

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MAY 6, 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

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

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko stated the police report has been distributed; reported on police vehicle damaged; Chief is working to secure the electronic signs to assist with speeding issues.

Announcements

Tire & Electronic Recycling – May 15 from 7:00 am to 11:30 am at the borough garage.

Junior Council Person Connor Rodgers and members of the National Honor Society cleaned 148 tires off Flagstaff Road. Council thank Connor and the members.

SALDO

Ott Lot Consolidation – requesting a waiver of the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance requiring both a Preliminary and a Final Plan to submit just one Preliminary/Final Plan.

Public Comment

Stormwater Engineer Dan Wilusz and Stan Wojciechowski, of Barry Isett and Associates, discussed the **Stormwater Management Ordinance** update project and the need an update to the **map**. The current map is very difficult to read and determine boundaries and in some cases conflicts with the written word of the ordinance. They presented a proposal for updating the map. This will be places on the Action agenda for next week.

The Engineers also discussed the proposed **Front Street** project. They completed a short site visit before the meeting. Items reviewed were the small size of existing pipes; curbing installation overwhelming them; existing sidewalk needed elevation to avoid pooling; possible loss of parking spaces. Council requested the prepare a **proposal for project evaluation and sequence**. This will be placed on the Action agenda for next week.

Cory Bentzoni of the **Pennsylvania Game Commission** discussed the **Commission's Safety Zone Program**. The Commission would manage our watershed areas on both the east and west sides of the Borough, including patrolling, policing and responding to complaints. Benefits include our continuing to own the land and make policies; signage provided by Commission; supply seed for planting. The agreement would be good for five years initially and renew annually after that time period. This will be placed on the Action agenda for next week and forwarded to the Solicitor for review.

Gerry Haggerty spoke with council regarding an **Act 457 Retirement Plan** for the Borough employees. He reviewed his company's process and costs. Manager Sterner will review the information submitted in the past from Lee Zinc of Mauch Chunk Trust Company and report back to council to refresh them on this plan and the costs.

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Ed and Lynn Humphreys discussed their new business venture of **Jim Thorpe Trolleys**. This will be tours of the Borough, not shuttles.

Michael McGinley provided email comments on parking downtown in the area of the Inn and 5 & 10.

Dee Reitz commented on informal off range shooting; provided regulations from other municipalities.

Mark Reitz commented on his North Street property; zoning regulation; shooting ranges.

Bob Dages commented the Right-to-Know officer; meeting minutes; plateau near the jail for parking.

Jake Arner asked permission to bring additional tires from Flagstaff to the recycling event. Council had no problem with this request.

Action

Meeting Minutes included in council packets no comments.

Discussed Expenditures from all Funds as presented.

Discussed Treasurer's Report for April, 2021.

Water income review – funds budgeted from Water Capital Reserve Funds had not been transferred last month, which made the overall income appear low. The billing income was on schedule and equal to the sewer billing income percentage. Funds have been transferred.

DCED Grant Application – Greenways, Trails & Recreation – a Resolution authorizing the application and a funding commitment letter were presented. This is for the Memorial Park Phase I construction project and the hope is to use this grant as a match for the DCNR grant submitted last month.

2001 GMC Dump – list on Municibid; bids due May 12, 2021.

Race Street Run – event request before council; scheduled July 3, 2021.

Sam Miller Field Zoning Permit Fees Waiver Request – for volley ball and Bocce ball courts. Estimated cost \$60.00.

John Otto Requests – storing modular home sections in Borough parking lot until the crane to place them on the property is available, approximately five days; permission to temporarily place the units on the foundation prior to all approvals/permitting.

WWTP Upgrade Project – the final Requisition was presented for review; annual submittals reported; project closure.

D&L Stretching Station – Dr. Patrick Holland submitted the project last month. Responses to questions from council were provided – insurance premium estimate \$100.00; zoning/building codes permit fees estimated \$300.00; maintenance to be completed by Dr. Holland; D&L support received; Canal Commission support.

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Utility Action

Reports for Garbage Only and one water/sewer/garbage for collection fees only presented. Continue to bring other reports current with new staff.

Exoneration Request

April report presented.

Committees

Administration

SR 209 sidewalks – Carbon County, the railroad and PennDOT have all agreed to review and discuss improvements.

Public Services (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Yost Stormwater Inspection Fees – payments #1 and #2 of the proposed three (3) payment plan have been received. Mr. Yost presented paperwork with his disputed items. It appears the item is engineer travel time, which Mr. Yost was aware of at the beginning of the repair.

Street sweeping – Public Service Manager Yaich reported on the success of the partnership with Lehighton Borough and hopes it continues in the future.

Sewer Manhole & Lines Spot Repair – Public Service Manager Yaich and Sewer Supervisor Gula have presented repair projects based on reviews from the WWTP upgrade projects. Quotes have been presented. This would be a project for sewer capital reserve funds. This will be placed on the Action agenda next week.

Police – n/a

Buildings/Parks

Young Lungs at Play – President Strubinger provided information he has received on this program. It would be for Memorial Park. The organization would provide signs; the borough would provide posts and hardware (estimate per post was provided). Manager Sterner will further investigate what is needed to join the organization and report back to council.

Mauch Chunk Rod and Gun Club Playground Equipment Request – MCGC is requesting to purchase old playground equipment (known as the Spider Ride or the Ladybug Ride) which has been taken out of service due to condition and age. Council instructed the manager to speak with the solicitor regarding the possible sale and liability waivers.

Municipal Building Police HVAC – need a new coil estimated at a few thousand dollars; life expectancy of units has only a couple years remaining. Council instructed to get additional quotes for a new system.

Emergency Services – n/a

Old Business

No updates

Executive Session

Personnel – will be held after this meeting.

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Adjourn

MOTION: Jay Miller, second by Joanne Klitsch to adjourn and go into an executive session for personnel. Motion carried 4 to 0.

The meeting ended at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sterner
Borough Manager