

JIM THORPE BOROUGH WORKSHOP  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021  
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. by President Gregory Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders and their families and for those suffering effects of the recent storm.

**Roll Call of Members**

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

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Sofranko asked if there were any questions or concerns on the police report. The Mayor complimented the Chief and the Department on their professionalism during the challenging week they experienced.

**Announcements**

Pocono Mountains Visitor Bureau Pick Up the Poconos Day is September 25. See the PMVB website for details and to sign up.

Fall tire and electronic recycling scheduled for October 16, 7:00 to 11:00 am at the borough garage.

Trick or Treat – October 30, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

**SALDO**

Ogden/Bennick – MOTION by Jay Miller, Seconded by Mike Yeastedt to accept the extension of time from the applicant for a 1-year period. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0. The time extension expires on September 10, 2022.

**Public Comment**

Maria Lloyd of Artisinal Gifts by Mabacol – addressed the council regarding bullying and cyber-crimes. She has been working with Detective Marzen and JTPD to assist with their efforts to implement a bullying program with the Jim Thorpe Area School District. Ms. Lloyd was a victim of bullying and has worked to pull herself through this and has started a mentoring program with her business.

Representative Heffley and Principal Leisisko spoke on Ms. Lloyd's courage and determination and that she is a tremendous asset to our community, especially our young people. Detective Marzen spoke on developing this program which they hope to be a pilot program, someday expanding through all of Carbon County. He accepted a \$500.00 donation from Ms. Lloyd to assist with starting the program.

Michael Rivkin – spoke on behalf of JTTA and provided an update on the fall festival planning; also commented that Maria and Mabacol are assets to the business community.

Carbon County Highway Occupancy Permit – Tony Ganguzza spoke on behalf of the County regarding Highway Occupancy Permits for water service at the County's Susquehanna Street project. He apologized that paperwork was completed prior to presenting to Council. Councilman Miller commented on the error. MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to ratify the **HOP Supplement for new water service to 76 Susquehanna** and approve the application for a second **HOP Supplement for capping/disconnecting of the three old water lines** that will be taken out of service, conditioned upon review and approval of the Public Service Manager that all service is shut off to 76 Susquehanna. There

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were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0. Manager Sterner did remind Mr. Ganguzza that borough water service permits will be needed for both of these items. Commissioner Rocky Arner thanked Council and apologized for missing the notification/approval for these HOPs.

John McGuire and Chris Lukasevich reported on the Dimmick Library and informed council that they will be hosting councils and others at the library to see how operations have changed from years ago and how the borough's donation helps.

John McGuire commented on the Planning Commission busy schedule; meeting with manager to keep progress moving forward; commented on Maria Lloyd.

Lights in the Park – Adrienne Allen of Raising the House and Jeremy Barbosa of Relight Outdoor Décor discussed the proposed event at Mauch Chunk Lake Park for the last weekend in November through the first weekend of January. MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Lights in the Park** event as presented. After comments, motion carried 5 to 0.

Mark Reitz – commented on the excellent job the borough did with stormwater management; discharge of firearms.

**Action**

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **August 5, 2021 meeting minutes**. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **August 12, 2021 meeting minutes**. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **August 24, 2021 meeting minutes**. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **expenditures** as presented. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Treasurer's Report** as presented. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve an extension to the **Disaster Declaration for COVID** to October 15, 2021. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to ratify the **Disaster Declaration for the IDA storm**. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Ordinance 2021-04, Streets & Sidewalks Amendment; curbing standards**. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the **Ordinance 2021-05, Vehicles & Traffic Amendment; permit parking downtown**. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Police Collective Bargaining Agreement Addendum for Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)**. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the advertising of the Proposed **Ordinance for the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)**. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Jay Miller to approve the advertising of a Proposed **Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance Amendment for parking in the first block of Broadway**, with a correction to the wording to include both compact and subcompact cars. After comments, motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve **Resolution 2021-14**, Authorizing application for an **LSA Monroe Grant for Memorial Park Phase I Construction** in the amount of \$159,838.88. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Memorial Park Grant funding commitment of \$32,000.00** for a match. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve Resolution 2021-15, Authorizing application for an **LSA Monroe Grant for Community Center PA System/Electronics** in the amount of \$32,099.00. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve Resolution 2021-16, Authorizing application for an **LSA Monroe Grant for Jim Thorpe Little League McGarvey's Field Equipment** in the amount of \$19,584.47. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **2022 Police Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation** of \$155,949.00. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **2022 Non-Uniform Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation** of \$131,056.00. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve **Police Policies – Special Order 1.14**. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Police Operation Plan – Fall Festival**. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Blight Remediation Grant** Projects Items:

- **Engineering proposal** from Barry Isett for \$15,000.00 for work on demolition of **204 Center Ave, Jim Thorpe Borough**
- **Engineering proposal** from Keystone Consulting Engineer for work on **demolition of 209 North 1<sup>st</sup> Steet, Lehighton Borough**
- Low bid from Todd Green General Contracting for **demolition of 509 & 511 Lehigh Ave, Palmerton Borough**

After comments, motion carried 5 to 0.

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MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Church Alley – Pioneer Payment Application #4 for \$119,500.50**. After comments, motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Onoko Bay Floor Repair estimate** from Lienhard for \$5,300.00. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt, to schedule and advertise the **2022 Budget meetings** for Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10 and 17, only as needed, 6:30 pm in Memorial Hall. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION BY Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to authorize the solicitor and manager to begin the process to **review requirements and information for a parking authority**. After comments, motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Robert Schaninger to approve the **Strubinger Subdivision Sewage Planning Module**. After comments, motion carried 4-0-1 with Greg Strubinger abstaining.

**Utility Action**

There were no lien reports.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Payment Plan for Account #3215** as presented. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **Payment Plan for Account #6547** as presented. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

**Exoneration Request**

None.

**Committees**

**Administration**

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment (STR nonconforming lots, hotels, regulation tables updates) – public hearing scheduled for Oct. 14, 2021.

**Public Services (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)**

Jay Miller commented on the Dili bay window; Church Alley is almost done, will then move to finish School Street; hope to start High Street soon.

2021 Street Project – Front Street – no update.

**Police**

**Buildings/Parks**

Facilities Projects – Solicitor Nanovic does not believe we can use COSTARS for the projects. He believes the COSTARS vendor can bid on the projects, but they should be bid.

**Emergency Services**

Fire Chief Yaich is recommending the 1993 Dodge be placed on Municibid for sale, it is no longer needed, with proceeds going towards the new fire trucks. MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike

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Yeastedt to **place the 1993 Dodge fire vehicle on Municibid for sale**. After comments, motion carried 5 to 0.

Jay Miller stated he will be signing an addendum on the new truck for a filtration system; this is within the quoted price for the truck; delivery expected December; awaiting new title on the vehicle we will be selling.

**Old Business**

No updates

**Executive Session**

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Jay Miller to **go into executive session** at 7:53 pm for personnel and litigation matters. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Council returned to the meeting at 8:10 pm.

MOTION by Jay Miller, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to grant Louise McClafferty **unpaid leave** to September 19, 2021, conditioned upon the submittal of verification of quarantine necessity due to COVID exposure notice. After comments, motion carried 5 to 0.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to adjourn. Motion carried 5 to 0.

The meeting ended at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sterner  
Borough Manager