

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
August 10, 2023
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:34 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 the service members who lost their lives while serving our country.

Roll Call of Members

Gregory Strubinger	Joanne Klitsch	Jay Miller
Michael Yeastedt	Bob Schaninger	Jessica Crowley-absent
Michael Rivkin-arrived @7:08	Solicitor Nanovic	Secretary Klotz
Police Sargent Bokeko	Borough Manager Sterner	Mayor Sofranko

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko asked if anyone had any questions about the Police Report. He explained that Police Chief Schatz was off and Sargent Bokeko was filling in for him at tonight's meeting.

Sargent Bokeko spoke about the Police Department and Community Watch hosting National Night Out. It was a very well attended event.

Mayor Sofranko asked that it be noted on record that in today's Times News, there is an article wishing Joe Marzen a Happy 70th birthday. He was also voted the Best Boss by one of the two employees who work with him.

Mayor Sofranko recently visited two local tree farms with Mike Yeastedt to secure trees for the Festival of Trees in Memorial Park. More trees will be available this year; a total of 60 trees.

On August 22, CBS Sunday morning will be interviewing people downtown on the effects tourism has in the Borough.

There was a Tourism Summit recently hosted by Senator Argall. What was discussed was how tourism first started in the Borough compared to what it is now. The biggest example was parking; what started as a small County lot and has turned into a 700+ vehicle lot and there still isn't enough parking to handle the incoming tourists.

The Summer Rec Program ended today. It was another very excellent and successful program.

Fall Foliage this year will include two additional weekends. The additional weekends are for music. The two weekends include the last weekend in September and the first weekend in November.

On October 28th, the Halloween Parade, Trick or Treat, and Trunk or Treat at Sam Miller Field will be taking place.

The part-time meter attendant that was recently hired is doing an excellent job and the Borough has more than gotten its money worth from the new addition. In July of last year, the average dollar amount collected from parking tickets was around \$1,100.00. Since hiring the new meter attendant, the Borough collected \$5,000.00 just in July alone.

Announcements

Presentations: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation – Unfortunately, the students from the OVR program were not in attendance to accept their certificates. Accepting on their behalf were Marianne from OVR and James from Living Unlimited. They explained the history and how the program works. Greg Strubinger spoke about all the projects the three boys completed for the Borough. They worked at Memorial Park, Asa Packer Mansion, Kemmerer Park, the Monument, Twinning Park, along the D&L Trail by the Waste Water Treatment Plant, and along Packer Hill Road. The boys weeded, removed rocks and brush, and planted flowers. Certificates were given from the Borough, Kemmerer Park Association, the Lion's Club, and Representative Heffley. Thank you Mason, Adrian, and Ryan!

Vacancies-International Property Maintenance Board and Vacancy Board – The Borough is accepting letters of interest. Please drop them off at the Borough office if interested.

Pick Up the Poconos-Saturday, September 23rd – If interested, please sign up on their website.

Public Comment

None

SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance)

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **conditionally approve the Banning Minor Subdivision Final Plans dated August 25, 2022 (revised June 28, 2023)**. All items must be adequately addresses as stated in the letter from Kerry Good dated July 11, 2023, the Sewage Planning Module approved by all required entities, PennDOT Highway Occupancy approval, and the Final Plans must be signed and notarized. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Bob Schaninger being out of the room.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **deny the Ogden/Bennick Minor Subdivision Plans dated November 1, 2019 (expires September 10, 2023) based on deficiencies**. Letters were sent out to the applicants reminding them to submit a letter of extension, which they failed to do. If the applicants so choose, they may reapply if interested. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Bob Schaninger being out of the room.

Action

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the St. Luke's Line Painting Request**. Lines for parking spaces will be painted along Olympian Way from North Street to School Street. Mayor Sofranko asked if the crosswalks in the area could be repainted too. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Flizack Request-Conveying via Quitclaim Deed 4th Street area and authorize Greg Strubinger to sign the Quitclaim deed**. Solicitor Nanovic received a copy this past Friday and recommended changes be made. The changes were then made and the revised deed was approved by Solicitor Nanovic. This would give the paper street the runs through the middle of the property to the property owner. Motion carries 6-0.

Marti Joines-Edward Jones banking rates – Manager Sterner compared rates that were given by Edward Jones to PLGIT's rates. PLGIT had the better rates. The Borough currently has funds in PLGIT and the are all liquid. Borough Council took no action.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from July 6, 2023.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Public Hearing Minutes from June 1, 2023.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from July 8, 2023.** 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 Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the Treasurer's Report.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Michael Rivkin, second by Bob Schaninger to **authorize the Solicitor to advertise the Permit Parking Ordinance amendment.** This would allow for spaces in front of the Stabin Museum and on High Street to be utilized Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., excluding Holidays, as paid parking. Permit Parking will still be allowed in those areas 24/7, as it takes priority over paid parking. Kiosks will not be installed in these areas; people must use the Flowbird app to pay. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve the 2023 CDBG General Application.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve closing the account for ARP Funds for High Street Water Main Project.** The project and reporting are completed. The cost was over \$14,000.00. The money left over would go into the General Fund to purchase parking kiosks. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **authorize the Project Change of Scope for Memorial Park Phases I&II.** Changes from Phase I include removing the exercise area, add in a multigenerational space, safety surfacing, picnic tables, ADA access, and a charging station. Changes from Phase II include lighting for safety reasons and additional outlets for Christmas trees in the park. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **authorize the Barry Isett request to amend Memorial Park Phase I.** This is to develop a lighting plan and details to be incorporated into the construction documents. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **table the Memorial Hall Renovation Bids and Public Works Building Projects Bids.** Manager Sterner, Borough Council, and Spillman Farmer are still reviewing all of the bids. Borough Council would like to have a special meeting before the September Borough Council meeting to award bids. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Jay Miller, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Entech Engineering EWO-\$9,600.00 Water Lead Line Service Inventory Phase I.** This is a requirement for all municipalities by DEP to inventory all the water lines for lead. This is to be completed by October of 2024. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Civic Plus Website Contract renewal**. Included would be a one-time migration fee of \$250.00 and the yearly subscription fee is \$3,195.05. The annual fee would increase by 5% each year. Currently, the Borough uses Civic Plus for their website and for the All-Call system. Motion carries 6-0.

Public Service Department-Sewer Division Position – This item is to be discussed during executive session. There is a Sewer Department opening that one employee is interested in.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Traffic Planning and Design as the Multimodal Traffic Engineer**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **appoint Sean McFadden to the Planning Commission**. There were no additional letters of interest submitted to the Borough since the vacancy was announced at the July Work Session meeting. The only resident to submit a letter of interest was Sean McFadden. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the 2023 Switchback Scamper Footrace**. This event is in its 52nd year and is scheduled to take place on October 22, 2023. Summit Hill Fire Police will be providing traffic control. This event does not require Police services. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the 2024 Lisa Napoletano Running with the Angels**. This event is taking place May 11, 2024. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve the request from Lehighton Borough for Fire Police help during their Halloween Parade**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Immaculate Conception Church's request to have their Halloween Ball in Memorial Hall**. Their event takes place on October 22, 2023. They will pay the same amount to rent the Hall as they did last year. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Account #4540 Payment Plan**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Account # 5687 Payment Plan**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve Account #5687 Sewer Credit Request**. This is due to an outside faucet leak; therefore, the water never went into the sewer system. The credit would be in the amount of \$333.85. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **approve New Utility Liens to File as presented**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Exoneration Request

None

Committees

Administration – Bob Schaninger announced the Manager Sterner would be off the week of August 21st for vacation.

Public Service – Manager Sterner wanted to say thank you to all the hard work the Streets Department, Water Department, and Sewer Department have done with all the clean up after the recent storms.

Old Business

Joanne Klitsch addressed her prior request for the Borough to take care of the road in front of her house. She said that the Borough made an agreement back in the 1970's to take over the road and that it is not part of the Homeowner's Association. She said she would meet with Manager Sterner to discuss this matter further.

Bob Schaninger recommended looking into rumble strips if a traffic light cannot be purchased for the intersection at North Street and Front Street.

Executive Session

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **move into executive session for personnel and litigation**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting paused at 7:52 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **resume the meeting**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting resumed at 8:30 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **authorize the Solicitor to attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting on August 24, 2023**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Adjourn

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Bob Schaninger to **adjourn the meeting**. There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting ended at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Borough Secretary