

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
May 11, 2023  
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders, and their families.

**Roll Call of Members**

Gregory Strubinger	Joanne Klitsch	Jay Miller
Michael Yeastedt	Bob Schaninger	Mayor Sofranko
Michael Rivkin - absent	Solicitor Nanovic	Secretary Klotz
Police Chief Schatz	Borough Manager Sterner	
Jessica Crowley- arrived @6:59		

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Sofranko asked if anyone had any questions about the Police Report. He said the new officers that were hired this year are working out and doing well. He spoke about the Police training that took place.

Police Chief Schatz commended the Public Service department. He said they don't get enough credit for the work they do maintaining the Borough. The Public Service Department just recently worked on line painting. He also said Community Watch meetings will be starting back up again sometime this month.

**Announcements**

The Borough is looking for residents who would be interested in the International Property Maintenance Board and Vacancy Board vacancies.

The Spring 2023 Tire and Electronics Recycling event is taking place on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Residents are asked to arrive no later than 10:45 a.m. Residents must show ID.

**Public Comment**

Marla Grafton- She was upset about the ticketing and towing of her neighbors during street sweeping. She would like to see more notice given and to not ticket and tow cars. Greg Strubinger explained that the Borough pays around \$14,000.00 each year for the short amount of time the street sweeping machine is rented and for that much of an expense, the Borough has to enforce by ticketing and towing. There was enough notice given (more than a week) via the Borough website, Borough Facebook page, All Call, an article printed in the Times News, and signs throughout the Borough with the date and time each street was to be swept.

Patricia Brunson- She would like to see parking for all Borough residents along Broadway, West Broadway, High Street, and Race Street, not just the ones who live there. She would also like to see additional parking for residents who want to utilize the library.

Steve Ambrose- He discussed permit parking.

Joan Morykin- She discussed permit parking. She would like to see kiosks placed on upper West Broadway and to change the verbiage on the permit parking signs.

Bob Davis- He was looking to get permission to build a parking pad on a paper road by West High Street.

Ruthann Bramich- She submitted a request for action to the Borough office to have two no parking signs placed on each side of the paper road by her house so cars are able to turn around.

Bill Maehrer- He discussed permit parking.

### **Public Hearing**

The Short-Term Rental Permit Application Appeal Hearing for 1112 Broadview Drive has been rescheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance)**

*Banning Minor Subdivision Final Plans dated August 25, 2022 (expires May 23, 2023)*- **MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **accept the Banning Minor Subdivision Final Plans dated August 25, 2022 time extension waiver to August 21, 2023.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **adjourn the meeting for executive session regarding personnel.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting paused at 7:01 p.m.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **resume the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting resumed at 7:13 p.m.

### **Action**

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **deny Theresa Corripio's request to vacate the unopened portion of 4<sup>th</sup> Street.** She claimed that the Borough has not been maintaining the area. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Council meeting minutes from April 13, 2023.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

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

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

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **authorize the Solicitor to advertise the On-Lot System Maintenance Program Ordinance.** Joanne Klitsch asked if this Ordinance would cover both commercial and residential properties, and this Ordinance would. Section 9 was asked to be clarified. It means if the property owner fails to maintain, the Borough can put a lien against the property and take care of the issues with the on-lot system. Anything pumped from on-lot systems cannot be dumped at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **authorize the Solicitor to draft the Permit Parking Ordinance Amendment.** The changes would be adding a "red zone" parking area for business permit parking. Only businesses that currently do not have off-street parking

would be eligible and operate as either retail or food and beverage. Parking in this zone would be approximately seven spots in front of the Stabin Museum and seven spots on High Street. Residents with Parking Permits can park in this red zone too. The cost of the Parking Permits for businesses would be \$15.00 and can be purchased at a first come, first serve basis. Each of these businesses can purchase one permit until every business eligible has had the opportunity to purchase, then have to opportunity to purchase additional permits or it ends once they sell out, whichever comes first. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Resolution 2023-06 – The Sale of Personal Property Pursuant to PA Borough Code Section 1201.1**. This resolution authorizes to adopt a procedure for the sale of surplus personal property with an estimated value of less than \$2,000.00. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Resolution 2023-07 – DCED GTRP grant authorization-Memorial Park Phase III**. The Borough is seeking a grant of \$250,000.00 for Phase III of the Memorial Park Project. The Borough had tried for a LSA Statewide Grant that was not granted, therefore the reason for applying to this grant to help secure funds for this project. The project would include new ADA accessible basketball courts, lighting, and fencing. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the DCED GTRP Financial Commitment letter**. The cost of Memorial Park Phase III is \$1,012,145.00. The grant would be for \$250,000.00. The Borough would financially have to commit to \$762,145.00, which can be obtained through additional grants that will be applied for in the future. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Resolution 2023-08 – The Sale of Public Service Items**. The item to be sold are: 1- 2002 Ford F350 w/Plow, 5- Traffic Lights, 1- Stihl FS360 Weed Wacker, 1- Lincoln Cordless Grease Gun, 1- Pepsi Refrigerator, 1- Small Utility Trailer, 41- Used Traffic Signs, 1- Army Surplus Diesel Generator on Trailer, 1- Titan 7000-Watt Gas Generator, 1- Titan Trash/Water Pumps, 4- Stihl Handheld Leaf Blowers, 1- Homelite Chainsaw w/Extra Chains, 1- Stihl Chainsaw Parts, 1- Index Card Filing Cabinet, 1- Line Striping Machine, 1- Antique Drill Press, and 1- Titan Gas Powered Air Compressor. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Special Order 1.2- Authorized Weapons & Ammunition: On or Off Duty – Department Policy Change**. The reason for this change is the current policy does not allow for a substitution on allowable ammunition. With how supply issues are still continuing, this change would allow for a substitute for the police department. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Jay Miller, second by Bob Schaninger to **suspend Jim Thorpe Fire Department Firefighter #061 for a period of 90 days, complete emergency vehicle training within 18 months, and cannot drive an emergency vehicle until that training is completed**. There was a roll call vote:

Jessica Crowley- yes

Joanne Klitsch- yes

Mike Yeastedt- yes

Greg Strubinger- yes

Jay Miller- yes

Bob Schaninger- yes

Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve applying for the 2023 Main Street Grant for a seating area at the Jim Thorpe Mausoleum.** Originally, the idea was to apply for funding for the D&L Welcome to Jim Thorpe signs that are in need of refurbishment. But the cost would be substantially above the max \$2000 match for the Main Street Grant. The D&L Heritage Trail group has a Trail Town Amenity Project that only requires a 33% match, which refurbishing the signs would be eligible for. It was determined that purchasing benches for a seating area at the Jim Thorpe Mausoleum would be a better project for the Main Street Grant. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **approve placing the Memorial Hall and Public Service Garage Facilities Project to Bid.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the purchase of the Main Line Repair work for the Sewer Department.** The total for the project is \$44,700.00 and it was budgeted for. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the Sewer Digester Emergency Repair.** Three contractors were contacted for bid requests. Eastern Environmental Contractors had the lowest bid. The cost is \$18,360.00. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the Generator Repair for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.** The cost is \$5,003.83 and does not include the cost of the electrical work that needs to be done. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the Engineering Work Order for the High Street Wall Remediation conditioned upon receipt of the fully executed grant agreement.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Marion Catholic High School Blue & Gold Club's Annual Summer Picnic Event Request conditioned upon the following items:**

- **Permission to use the Memorial Hall kitchen, Beer Garden Pavilion, Large Pavilion and kitchen, Block Building, and Gazebo.**
- **Permission to use Memorial Park.**
- **The Memorial Hall Kitchen, including equipment, must be cleaned by you prior to the event.**
- **The Block Building, including equipment, must be cleaned by you prior to the event.**
- **Any equipment in the Memorial Hall kitchen you wish to use must be inspected and certified safe for use.**
- **Any items in the Block Building must be relocated by you at the direction of the Borough.**
- **You will be responsible for clean-up of all areas and equipment after the event.**
- **Proof of insurance submitted prior to the event.**
- **Payment of \$1,500.00.**

Their summer picnic would take place on Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carries 6-0.

### **Exoneration Request**

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the monthly Exoneration Report**. There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Jessica Crowley out of the room.

### **Committees**

*Public Service*- Jay Miller said he hopes to have some prices from the Borough's Engineer for the proposed water improvements. He also asked the Water Department Supervisor to get estimates for the 6<sup>th</sup> Street PRB valve. Manager Sterner said the prices came in under the \$5,000.00 price range, so either she or Chief Schatz can sign off to approve the work to be done.

*Buildings/Parks*- Greg Strubinger said that Borough Council already took action on moving the projects forward, which is great news.

### **Old Business**

None

### **Executive Session**

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **adjourn the meeting for executive session regarding real estate and litigation**. There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Jessica Crowley being out of the room. The meeting paused at 8:07 p.m.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Jay Miller to **resume the meeting**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting resumed at 9:16 p.m.

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **permit the Jim Thorpe Lion's Club operating the Asa Packer Mansion as per the October 2000 agreement with the details provided with a letter provided by the Borough Manager**. There was a roll call vote:

Jessica Crowley- yes

Joanne Klitsch- yes

Mike Yeastedt- yes

Greg Strubinger- no

Jay Miller- yes

Bob Schaninger- yes

Motion carries 5-1, with Greg Strubinger voting no.

### **Adjourn**

**MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **adjourn the meeting**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting ended at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz  
Borough Secretary

