

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
AUGUST 5, 2021  
MINUTES

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.

**Roll Call of Members**

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

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Sofranko reported on National Night Out and thanked all involved and those who attended. He gave a special thank you to Congressman Meuser for the inclusion of our facilities upgrade projects in the Agricultural Rural Development that has passed the House. Tom Gerhard of Senator Casey's office is also working hard to help us obtain appropriations funds for these projects; we are still waiting for this to go through the senate. He thanked all those involved with the efforts to obtain this funding. Mayor Sofranko reported on the multimodal grant application, fall foliage and fire police. He will be requesting Trick-Or-Treat be scheduled for Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 5 to 7 pm. He also reported that the volleyball courts at the Sam Miller field are completed.

Council President Strubinger also thanked all those who donated, participated and attended National Night Out.

**Announcements**

2020 Recycling Grant application submitted – estimate \$4,405.00.

Pocono Mountains Visitor Bureau Pick Up the Poconos Day is September 25. See the PMVB website for details and to sign up.

**SALDO**

Rustic Camping at Approved Winery, Canyon Rim Estates – all items have been addressed; recommended approval from both Carbon County and Jim Thorpe Planning Commissions.

Klitsch Subdivision Waiver Request – 390-20.B.6&7, Contours – recommended approval from Jim Thorpe Planning Commission.

Klitsch Subdivision – reverse – recommended conditional approval from both Carbon County and Jim Thorpe Planning Commission.

**Public Comment**

2021 Streets Project – Dan Wilusz reviewed with Council their findings and recommendations for the Front Street project.

Steve Allen commented on short-term rentals parking.

Katrina Gonsorick and Joe Irwin commented on camping at winery property.

The Borough Manager was instructed to add Trick-Or-Treat to the Action Agenda for the August 12, 2021 meeting.

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**Action**

Meeting Minutes included in council packets for review.

Expenditures to date presented; additional will be forwarded to council for review for next week's meeting.

Treasurer's Report for July presented for review.

Thank-you letters will be prepared for approval for Jim Thorpe Lions and Jim Thorpe Rotary for the donation of a pavilion kitchen door each; Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank, Mauch Chunk Trust Company and Bill Bernhauser for donations for National Night Out. We also received an anonymous donation for National Night Out.

Jim Thorpe Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement Addendum for a DROP presented.

2021 Hotel Tax Grant Application – fall foliage reviewed.

New Checking Accounts for approval next week – American Recovery Plan Funds; Blight Grant Project; HOMES Program.

CDBG 2021 Application Certification presented for review.

Mauch Chunk Firemen's Relief Association – At Large Member presented for consideration.

Immaculate Conception Memorial Hall use – request for Halloween Ball.

Chief Schatz commented on folding tables and informed council he will look into purchasing new, light-weight table for events such as National Night Out.

Carbon County Heritage Festival – September 18; event information provided.

Jim Thorpe Tourism Agency – Fall Festival event information provided.

Church Alley – Pioneer Construction Payment Application #3 - \$136,327.35 presented.

**Utility Action**

Reports for 3 Garbage Only liens; 5 proposed account updates; Account 8235 request; Account 2900 Payment Plan.

**Exoneration Request**

Monthly report presented.

**Committees**

**Administration**

Act 457 Plan – no employee interest at this time.

Parking Ordinance Amendment – Permit Parking, downtown area; ordinance updates discussed and public comment accepted. Additional public comment expected next week.

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Medical Marijuana Ordinance – draft discussed. Additional mapping on parks to be completed. Inquiries with neighboring municipalities on park inclusion will occur.

Short-Term Rental Zoning Ordinance Amendment – non-conforming lot size discussed. Inclusion of chart for C-3 zone and updating of charts for I and Special Districts for yard, height and setback requirements; and providing for hotels in certain zoning districts. Move to Action Agenda.

Social Media Policy – reviewed and discussed. Move to Action Agenda.

Zoning Ordinance – Transfer of Development Rights; Environmental Impact Statement – distributed to Council and to Planning Commission for review. Joint meeting to be determined.

Special Meeting – to consider a subdivision submitted by Greg Strubinger; requested consideration for a special meeting due to bank deadlines. Move to Action Agenda.

Public Services (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Streets & Sidewalk Ordinance Update – curb regulations – presented for further review and discussion. Move to Action Agenda.

Public Services Facility – reported that we are investigating the possibility of utilizing a contractor through COSTARS for the project. Will provide updates as necessary.

330/332 South Street Water Lines – separation of lines discussed. Move to Action Agenda.

Police

Parking – 1<sup>st</sup> block of Broadway – Chief Schatz presented his findings and recommendation. Move to Action Agenda.

Commonwealth Financing Agency Multimodal Grant – resolution and updated funding commitment reviewed and discussed. Move to Action Agenda.

Buildings/Parks

Diligent Bay Window & Woodwork – updated quote on window received; awaiting written updated quotes for roof and bay floor at Fairview to determine what can be completed withing the financing available.

Young Lungs at Play – Tobacco Free Policy – drafted for borough parks only; reviewed and discussed. Move to Action Agenda.

Emergency Services

Chipmunk Trail Addressing – Carbon County contacting USPS to determine if removal of cluster mailboxes and placement of individual at each residence is possible.

Old Business

No updates

Executive Session

Personnel – will be held after this meeting.

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**Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Mike Yeastedt, second by Kyle Sheckler to adjourn and go into an executive session for personnel. Motion carried 5 to 0.

The meeting ended at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sterner  
Borough Manager