Meeting called to order at 6:48 p.m. by President Gregory Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for the men and women serving our country and our first responders. Mayor Sofranko asked that those borough residents we lost to Corona Virus and their families be included with our thoughts.

**Roll Call of Members**

Michael Yeastedt Joanne Klitsch Kyle Sheckler

Edith Lukasevich Robert Schaninger Thomas Highland

Gregory Strubinger Mayor Michael Sofranko Connor Rodgers, JCP

Borough Manager Sterner Police Chief Schatz

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Sofranko thanked all of those involved with decorating the borough, including trees, for the Christmas Season. He thanked The Gem Shop for the donation of masks to the police department, borough administration and the fire departments. The police department remains operating under their COVID protocols.

**Announcements**

Thank You – Christmas

* Crystal Springs Tree Farm – Community Tree in Memorial Park
* Marzen Hardware – lights for tree
* JT Community Watch – lights for tree
* JT Lions – Snowflakes on bridge
* Kresge Electric – installation of Snowflakes
* JTTA – decorations in Josiah White Park
* Sam Miller Field – Remembrance Christmas Tree

UCC Joint Board of Appeals Board Vacancy

Board/Commission Seats Available

* Position Term Expires
* Library Board 1 Year 12/31/21
* Vacancy Board 1 Year 01/03/22
* Planning Commission 4 Year 12/31/24
* Planning Commission 4 Year 12/31/24
* Shade Tree Commission 5 Year 12/31/25
* Zoning Hearing Board 5 Year 12/31/25
* Property Maintenance Board 5 Year 01/05/26
* Civil Service Commission 6 Year 01/05/27

**SALDO**

**Ogden/Bennick Subdivision** – a grant of time extension was submitted by applicant; council may consider acceptance.

**Public Comment**

**DiRado Garbage Request** – the request is included in council’s packet and should be reviewed for action next week.

Chris Prokop – Short-term rentals – parking concerns, should be near property; grandfathering existing.

Jennifer Dages – Short-term rentals – fees; supports grandfathering; inspections & checklists.

Jennifer Dages read letter from Laura Young – Short-term rentals – parking; grandfather in people such as herself; allow guests to park off-site; ordinance portrays ire of council toward short-term rentals; guests spend money in the borough; ordinance will negatively impact town.

Robert Dages – Parking permits – look into plateau to use for parking; Short-term rentals – wrong that a council can just wipe off businesses at their will; opening borough for a 1983 class action lawsuit; grandfather current STRs; cite PA constitution – have right to own property.

Lars Casperson – Short-term rentals – non-conforming in residential; can permit transfer with sale; it was explained permit cannot transfer but use may continue under certain circumstances with new permit.

Steve Allen – Short-term rentals – renters spend money in borough including on the east side; would like east side to continue; Permit Parking – doesn’t want the ordinances to be counter-productive.

Lynn Humphreys – asked questions on grandfathering for those in zoning districts that will not be included in future.

Jake Arner – Short-term rentals – commented on the need for hearings – feels this should not be included; questioned why some are special exception and others conditional use; should be permitted by right.

**Action**

Meeting Minutes updated included in council packets.

Discussed Expenditures from all Funds as presented.

Discussed Treasurer’s Report for November 2020.

2021 Budgets – discussed; consider for adoption.

Ordinance 2020-08, Tax Levy – was advertised; ready for adoption consideration.

FOP Contract – awaiting contract from FOP attorney.

Resolution 2020-22 – Police Pension Contribution – if FOP contract is not available for consideration, this will need to be tabled.

Resolution 2020-23 – Non-uniform Pension Contribution – consider for adoption.

Disaster Declaration COVID – extension to March – consider for adoption. Mayor Sofranko explained we need to keep these in place and current in the event federal funding becomes available for the borough.

End of Year Meeting – proposing December 30, 6:30 pm; pay remaining 2020 bills; if needed, FOP contract and pension resolution; appointments for open seats as some terms expire on December 31.

Sale of Crown Victoria – bids due December 9; will be available for consideration.

Fire Truck Bids – Emergency Service Committee Chairperson Kyle Sheckler informed council they will have their recommendation for next week’s meeting.

Job Connection Services Agreement – for temporary part time administrative help; contract ratification.

Part Time Temporary Office Help – hourly rate to be set by council.

Jim Thorpe Market Expansion Letter of Credit Release – maintenance LOC 18 months expires January 6, 2021; council to consider approving release of LOC as of January 5, 2021.

Entech Work Order Chapter 94 Report - $2,800.00, same price as last year; council to consider.

Entech Work Order CDBG Church Alley Project - $21,000.00; $8,621.81 available from previous leaving a balance of $12,578.19; Public Service Manager to review; recommendation for council’s consideration will be made next week.

Sam Miller Field Zoning Permit Fee Waiver Request – for the ice-skating rink; last year’s amount was $455.00 but most of the work would have been done then and since this is just putting up the same rink, we anticipate the cost will be much less. Application not yet received so firm amount is not available. Council to consider approval.

Borough Facilities Projects – n/a

WWTP Upgrade Project – n/a

**Utility Action**

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Past Due Garbage Accounts

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (3)

Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (1)

Temporary Off Lien Report (0)

Inactive (0)

Uncollectible Accounts Report – (0)

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (0)

Account 4835 Payment Plan – reviewed with council

**Exoneration Request**

* Tony Wolfe

**Committees**

Administration

Parking Ordinance Amendment – permit parking WB – Council committee of Greg Strubinger, Mike Yeastedt and Mayor Sofranko to review comments from public meeting for possible update to draft ordinance.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment and Short-Term Rental Ordinance – public comments and discussion at beginning of meeting. Councilman Yeastedt will put together a summary of the comments for council and Solicitor Nanovic’s review.

Police – n/a

Police Chief Schatz said officer Poeldnurk has reached his 1st year anniversary, he is a good fit for the dept. and is part of the task force for the dept.

Buildings/Parks – n/a

Emergency Services – n/a

**Old Business**

Flizak Request – 4th St Quit Claim Deed

457 Plan

Parking Study

Ordinance Group Homes – Manager Sterner stated she received email from Planning Commission late today but has not yet reviewed.

Readdressing Phase II

Blight Landbank

**Executive Session** – n/a

**Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Kyle Sheckler to adjourn.

YES 7 NO 0

Adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Sterner

Borough Manager