

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
December 8, 2022
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders, and their families, as well as Zach Paris and Marvin Gruber of the New Tripoli Fire Department who tragically lost their lives on December 7th while responding to a house fire.

Roll Call of Members

Gregory Strubinger	Joanne Klitsch-arrived @7:00	Jay Miller
Michael Yeastedt	Bob Schaninger	Jessica Crowley-absent
Michael Rivkin	Solicitor Nanovic	Mayor Sofranko
Police Chief Schatz-absent	Borough Manager Sterner	Secretary Brooke Klotz
Public Service Mgr Bolesky	Borough Engineer-absent	Officer Kohler

Mayor's Report

No comments or concerns with the Police Report.

Mayor Sofranko asked that residents slow down when driving. Since North Street has been paved, people are driving faster than the speed limit. Police have been ticketing speeders along North Street, Broadway, and the Hacklebarney area. Parking is an issue and more so now with the holidays. A reminder to the residents that your neighbors will have their friends and families visiting, please do not call to say someone is parked in your spot, as the residents don't own them.

Back in the summer a meeting was held with the area youth in reference to things being done with Memorial Park. There will be another meeting being held to discuss what's been going on behind the scenes, what's in the works for the future, and to let the youth know that they weren't forgotten about. Kemmerer Park Association has been very active recently and has been working with the Borough to get things fixed and more youth friendly there.

Sam Miller field did very well with parking there during Fall Foliage. They've made many improvements- a new pickleball court and an updated volleyball court. They will be having a tree lighting this coming Saturday and will have ice skating during the winter. He asked parents to help volunteer and get more involved there.

Memorial Park recently had the tree lighting and will be looking to expend it and make it better next year. Improvements have been made throughout Memorial Park- new paint, new lighting. A new pickleball court was painted.

Mayor Sofranko explained the youth are the future of this town. He wants them to know that their opinions matter too and wants to see them stay in the area as adults.

Mike Yeastedt said Santa will be visiting Sam Miller Field Sunday at 2 p.m.

Announcements

There are some upcoming Borough Board/Commission/Committee seat expirations. If any resident is interested, please submit letters to the Borough Office. A listing of these vacancies is posted on the Borough's website and Facebook page. If a resident has a question about any of the openings, please stop by or call the Borough office.

The Borough was awarded the 2022 Recycling Grant totaling \$3,619.74.

UnLocke the Light Foundation will be giving a presentation on mental health awareness on December 15th at 6 p.m. in the Jim Thorpe High School auditorium.

The Borough was awarded a Hotel Tax Grant for the 2022 Fall Foliage Festival totaling \$15,525.00. That money helps cover the Emergency Services costs.

Public Comment

Holly Moskerintz- she submitted a letter via email pertaining to the new sign in front of Shawn Kresge Services building.

Dorinda Getz- She is upset with the new sign in front of Shawn Kresge Services building. She submitted a request for action and wanted to know when it would be addressed. Manager Sterner explained that any sort of zoning violations take time to investigate and the process and steps that have to be taken. Her major complaint was the brightness at night and requested the sign be turned off from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m.

Mayor Sofranko asked Dorinda and her neighbors who were in the audience if they talked to Shawn Kresge about the sign. They said they had. He asked if they wanted to have a meeting to discuss the sign. They said that wanted to have a meeting.

Betty Lou McBride- She asked about how the appeal process worked for the Zoning Hearing Board. Manager Sterner explained that appeals go through the courts, not back to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Shawn Kresge- When he put the sign up, he got a phone call shortly afterwards from one of the neighbors saying the sign was too bright. He contacted the manufacturer and had it dimmed. A worker from Leffler's asked if he could turn the sign off. He does not want to turn the sign off. He's been in contact with the manufacturer to continue to work on the brightness of the sign. He said that after the first initial phone call he received, not one of the neighbors knocked on his door or called to try to work things out. He uses this sign to give back to charities and nonprofits in need. He left with the neighbors and Mayor Sofranko to have a meeting.

Jim Gilmore- He explained that there are two cars that are always parked in the two spots reserved for Jim Thorpe National Bank customers on Broadway. One is a white SUV and the other a brown car. He asked why they haven't been ticketed yet. Solicitor Nanovic asked if he talked to someone inside the bank about it. He did not.

Chris VanDine- He is currently rehabbing his family's properties on North Avenue. He has five properties, some of them vacant with \$10,000.00 in back trash billing. He asked why properties that have their utilities turned off get billed for trash. Manager Sterner explained that in the Ordinance habitable and not condemned properties get billed for trash regardless of whether or not a property is vacant.

Shawn Kresge came back to say that he and the neighbors came to an agreement. The lights will be dimmed more.

SALDO-Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **accept the Kanick Subdivision time extension until March 31, 2023**. There were no comments. Motion carries 5-1, Bob Schaninger opposed.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve 605-609 Fawn Circle's lot consolidation**. An updated draft deed was submitted and met the Ordinance criteria. Motion carries 6-0.

Canyon Rim Estates- Request to begin construction

Jake Arner and his lawyer were there to explain the request. The request was for construction of stormwater ponds and development of roads, with no liability to the Borough. They explained that the three plans submitted are all the same with the exception of the third plan, which has a 25-foot slope change on a road. The stormwater ponds are on all three plans. The first plan includes on-lot systems, the second and third plans include sewer. Jake was asked which of the three plans he intends to go with. His attorney explained he can't pick until the plans have final approval. Having multiple plans helps when having an investment partner. **MOTION** by Michael Rivkin, second by Jay Miller to **stop discussion**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. **MOTION** by Jay Miller, second by Joanne Klitsch to **deny the request to amend the developers agreement from the original 84 lot subdivision plan**. There was a roll call vote:

Michael Rivkin-yes
Joanne Klitsch-yes
Michael Yeastedt-yes
Greg Strubinger-yes
Jay Miller-yes
Bob Schaninger-no

Motion carries 5-1.

Action

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from November 3, 2022**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2022**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Council Budget Meeting Minutes from October 26, 2022**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Council Budget Meeting Minutes from November 2, 2022**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Expenditures from all Funds as presented**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the Treasurer's Report**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **approve the 2023 Budget**. There will be a 1.2 mil tax increase and a 5% water increase. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **approve Ordinance 2022-07 – Tax Levy Ordinance**. This will increase the property taxes in 2023. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Resolution 2022-26 – H2O Grant-Silk Street sewer main**. The total project costs \$777,775.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Resolution 2022-27 – PA Small Water & Sewer-South Street sewer main**. The total project costs \$285,875.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Resolution 2022-28 – PA Small Water & Sewer-Front Street stormwater**. The total project costs \$440,709.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve H2O Grant – Silk Street Funding Commitment**. The total committed amount is \$259,259.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve PA Small Water & Sewer-South Street Funding Commitment**. The total committed amount is \$42,882.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve PA Small Water & Sewer-Front Street Funding Commitment**. The total committed amount is \$66,107.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **schedule and advertise the End of the Year Meeting for December 29, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Public Service Manager Yaich's retirement effective December 31, 2022**, with regret. Greg Strubinger expressed gratitude for his 33 years of service to the Borough. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve changes to the Bank of America Credit Card Accounts**. Two cards will be canceled and one name will change. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Michael Rivkin to **ratify the purchase of a 2022 F250 Super Cab with plow totaling \$61,897.17**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Michael Rivkin to **approve purchasing through COSTARS a 2022 F350 with snow removal equipment totaling \$70,511.17**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Michael Rivkin to **approve purchasing through COSTARS a 2023 F550 with snow removal equipment totaling \$109,621.04**. The money is in the General Fund and has been budgeted for. This will be a 5-year lease agreement. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Greg Strubinger, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the bid from Shawn Kresge Services for a new heating/cooling unit in the Street Supervisor's Memorial Hall office.** Motion carries 5-1, Bob Schaninger opposed.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **approve the High Street Repointing Proposal for \$8,925.00.** It was recommended to wait until spring for this work to be completed. The money was budgeted for this project for this year. The money will get transferred into the Capital Reserve Fund until completion in the spring. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve Onoko Fire & Rescue Roof through COSTARS.** Materials are contracted through a COSTARS vendor. That vendor will solicit RFP's from COSTARS contracts. Once a contractor is selected, a schedule will be worked on for time of completion. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve the following Facilities Project Items:**

1. August 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes Correction for Bond Council-Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot, LLC- to \$50,450.00 (not \$84,950.00)

2. Legal Services-Nanovic Law Office- to \$18,000.00 (not \$41,250.00).

3. Collier Engineering & Design Invoice 10/2/22-Updated Phase I Environment Site Assessment \$1,161.05.

4. Collier Engineering & Design Invoice 11/6/22-Updated Phase I Environmental Site Assessment \$3,677.90.

There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Cub Scout Pack 138's request to use Memorial Hall and waive fees for their Christmas party on December 18th.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve Greg Strubinger's request for the installation of a street light at the intersection of 7th and Cypress Streets.** There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Greg Strubinger abstaining.

MOTION to by Jay Miller, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve sending a representative to a Carbon County Commissioners Meeting to discuss implementing Blight Act 87.** Jay Miller would like to see the formation of a landbank. He also would like to volunteer to be the representative for the Borough. Motion carries 6-0.

Utility Action

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **approve one Utility Accounts Proposed Updates.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Exoneration Request

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **approve the monthly report as submitted.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Committees

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Jay Miller spoke about the water committee meeting that took place on December 2nd. There weren't enough members in attendance for a quorum. The Water Department Supervisor and Public Service Manager were in attendance. Discussed during the meeting were the needs of the water department and future projects.

Emergency Services

Mike Yeastedt said repairs to the ladder truck are estimated to happen the week between Christmas and New Year.

Old Business

Bob Schaninger would like to see the Movie Hill Parking Lot worked on next year and turn it into monthly parking for residents. He suggested placing stone down rather than waiting for millings. Jay Miller stated the Borough would need to find a different spot to dump excess snow in the winters.

Adjourn

MOTION by Bob Schaninger, second by Michael Rivkin to **adjourn the meeting**. There were no comments. The meeting ended at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Borough Secretary