

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Gregory Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders and their families.

Roll Call of Members & Officials

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

Public Hearing

A. Ordinance 2021-08, Zoning Ordinance Amendment

No comments from the public.

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to advertise for adoption of ordinance 2021-08 zoning ordinance amendment.

Questions:

Mr. Yeastedt spoke about the maximum height of townhouse shall be 35 feet or three stories. It doesn't reference anything that is in the chart as far as lot widths, setbacks, or anything of that nature. He is curious how this works? If we only mention on the chart, single family detached, and non-residential uses but we allow the townhouses and the only specification is it shall be 35 feet. Does any other thing apply to the townhouses?

Solicitor Nanovic said probably not. This was brought up by the manager, and we should correct this the next time we amend the ordinance.

Borough Manager Sterner will ask Carson Helfrige about this because we are doing the update on this now.

Mr. Yeastedt said the semi-detached you should talk to Carson about that too.

Motion carried 5 to 2 absent - Tom Highland & Bob Schaninger

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko said everyone received a copy of the Police report. Halloween parade is on October 23 from 2:00 pm. The fire police from the surrounding communities will be helping with traffic control. Trick or treat will be held on October 30 from 5-7pm.

You will see the disaster declaration, there are budget meeting and reorganization, re-election of members coming up and he doesn't want this to get lost in the shuffle. The concern is not knowing what the federal government is going to do. This is best that we have this on file, because this will leave us open for any monies that would become available for grants. The other item he has is the new vehicle is scheduled for lettering.

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Announcements

Fall Tire & Electronic Recycling – October 16; 7:00 am to 11:00 am
Halloween Parade – October 23; 2:00 pm (rain date October 24)
Trick or Treat – October 30; 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

SALDO

Public Comment – limited to 1 minute per person – public is encouraged to submit public comments via regular mail, email or place in drop box at municipal office

Michael Rivkin, 5 W Broadway, spoke about fall foliage event happening in town. The events committee is proof in the pudding. The fire police did an excellent job, command post, limiting the vendors was a good call. They spent zero dollars in advertising this year.

Bill Malatak, 1342 Germantown Road, spoke about the last storm they were out of power for 3 days and the PPL pole is the main power for the pump house in Germantown. This PPL pole is a disgrace, if that pole goes down, they will be out of power again.

Borough Manager Sterner said she will get someone to get the pole number for her and contact PPL tomorrow.

PSM Yaich said they keep getting Pa One calls every 10 days for that pole and the one at the gate. He knows they will be coming out to replace the pole when they get there that he can't tell you.

Bill Malatak said there is a hole around the turn by the barn in Germantown. He said further on in town, the high school holding pond, and spill way down to Germantown where it goes underneath the road some of those rocks are washed down under the road and are actually blocking the flow. Get the high school to fix their problem there before there are problems in the winter time.

Borough Manager Sterner said she will contact the Jim Thorpe School District about this.

Bill Malatak spoke about the traffic on Susquehanna St being backed up because of the work the county is doing and the loss of revenue. He spoke about the sidewalk by the railroad by the telephone pole, how is that person to safely get down across the street. This is a safety issue.

Mr. Yeastedt said the railroad bought that property. They own the property from the end of the sidewalk to where the parking begins. Until we can find a way to negotiate to get something done.

Dan Long, 330 South St, he has been receiving letters to separate his water line. He understands what he has to do. He requested an extension until the end of April or May, to save money to do this.

MOTION: Jay Miller second Michael Yeastedt to get a written agreement with Dan Long for separating the common waterline until April 30, 2022.

Comments:

Borough Manager Sterner said the process that the borough has been using is when the property is sold and it has joint water or sewer line at that time the owners are notified, they have to separate.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

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Jake Arner said there is a traffic hazard on Flagstaff Road in front of the Flagstaff there is a big pothole, this should be filled in.

Action

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to approve Council Meeting Minutes from September 2, 2021.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Jay Miller second Michael Yeastedt to approve Council Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2021.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Jay Miller second Michael Yeastedt to approve the Expenditures from all Funds as presented.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Jay Miller second Michael Yeastedt to approve the Treasurer's Report.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Jay Miller second Michael Yeastedt to approve the Disaster Declaration – COVID – to January 14, 2022.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Kyle Sheckler to adopt Ordinance 2021-06, Deferred Retirement Option Program (Police).

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Gregory Strubinger to TABLE the adoption of Ordinance 2021-07, Vehicular & Traffic amendment, parking first block of Broadway.

Questions:

Mr. Yeastedt said we currently have an ordinance in place that limits the parking on Broadway to the marked areas. They have to be parked inside the line. He spoke about subcompact vehicles parking there, they would be partially outside the box. The lines you would put down, it would be worse. He thinks we need an engineer to lay out the angles and the line that are needed to do this. So, we are able to enforce it you have to be inside the lines. He proposes this be table for a month until we figure out the angles, we need to enforce this.

Mayor Sofranko said in the beginning people said they can't get up and down Broadway, this is creating a safety hazard, emergency vehicles cannot make it up and down Broadway. We were asked to come up with the best solution and not loss any parking. Now if you bring an engineer in to change all the angles on all the parking on Broadway, which could mean addition or probably elimination of parking spots. We came back with a simple sign that says subcompact cars or compact cars only. There is a safety concern when you cannot get traffic up and down Broadway.

Mr. Yeastedt asked what are we going to do about the unloading zone? Is that only for subcompact cars?

Police Chief Schatz said he does not think we can address that one, if it's a loading zone they aren't going to park there for hours, they are going to load and unload and move on.

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**MOTION BY MICHAEL YEASTEDT SECOND BY GREGORY STRUBINGER TO
WITHDRAWAL THE TABLING OF ORDINANCE #2021-07.**

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Jay Miller adopt Ordinance 2021-07, Vehicles & Traffic Amendment; parking first block of Broadway.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to adopt Resolution 2021-17, LSA Monroe Grant, Jim Thorpe Little League Field Equipment - \$25,714.47 (replaces 2021-16)

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller to adopt Resolution 2021-18, Sale of 2003 Dodge.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller to accept the high bid amount of \$7,400.00 Fire Department 2003 Dodge Bids.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch to approve the 2021 Line-Item Transfers

- a. General Fund
- b. Sanitation Fund
- c. Sewer Fund
- d. Water Fund

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Jay Miller second Michael Yeastedt to approve the Foreign Firemen's Insurance Disbursement to Mauch Chunk Relief Association - \$20,808.54.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to approve Kim Wittig as a full-time employment for the borough.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller to approve the resignation of James Mason as the Uniform Construction Code member.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller to approve the Blight Remediation Grant Projects Leighton Borough – Keystone Consulting Engineers Invoices 177507 - \$345.00 & 178790 - \$115.00 paid.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to approve Keystone Consulting Engineers Invoice 179134 - \$3,576.50.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt to approve LaBella Asbestos Testing Proposal - \$3,800.00.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

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MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller to approve Church Alley - Pioneer Payment Application #5 – \$109,920.20.

Question:

Mr. Miller said there was a gentleman that had a problem with a fence, was that taken care of?

Borough Manager Sterner said yes.

PSM Yaich said we still are holding the retainage on this.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to TABLE the Strubinger Request for Action – curbing until such time the Public Service Manager and committees have a chance to look at these situations, until we get a plan of action to address this area.

YES 4

ABSTAIN 1 Greg Strubinger ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Gregory Strubinger to approve the American Legion Veteran's Day Parade – Nov. 7 (rain date Nov. 14).

Questions:

Mr. Yeastedt asked if the route was resolved.

Police Chief Schatz spoke to Henry Desrosiers and Penn Dot does not now require you to get a permit. They have the plans in place. He did tell him next year we are going to have everyone do the route across 9th St down Lehigh St.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to approve PA Attorney General – request Hall use for Training Nov 9.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Gregory Strubinger to advertise the Stormwater Management Ordinance Proposed Updates Work Session – Oct. 20, 6:30 pm

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Stormwater Management Notice

- a. 924 Laurel Street
- b. 150 West 13th Street
- c. 390 Chapman Street
- d. 322 West 10th Street

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

- Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (5)

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

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

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to approve the Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (1)

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

- Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)
- Temporary Off Lien Report (0)
- Inactive (0)

Uncollectible Accounts Report (0)

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller to approve the Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (12)

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller to approve account #8810 Payment Plan.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

Exoneration Request

MOTION: Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch to approve the exoneration monthly report.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

Committees

Administration

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

No updates on the 2021 Street Project – Front Street

Police

Buildings/Parks

Emergency Services

Old Business

- A. Brummell Request – to take unopened portion of Quarry St.
- B. Readdressing Phase II
- C. Blight Landbank
- D. UCC Joint Board of Appeals Appointment
- E. Facilities Projects
- F. Chipmunk Trail Addressing

Executive Session

- A. Litigation
- B. Personnel

Adjourn

MOTION: Jay Miller second Kyle Sheckler to adjourn and go into executive session for litigation.

YES 5

ABSENT 2 Bob Schaninger & Tom Highland

7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted


Louise McClafferty, Borough Secretary