

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2021
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:31 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	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; commented on a high-speed chase; the reopening of tourism, expecting large influx; asked all to follow CCD & State guidelines; April 17 is opening day for Little League, parade will be held this year, off of main streets. Chief Schatz reported that 17 tickets have been issued and 4 vehicles towed in conjunction with street sweeping, overall, it went well.

Announcements

Council President Strubinger introduced and welcomed two new borough employees – Kim Witting, utility secretary and Larz Barnes, truck driver/laborer.

Spring Tire & Electronic Recycling is scheduled for May 15 from 7:00 am to 11:30 am at the public service garage.

SALDO

None

Public Comment

Summit Hill Councilman David Wargo addressed Council regarding support including letters and a resolution pertaining to Fair Funding for PA School Districts. MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to adopt Resolution 2021-08 supporting the Fair Funding for PA School Districts, provided the clause included in the draft pertaining to litigation of school district be removed. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

D & L Corridor requested a letter of support for a DCNR grant application for a trail project being completed by Lehigh Canal Recreation Commission in Weissport. MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Jay Miller to provide a letter of support for the grant application. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

Lou Hall commented on the school resolution support.

Mark Reitz commented on shooting in Glen Onoko Estates.

Dee Reitz commented on off range shooting; urged ordinance to ban shooting in residential areas.

Bill Malatak commented on the sidewalk downtown near train tracks; D & L Trail; county not paying for services.

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Action

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Tom Highland to approve the **minutes of March 4, 2021**. No comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Tom Highland to approve the **minutes of March 11, 2021**. No comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve the **bills** as presented. No comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Kyle Sheckler, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Treasurer's Report** for February. Councilman Jay Miller stated he is concerned about the water income, as it appears low. Manager said she would review the numbers. After comments, motion carried 6 to 1 with Jay Miller voting no.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Tom Highland to adopt **Ordinance 2021-03, Parking Ordinance Amendment pertaining to snow event ticket amounts and no parking on a portion of Oak St.** After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to **authorize the manager to transfer non-operating funds into products that will provide for the optimum rates, considering funds availability**. Manager Sterner noted MCTC savings accounts are currently offering the best rates and all funds will be available. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to adopt approve a **funding commitment letter in the amount of \$79,919.00 for the DCNR Memorial Park Grant Application**. It was noted this is lower than original estimates. No comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to **advertise for public service part time & seasonal applications**. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to award the **2021 Chemical Bids to the low bidders as presented**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Greg Strubinger, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the **proposal from NCR Payroll Services for updated payroll services**. After discussion and comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve a **Payroll Direct Deposit Policy**. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve **Resolution 2021-07, authorizing the sale of the 2001 GMC Dump Truck with snow removal equipment via Municibid**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **JT Summer Recreation Program** for June 14 to August 5. JT Rotary will be following appropriate COVID guidelines. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Tom Highland to approve **National Night Out** for August 3 with a rain date of August 4. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

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Mayor Sofranko reported that the **Community Watch** will begin their meetings again in May.

MOITON by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve the transfer of **Handicap Sign Applicant at 233 W Broadway**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

D & L Trail Stretching Station proposal – Dr. Patrick Holland proposes installing a station on the trail within the Borough's boundaries. Council would like information on maintenance, insurance costs, zoning & building permit costs, support of the D&L and Lehigh Canal Recreation Commission. The item was tabled until further information can be obtained.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Jay Miller to approve the **Certificate of Substantial Completion for Mr. Rehab** for the WWTP Upgrade project. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to adopt **Resolution 2021-06, JTB Certification of Final Completion & Environmental Mitigation Measures** for the WWTP Upgrade project. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

Bob Schaninger questioned sending a letter to ADA regarding the **sidewalk downtown**. Councilman Miller suggested a letter to the county citing a safety issue; if there is an ownership issue, they should go to the railroad to get an easement. MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Jay Miller to send a letter to the county, ADA enforcement organization (Dept. of Justice?), carbon copy the county, PennDOT, Representative Heffley. After further discussion, motion WITHDRAWN by Bob Schaninger, second WITHDRAWN by Jay Miller.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Bob Schaninger to forward a letter to PennDOT and Carbon County citing a public safety hazard and informing them if no action is taken, council will consider ADA implications; request a response by the next council meeting. Motion carried 7 to 0.

2021 Streets Projects - council reviewed estimates received from the stormwater engineer. Bob Schaninger asked for an explanation on the curb machine and if it would be cheaper. Public Service Manager Yaich did not know. Bob Schaninger also asked if we need to change our ordinance in order to use such a machine. Vince said he could meet the height but the tapering does not match. This item will be on hold until estimates can be obtained from a company who has a curbing machine to complete that portion of the project.

Utility Action

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Tom Highland to approve the **payment plan for account 3660**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

Exoneration Request

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the exoneration requests of **James McKiernan, John Rimsky and Maureen Weiss**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

Committees

Administration

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Jay Miller to approve **resuming the issuance of vendor permits**. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

Public Services (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Yost Stormwater Inspection Fees – it was reported that payment 1 of 3 has been received.

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Police – n/a

Buildings/Parks – n/a

Emergency Services

- a. An update on **address items on Chipmunk Trail area** were discussed. MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Kyle Sheckler that we contact residents at necessary addresses to discuss re-addressing. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.
- b. Councilman Miller reported to council the status of the old wood bay window at the Diligent and the need for repairs. This item is included in an LSA grant application. We will contact Representative Heffley for grant funds and obtain an updated quote. Include the little roof to the right of the window near the lettering, wood at the top is deteriorating.

Old Business

No updates

Executive Session

Litigation – will be held after this meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION by Kyle Sheckler, second by Tom Highland to adjourn and go into an executive session for litigation. Motion carried 7 to 0.

The meeting ended at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sterner
Borough Manager