

JIM THORPE BOROUGH MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2022  
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:32 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. The meeting was held in Memorial Hall, 115 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229.

**Roll Call of Members**

|                     |                              |                   |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Gregory Strubinger  | Thomas Highland – via phone  | Joanne Klitsch    |
| Kyle Sheckler       | Michael Yeastedt             | Robert Schaninger |
| Jessica Crowley     | Mayor Michael Sofranko       | Solicitor Nanovic |
| Police Chief Schatz | Public Service Manager Yaich | Manager Sterner   |

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Sofranko asked if there were any questions or concerns on the police report. The Mayor spoke on a reduction in snow tickets; working with residents on permit parking; new car obtained from grant funds due for delivery later this month. Chief Schatz commented on the permit parking transitioning; National Night Out and Community Watch to be held April through September (no July).

**Announcements**

Jim Thorpe Shade Tree Committee has investigated a Bare Roots Tree Grant Program for Twining Park; this will be reviewed again for next year.

The Borough was awarded a DEP Growing Greener Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 for a Silk Mill Stream Restoration with dam removal project.

The Borough has registered as a vendor for the Low- Income Household Water Assistance Program for water and sewer assistance. Residents may apply through Carbon County Assistance Offices.

**SALDO**

None.

**Public Comment**

President Strubinger stated last week some commented he was arbitrarily changing how meetings are run; he stated the format of meetings have traditionally remained the same over the years.

President Strubinger welcomed Carbon Court Administrator, Commissioner Lukasevich and staff & students from Carbon Career and Technical Institute (CCTI).

Commission Lukasevich and Greg Armstrong provided to Council an update on the request for the Courts to utilize Memorial Hall in April and May. The schedule is currently five days. MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to **approve the County's use of the Hall for Court** at \$250.00 per day used. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

Brent Borzak introduced the CCTI students and staff in attendance. He provided a background of how the park adoption idea came about. They propose to have CCTI adopt Kemmerer Park, including coordinating a clean-up, painting and building a bench. The program will serve as community service for the students and teach them to be steward of the community. MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to let **CCTI adopt Kemmerer Park with the approval of the Kemmerer Park Center**. After comments, roll call vote:

|                 |     |               |     |                |     |
|-----------------|-----|---------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Greg Strubinger | Yes | Mike Yeastedt | Yes | Joanne Klitsch | Yes |
|-----------------|-----|---------------|-----|----------------|-----|

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Kyle Sheckler    Yes                      Bob Schaninger    Yes                      Tom Highland    Yes  
Jessica Crowley    No  
Motion carried 6 to 1 with Jessica Crowley voting no.

President Strubinger read three comments into the minutes – Amanda Bombico, Susan Bulanda and Kathleen Zanders all commented on permit parking.

Andrew Roberts commented on the proposed zoning ordinance amendment.

Marianne Rustad commented on the Krampus Festival; planning on hold until the Kemmerer Center board meets in April. President Strubinger summarized the building & park committee meeting pertaining to Krampus Festival. Marianne asked that the Krampus Festival item not be acted upon at this time.

President Strubinger summarized the building & parks committee meeting pertaining to Christmas Trees in the Park. MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Greg Strubinger to hold a Borough sponsored Christmas Trees in the Park event in Memorial Park. After comments, roll call vote:

Greg Strubinger    Yes                      Mike Yeastedt    Yes                      Joanne Klitsch    Yes  
Jessica Crowley    Yes                      Kyle Sheckler    Yes                      Bob Schaninger    Yes  
Tom Highland      Yes  
Motion carried 7 to 0.

Pam Ruoff commented on permit parking.

Brian Evans commented on public comment rules having consistency.

**Action**

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **January 3, 2022 meeting minutes**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **January 6, 2022 meeting minutes**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the **January 13, 2022 meeting minutes**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the **January 25, 2022 meeting minutes**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the **expenditures** in the amount of \$255,301.99 as presented. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the **Treasurer's Report** as presented. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to adopt **Ordinance 2022-03, Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for medical marijuana regulations and amusement rides**. After comments, roll call vote:

Greg Strubinger    Yes                      Mike Yeastedt    Yes                      Joanne Klitsch    Yes  
Kyle Sheckler      Yes                      Bob Schaninger    Yes                      Tom Highland    Yes

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Jessica Crowley No

Motion carried 6 to 1 with Jessica Crowley voting no.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to authorize the Solicitor to **draft a proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance for parking regulations**. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to **authorize an inventory of all existing signs** in the borough. Mike Yeastedt and Mayor Sofranko will complete the inventory. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to adopt **Resolution 2022-02, Carbon County Hazard Mitigation Plan**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to adopt **Resolution 2022-03, Fee Schedule**. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve the proposed **Borough Property Ban Letter** with a change to state the person is banned unless accompanied by a legal parent or guardian. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve requesting an **extension of time for the Municipal Assistance Grant** for the Zoning and Subdivision & Land Development Ordinances until June 0f 2023. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve **Entech EWO-11807 – SALDO update review for \$2,500.00**. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve **the Wildlands Conservancy completing work for a DCNR C2P2 Grant Application** in the amount of approximately \$80,000.00 to be used as a match for the DEP grant already received. There were questions, comments and a lengthy discussion. Motion carried 6 to 1, with Jessica Crowley voting no.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Bob Schaninger to authorize the office to contact persons included on the list of interested persons for the **Growing Greener Grant Steering Committee** to inquire if they remain interested. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve beginning **work on a 2022 DCNR grant for Phase II construction of Memorial Park**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve **Entech EWO-11814 – DRBC renewal application for \$4,700.00**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to authorize **advertising and accepting application for the position of Borough Secretary**. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to appoint Maureen Sterner as the **Right-to-Know Officer**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to appoint Kyle Sheckler as the **Mauch Chunk Fireman's Relief Association At-Large Member**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

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MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to appoint John McGuire to the **Property Maintenance Board of Appeals**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to table the **PSAB Conference Attendance**. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to table the **PSAB Conference Resolution** proposals. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to place **Police Car #82 on Municibid** for sale after the new vehicle arrives. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the following for **Asa Packer Mansion** – purchase of gat for \$2,140.00 & chandelier repair for \$2,400.00. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger, to schedule and **advertise meetings for Community Watch, Ordinance Update Committee and Shade Tree Committee**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve the **RUNegades Running Festival** for May 14 & 15, 2022. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to **schedule and advertise a special public meeting for the Memorial Hall projects** for April 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm in Memorial Hall. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve **Keystone Consulting Engineers additional work proposal for \$8,000.00** for the blight remediation project for Lehighon Borough. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to **approve Keystone Consulting Engineers invoice #181376 for \$632.50** for the blight remediation project for Lehighon Borough. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

**Utility Action**

There were no lien reports.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the proposed **utility account updates**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

**Exoneration Request**

None.

**Committees**

**Administration**

None.

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

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None.

Police

None.

Buildings/Parks

None.

Emergency Services

Committee Chair Kyle Sheckler announced officers elected for the 2022 year: Diligent Captain – Vince Yaich, Jr.; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Tom Polischak; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant William Sheehan; Engineer Bruce Solomon, Jr. and Onoko Captain Rob Valusek, Sr.; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Greg Steward; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Eric Cinicola; Engineer Mike Yeastedt.

Old Business

No updates

Executive Session

An executive session will be held after the meeting for personnel and litigation.

Adjourn

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, second by Mike Yeastedt to adjourn the meeting and go into an executive session. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

The meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

Councilperson Jessica Crowley left at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sterner  
Borough Manager