

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 3, 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 armed forces, first responders and their families. The meeting was held in Memorial Hall, 115 East 10th Street, Jim Thorpe, PA.

Roll Call of Members & Officials

Gregory Strubinger	Thomas Highland – via telephone	Joanne Klitsch
Jessica Crowley	Kyle Sheckler - absent	Michael Yeastedt
Robert Schaninger - absent	Mayor Sofranko	Police Chief Schatz
Solicitor Nanovic – absent	PSM Yaich	Manager Sterner

Mayor's Report – Mayor Sofranko informed council that the Police report was distributed for their review.

Announcements

JT Shade Tree Committee has investigated a Bare Roots Grant Program for replacement of trees that may be removed during the Front Street Road project. Due to the timing, a grant this year is not feasible because planting must be completed in the spring. We will keep on file for next year.

DEP Growing Greener Grant = The Borough was awarded \$200,000.00 to go towards the Silk Mill Stream Restoration project (dam removal and stream repairs).

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program – the Borough is participating; assistance for eligible residents who are in arrears on water and sewer bills due to COVID; up to \$2,500.00 for each service; apply at the County Assistance Office.

Public Comment – limited to 2 minute per person – public is encouraged to submit public comments via regular mail, email or place in drop box at municipal office

Kristie Fach of Wildland Conservancy reviewed a proposal to apply for a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant to match the DEP grant for items not included in the DEP grant such as meetings, design and permitting costs. They were not included because the amount requested and awarded by DEP was the highest we could request.

President Strubinger reminded all that this portion of the meeting is Public Comment. It is not discussion and Council would not be responding. He explained the length of the meetings is getting hard to gauge and a council person has had to leave meetings early due to the length. Time is limited. If a resident believes they require additional time, they may follow the procedures to request to be placed on the agenda. A brief discussion among council was held. The meeting was then open to public comment.

The following persons commented on a sign ordinance: Brian Evans, Todd Morris, Marissa Strohlne, Victor Stabin, and Jack Sterling.

Lou Hall commented on the planning commission items.

Alice Wannamaker of Carbon County Economic Development Corporation commented on Kemmerer Park upgrades. Marianne Rustad joined her and they commented on the Krampus Festival.

Joan Morykin

James Crawford commented on Mauch Chunk Lake and the need to protect it.

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MINUTES

Jake Arner comment on the importance of dialog.

Action

The following items were reviewed:

Council Meeting Minutes from January 3, 2022
Council Meeting Minutes from January 6, 2022
Council Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2022
Council Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2022
Expenditures from all Funds as presented
Treasurer's Report
Ordinance 2022-03 Zoning Ordinance Amendment – medical marijuana & amusement rides
Resolution 2022-02 Carbon County Hazard Mitigation Plan
Resolution 2022-03 Fee Schedule
Municipal Assistance Grant – Zoning & SALDO updates – time extension request
EWO-11807 – SALDO update review - \$2,500.00
EWO-11814 – DRBC Renewal Application (5-yr) - \$4,700.00
Right-to-Know Officer Appointment
Mauch Chunk Fireman's Relief Association Appointment At-Large Member
Property Maintenance Board of Appeals Appointment
Carbon Career and Technical Institute Park Adoption Request
RUNegades Running Festival – May 14 & 15
Memorial Hall Project – meeting request
Blight Remediation Grant Projects – Lehighton Borough additional engineering work proposal and 1 invoice
High Street – no items needed

Utility Action

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (1)

Exoneration Request

None

Committees

Committees Meeting Schedule - committees are to consider monthly dates and report to manager; move to action to approve scheduling and advertising.

Administration

PSAB Resolutions & Attendance – move to action; council to provide information, if necessary.

Zoning Ordinance – parking requirements – language to include existing buildings, will discuss at regular meeting with Solicitor; move to action agenda.

Zoning Ordinance – update status provided; items for Council direction; move to action agenda.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

East Side Decorations – research possibility; fundraising; include Heights; contact Lions for participation; move to old business.

GG Grant Project Committee – proposed committee reviewed; contact Wildlands for update; move to action agenda.

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Police

Borough Property Ban Letter – result of park vandalism; process created as per council direction last year – move to action agenda.

Police Vehicle – Car #82 – new car obtained with grant funding due to arrive shortly; requesting approval to place Car #82 on Municibid when appropriate, after deliver of new car; move to action agenda.

Buildings/Parks

Carbon County Court Use of Hall – counter proposal of \$250.00 per day plus service and materials for public address system upgrades; move to action agenda.

2022 DCNR C2P2 Grant – Memorial Park – requesting authorization to begin work on preparation of a grant application for Phase II construction; Resolution with more specifics will be competed next month; move to action agenda.

Krampus Fest – building committee meeting went well; discussed Krampus Fest to be held at Kemmerer Park; requested organizers provide items they feel need attention at park; have contacted Kemmerer Center, awaiting return call; permission for event and any improvements to park must include and be agreed on by the Kemmerer Center; move to action agenda.

Christmas Trees in the Park – also attended the building committee meeting; a tree committee will be working on more specifics and gathering information; to be held in Memorial Park; will consider future electric with any grant applications for construction; move to action agenda.

Mansion – maintenance and repairs needed include gate to secure walkway and decrease liability, funds from parks budget to pay for costs; chandelier re-wiring needed, funds from building repairs and miscellaneous line items to pay for cost; light pole vandalism damage repair – awaiting estimate, will look at building repairs funds to determine if costs can be paid from that line item; move to action agenda.

Old Business

Nothing to report on old business.

Executive Session & Adjourn

Personnel

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Joanne Klitsch, to **adjourn** the meeting and go into executive session. There were no comments. Motion carried 5 to 0. The meeting ended at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Sterner, Borough Manager