

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

APRIL 13, 2022

MINUTES

The Borough Council Work Session Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Gregory Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance, and moment of silence for the Highland and Klitsch families. The meeting was held in Memorial Hall, 115 East 10th Street, Jim Thorpe, PA.

Roll Call of Members & Officials

Gregory Strubinger

Michael Yeasted

Solicitor Nanovic

Joanne Klitsch

Robert Schaninger

Mayor Sofranko

PSM Yaich

Kyle Sheckler

Jessica Crowley

Police Chief Schatz

Manager Sterner

President Strubinger spoke on the passing of Councilman Thomas Highland. He said we are remembering in a special way Councilman Thomas Highland. Tom served for eight-plus years. He was very dedicated to the community, his family and business; he stepped up to serve and give back to his community as a Councilperson. President Strubinger said he got to know Tom – he was a great listener, a good person and very in-tune to what was going on at meetings, on top of what he was going through in his personal life. Tom's fight and drive proved what an impressive person he was. He was Chairman of the council police committee and very dedicated. We remember him tonight.

The last few weeks have been difficult for our community. We lost a few good leaders. We admire their dedication and are grateful they decided to stay here, raise their families and become a part of the community. They made Jim Thorpe a better place when they decided to give back. The all realized the value of having role models in the community and wanted to give back to the next generation. We are thankful.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko asked if there were any questions or comments on the police report. There were none. He spoke on receiving a letter of thanks from the JTHS girls' basketball team; community watch meetings; requested drivers slow down and watch children; re-lining of the parking spaces in the downtown area and VSACAR lines; permit parking ticketing and traffic control for the upcoming tourist season.

Chief Schatz thanked the Fairview and JT Sportsman's Club for donations of \$500.00 each and MCTC for their Bears & Bones events and donations of stuffed animals and dog treats to assist police at difficult calls.

Announcements

Carbon County Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing for FY 2022 is scheduled for April 20, 2022 at 10:30 am, virtual. Information posted and at the Borough office.

Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau Clean Up the Pocono's Campaign – April 23, 9 am to noon; will clean roads in the downtown area near their office. Visit the PMVB website to sign up.

Borough Spring Tire & Electronics Recycling event to be held May 14 from 7 to 11 am.

Public Comment

Robert Ewasko spoke on traffic.

Joan Morykin commented on parking tickets and clean up of debris from High Street.

James Dougher commented on parking and shared a recent experience he had in Washington DC.

SALDO

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MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve waivers for Sections 390-20 and 390-21 regarding preliminary/final plan submittal and Sections 390-20.B6, B7 and B8 regarding contours and approving the Albertson Reverse Subdivision (Lot Consolidation). After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

Borough Council

Council President Strubinger announced that we received seven (7) letters of interest for the vacant council seat. He asked for nominations to fill the seat. The term will end on the first Monday in January of 2024. Anyone interested in filling the final two years of this four-year term will be required to run for the seat in the 2023 municipal elections.

Greg Strubinger nominated Eric Cinicola.

Kyle Sheckler nominated John McGuire.

Jessica Crowley nominated Curtis Jackson.

Bob Schaninger nominated Michael Rivkin.

Roll call vote for Eric Cinicola:

Greg Strubinger – yes

Joanne Klitsch – yes

Kyle Sheckler – no

Mike Yeastedt - yes

Bob Schaninger – no

Jessica Crowley – no

Tied vote 3 to 3.

Roll call vote for John McGuire:

Greg Strubinger – no

Joanne Klitsch – no

Kyle Sheckler – yes

Mike Yeastedt - no

Bob Schaninger – no

Jessica Crowley – no

Vote defeated 1 to 5.

Roll call vote for Curtis Jackson:

Greg Strubinger – no

Joanne Klitsch – no

Kyle Sheckler – no

Mike Yeastedt - no

Bob Schaninger – no

Jessica Crowley – yes

Vote defeated 1 to 5.

Roll call vote for Michael Rivkin:

Greg Strubinger – no

Joanne Klitsch – no

Kyle Sheckler – yes

Mike Yeastedt - yes

Bob Schaninger – yes

Jessica Crowley – no

Tied vote 3 to 3.

Roll call vote for Eric Cinicola:

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Greg Strubinger – yes
Joanne Klitsch – yes
Kyle Sheckler – no
Mike Yeastedt - yes
Bob Schaninger – no
Jessica Crowley – no
Tied vote 3 to 3.

Roll call vote for Michael Rivkin:

Greg Strubinger – no
Joanne Klitsch – no
Kyle Sheckler – yes
Mike Yeastedt - yes
Bob Schaninger – yes
Jessica Crowley – yes
Vote passes 4 to 2.

Mr. Rivkin was asked if he wished to join the meeting. Stating he did, Mayor Sofranko and Mr. Rivkin exited the meeting to complete necessary paperwork.

Action

Jake Arner stated he is requesting to work with borough engineer and staff to determine if the borough has **water and sewer capacity for the Canyon Rim Residential Planned subdivision of 270 lots** and if there is capacity is requesting the borough consider hookup. He brought funds to be place in escrow to cover any costs the borough will have for this item.

Solicitor Nanovic stated determining capacity now would be ok but the plans would need to be amended so no other action or agreements can be made at this time.

MOITON by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to **allow the engineer to work with Mr. Arner** as long as Mr. Arner pays the escrow fee. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve Council Meeting **Minutes from March 3, 2022**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve Council Meeting **Minutes from March 10, 2022**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the **expenditures** from all Funds as presented. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the **treasurer's report**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to award the **2022 Chemical Bids** as follows:

Shannon Chemical – Sodium Permanganate; Ortho/Polyphosphate Blend – SLI-5250; Ortho/Polyphosphate Blend – SLI-5250.

Main Pool & Chemical – Dense Soda Ash; Liquid Chlorine; Poly Aluminum Chloride; Sodium Hypo-Chlorite; KC – 138 Polyacrylamide Emulsion (polymer).

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Mayor Sofranko and Michael Rivkin returned to the meeting. Mayor Sofranko administered the Oath of Office to Michael Rivkin. Councilman Rivkin joined the meeting.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to accept the proposal from **Affordable Sweeping for street sweeping**, with operator, of 20 miles \$13,000.00 and travel, conditioned upon the sweeping being completed by May 13, 2022. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

After a lengthy discussion on a re-lining of downtown parking spaces which will result in a net gain of 12 additional parking spaces, crosswalks and VASCAR lines, MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to authorize the solicitor to **draft an amendment** to our ordinances to eliminate the **loading zone space on SR209** behind Mollies because it is not being used for its intended purpose, if this space was designated by ordinance, and instructing the manager to notify Darren Behan of this action. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0. MOTION by Kyle Sheckler, seconded by Jessica Crowley to accept the proposal of **Wayne Horn's Line Striping** and add "T" lines to spots where deemed necessary. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

Councilman Schaninger would like to suggest a change in kiosk charged parking from 9:00am to 5:00pm to 9:00am to 6:00pm. Councilman Rivkin expressed concerns that this may not be the time to consider this, due to all of the other recent changes to our parking rules. This item will be sent to the Police Committee for review.

Hill Road parking – Councilman Yeastedt has been working on reviewing various options for parking. Once option may be an area on Hill Road that would allow 15 spaces. The area needs some working with leveling and millings. We will have some milling from the High Street project. We will place milling and roll the area. Council will revisit how to charge for these spaces at next month's meeting.

KRE Security Proposal – event traffic control. After discussion, MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Michael Rivkin to contract to take care of May weekends and then see where we are at. MOTION amended by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Michael Rivkin to amend the motion to make it conditioned upon the Borough not receiving Hotel Tax grant funds to pay for the full contract. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approved the **NEPA Business Technologies** quote for administration **office computer server system**. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to accept the **Utility Services Group** proposal for **sewer lines spot repairs**. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to accept the quotes for **Police Vehicle Computers** from **LTRON** for \$903.10 for **associated accessories** for one and **Island Tech** for **two computers** for \$6,592.65 for a total of \$7,495.75. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to accept the quote from **Markl Supply Company** for **police firearms** for \$2,905.50. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to accept the **USIQ Quote for sights/optics** for the new firearms for \$2,460.00. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to approve an additional \$275.00 for the **graphics on the Rescue Pumper**. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

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MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to authorize advertising the **2022 Road Paving bids** when appropriate; will attempt to join with School Street project in order to obtain a lower price for all work. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to approve **Engineering Work Order for Cherry Avenue** Community Development Block Grant Project – FY 2019 and 2021 for \$4,800.00. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch to approve application submittal of a **CFA Multimodal Grant for the High Street Wall Project** with Entech Engineering WO of \$1,500.00. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve application submittal of a **CFA Multimodal Grant for the Downtown Traffic & Pedestrian Calming & Safety Improvements Project** with Traffic Planning & Design up to \$4,900.00. There were no comments. Motion carried 7 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the **proposed tourist season traffic flow for Hazard Square**. After comments, motion carried 7 to 0. This traffic flow will be Saturdays and Sundays, mid-May through the end of October. No left turn into the county parking lot from SR209. Traffic diverted around Hazard Square to make a right turn into the county lot. Post the minimum number of parking spaces around Hazard Square no parking. It is hoped none, or just one, will be required.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to recess for an executive session for personnel. After comments, motion carried 6 to 1 with Bob Schaninger voting no. The meeting recessed at 8:37 pm. The meeting reconvened at 9:19pm. Councilwoman Joanne Klitsch departed the meeting. MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Kyle Sheckler to **offer an administration office position to applicant 323** on the condition that references are acceptable to the Administration Committee; hourly rate of \$18.50 and a six (6) month probationary period. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Mike Yeastedt to authorize the solicitor to take steps to have **Eric Wenzleberger clean up his properties**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to participate in the **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Summer Work Program**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to deny the request of the Mauch Chunk Rod & Gun Club to have an **additional member on the Silk Mill Stream Restoration Project Committee**. Reasons are that MCR&G Club currently has representation on the committee with two (2) members and council feels they are adequately represented, and the committee is a good number or representatives and we do not want too large of a group as that can become unwieldy for the group. After comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the annual **JTNB Hot Dog Day**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve St. Mark's & St. John's **Race Street Run** and associated requests of event date, support application to PennDOT, police services contract, closure of Race Street, use of barricades and signs and marking pf route. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

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MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve **RC Construction Payment Application #2** - \$90,098.01 for the blight remediation grant project - Leighton Borough. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (0)

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve a **credit** of \$346.98 on the sewer portion of the bill due to water leak for **account 4090**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve a **credit** of \$1,709.18 on the sewer portion of the bill due to water leak for **account 3330**. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Kyle Sheckler, seconded by Bob Schaninger to deny the request of The Inn at Jim Thorpe for **wavier of penalties on five (5) accounts**, emailed bills went to their spam/junk folder. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

MOTION by Kyle Sheckler, seconded by Bob Schaninger to deny the request of **account 8585 for wavier of penalties**, account holder stated bill was not received. As has been past policy, after comments, motion carried 6 to 0.

Exoneration Request

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Bob Schaninger to approve the monthly **occupation tax exonerations** as submitted. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Committees

Administration

There will be an executive session after this meeting for personnel.

The previous executive session held earlier in the meeting was for personnel and litigation.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Police

Buildings/Parks

Emergency Services

Old Business

Nothing to report on old business.

Executive Session

Executive Session for personnel will be held after this meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, seconded by Kyle Sheckler, to **adjourn** the meeting and go into executive session. There were no comments. Motion carried 6 to 0. The meeting ended at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Sterner
Borough Manager