve **Tammy Stong leave time**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to offer to **Applicant #36 employment to fill the utility secretary/billing position** at \$14.00 per hour. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOITON by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Jay Miller to offer to **Applicant #223 employment to fill the truck driver/laborer position** as per the Teamsters' collective bargaining agreement. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Jay Miller to **appoint Michael Rivkin to the Police Pension Board**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

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MOTION by Greg Strubinger to **appoint Bob Dages to the UCC Joint Board of Appeals**. There was no second. Motion died.

MOTION by Tom Highland, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve an **addendum to the Jim Thorpe Police/Jim Thorpe Borough Collective Bargaining Agreement** providing for a time extension for the **DROP Program** to be completed. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve the **Employment Application Policy** as presented. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve the **Engineer Work Policy** as presented. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

A discussion on the proposed 2021 street projects took place. Mike Yeastedt is recommending we complete paving and curb installation on Front Street from Center Street to South Street. No stormwater items to be included. We will work on Center Street as another project. Have borough personnel complete the excavation for the curbing to save property owners some cost. **MOTION by Jay Miller to complete the project as Mike Yeastedt proposed. Jay Miller amended his motion to include that property owners would be responsible to pay for the cost of curbing.** This is approximately 4 properties in addition to the borough as an owner of Twining Park. Andrew Roberts mentioned other municipalities have financed the costs for property owners. Council discussed contacting the banks to see if we can get them to help property with financing. If owners don't pay for the curbing, we would lien the property. The two other roads on the proposed 2021 list were 8th Street and 2nd Street. Both will be off the table unless we should have funds left. President Strubinger called for a roll call vote:

Greg Strubinger	Yes
Mike Yeastedt	Yes
Joanne Klitsch	Yes
Jay Miller	Yes
Kyle Sheckler	Yes
Tom Highland	Yes

After comments, motion carried 6 to 0. The Borough Manager was instructed to contact the stormwater management engineer, Barry Isett, to complete the work for the curbing.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to **accept the proposal from Mauch Chunk Trust Company for a lease purchase for the 2020 Freightliner**. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Jay Miller to approve the **Street Sweeper Agreement** with Lehighton Borough. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve and ratify the **time extension request to December 31, 2021 to DCED for the 2018 PA Small Water Grant for Church Alley**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Memorandum of Understanding and Project Plan between the Borough and Wildlands for dam work** in the borough. There were no comments. Motion carried unanimously.

Second Amendment Sanctuary Status – there was no action taken on this item.

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Dimmick Library Representative Chris Lukasevich email regarding **Dr. Seuss books**. Councilmen Miller and Strubinger are not for taking away anyone's choice. Councilman Yeastedt felt they could be moved to the stacks. It was stated that a librarian shouldn't be choosing which books someone reads. After discussion. MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to take no action with respect to the communication from Chris; inform Chris that he should take no action, or leave the books on the shelf, which is option #1 of those presented. We do not want to start censoring. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Black Forest Krampusnacht Festival** for Dec. 4, including the closure of Packer Hill Road, if required. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0. A police contract will be completed closer to the date of the event.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Jay Miller to approve **the Lisa Napoletano Running with the Angels** foot race event for May 8. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approved the **CORRECTED Requisition 46** in the amount of \$30,087.77. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTIN by Kyle Sheckler, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve **Entech invoice 72015** in the amount of \$1,441.25 for the WWTP upgrade project. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

Utility Action

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Jay Miller to approve the **payment plan for account 7500**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Exoneration Request

None.

Committees

Administration

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to cancel the **April 1, 2021 work session** meeting. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

Public Services (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Yost Stormwater Inspection Fees – council instructed to notify Mr. Yost that this issue must be resolved by the next meeting or council will consider a vote to take him to court. Council is agreeable to a payment plan.

Tamaqua Transfer Request – Leisureland area – Tamaqua is researching possible options for collection in this area.

Police

Mayor Sofranko informed council that he has authorized police assistance for a funeral scheduled for Saturday as this will be an unusually large attendance event. He has authorized the closure of 6th Street from North Street to School Street from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Mayor Sofranko informed council that borough churches will again be conducting their bell ringing on Easter, as they began last year during the height of the pandemic.

Buildings/Parks – n/a

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Emergency Services

Pre-construction meetings for the new firetrucks are scheduled or have been completed; new vehicles will go into production shortly.

Old Business

Flizak Request – 4th St Quit Claim Deed

457 Plan – was scheduled for the April 1 work session; will re-schedule.

Parking Study

Readdressing Phase II

Blight Landbank

Parking Ordinance Amendment – permit parking West Broadway

Executive Session

Litigation – will be held after this meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION by Tom Highland, second by Kyle Sheckler to adjourn and go into an executive session for litigation. Motion carried 6 to 0.

The meeting ended at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sterner
Borough Manager