

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
JANUARY 7, 2021
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 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.

Roll Call of Members

Michael Yeastedt	Joanne Klitsch	Kyle Sheckler
Robert Schaninger	Thomas Highland	Gregory Strubinger
Mayor Michael Sofranko	Manager Sterner	Police Chief Schatz
Connor Rodgers, JCP – absent	Solicitor Nanovic – absent	Borough Engineer – absent
Public Service Manager Yaich – absent		
Secretary Louise McClafferty - absent		

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko thanked all for the well wishes sent his way. He asked for questions on the police reports. There were none. The annual report was reviewed. Chief Schatz informed council the department is preparing to get COVID vaccines; reported on the new trailer obtained with donations which will be utilized as a command center for events equipment.

Announcements

UCC Joint Board of Appeals Board Vacancy

Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Short-term Rentals – proposed amendment has been forwarded to Carbon county and Borough Planning Commissions for their review and comment. The proposed stand-alone Short-Term Rental Ordinance was included for reference. A Public Hearing for the Zoning Amendment is scheduled for February 11, 2021.

SALDO - none

Public Comment

John McGuire – commented on his interest in the open council seat; the Planning Commission – MAP Ordinance updates; Zoom meetings; thanked council for the library donation

Robert Dages – commented on his interest in the open council seat

Action

Discussed Resolution 2021-01 – required when filling a vacancy on borough council.

Meeting Minutes included in council packets, no comments.

Discussed Expenditures from all Funds as presented.

Discussed Treasurer's Report for November 2020.

Discussed Resolution 2021-02 bituminous escalator clause – as required by state.

Discussed Resolution 2021-03 sale of borough property – streets division items no longer needed.

Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief appointments were discussed. Current appointees willing to continue.

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Non-Agreement employee hourly wages for 2021 were presented with recommendation for approval by the administration committee. Will be discussed further in executive session to be held after this meeting.

Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System Agreement amendments for the amount of pension contributions for 2021 through 2024 to coincide with the Teamsters approved collective bargaining agreement. A separate amendment is needed for each year but may be approved now.

Onoko Fire & Request is requesting the waiver of zoning and building fees for building renovations. Permits have been submitted and all required regulations are being followed.

Mauch Chunk Pharmacy is requesting the use of Memorial Hall for COVID vaccination clinics. Date and times will be determined based on availability of vaccine.

Street sweeper rental options were discussed and reviewed.

Pumper/Tanker COSTARS purchase was discussed. Solicitor Nanovic has questions to ensure the manner is acceptable to the state to replace the bidding requirement. Further investigation continues.

Fire truck lettering – options were discussed for inclusion in truck sale agreements or outside vendor.

Borough Facilities Projects – bids are due January 12.

WWTP Upgrade Project – reviewed Mr. Rehab payment application #10, Entech invoices 70679 and 71048 and Requisition 46 which included these three items.

Utility Action

Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (1) - reviewed

Account 8056 Payment Plan – reviewed with council

Account 6613 sewer credit request due to leak with water not entering the sewer system was reviewed with council.

Exoneration Request

Two requests reviewed; all paperwork in order.

Committees

Administration

Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Group Homes – Planning Commission recommendation reviewed with council. Only change is reducing definitions for small and large group homes to just “group homes” with no distinction. This change will be forwarded to the MAP zoning ordinance update committee for inclusion in the update.

Reitz Request for a plan of action to ban target ranges. After discussion, council instructed this item be moved to the Action agenda for the regular meeting.

Carbon County – Borough request to consider additional long-term parking. Clarification on this item was received from the County and discussed with council. Council instructed this item be moved to the Action agenda for the regular meeting.

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Public Services (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

JTASD road repairs required due to damage caused by truck traffic relating to the turn field construction. Council was updated on the status to date.

Sewer Department Employee – after discussion on moving forward, council instructed that this item be placed on the Action agenda for the regular meeting.

Police

Byrfogle Handicap Sign Request – area of 600 block of Center Street. Chief Schatz reviewed and sees no issues with granting the request. Council instructed this be moved to the Action agenda for the regular meeting.

Buildings/Parks – n/a

Emergency Services – n/a

Old Business

Flizak Request – 4th St Quit Claim Deed

457 Plan

Parking Study

Readdressing Phase II

Blight Landbank

Parking Ordinance Amendment – permit parking West Broadway

Executive Session

Personnel – will be held after this meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION: Kyle Sheckler, second by Tom Highland to adjourn and go into an executive session for personnel. Motion carried 6 to 0.

The meeting ended at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Sterner
Borough Manager