

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 7, 2021
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Gregory Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders and their families and for those suffering effects of the recent storm.

Roll Call of Members & Officials

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

Public Hearing

A. Ordinance 2021-08, Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Oct. 14, 2021

Mr. Yeastedt said there are some mistakes in the ordinance. This should be minimum requirements not maximum requirements on the chart. Special District it should be building height, it should be 120 feet not 102. We copied the C-2 and inserted it to C-3 because we didn't have a C-3. C-2 covers by the Immaculate cemetery, Yaich garage and JT Market is this appropriate for C-3. The C-1 district which has Leffler's and the Diligent district. When you look at the columns, single family detached we have some single family detached, most are semi-detached has one common wall with another building.

Borough Manager Sterner said the reason they copied C-2, that was the chart the C-3 fell under in the past. When we created the C-3 zoning district we failed to put the chart in, we didn't look to change any of the requirements.

Mr. Yeastedt asked is there something here that needs to be corrected?

Borough Manager Sterner said this can be corrected with the zoning update that we are working on. She will talk to the solicitor about the corrections. The public hearing is next Thursday, you can't make any changes after it has been advertised. If there are substantial changes you will have to advertise for a new public hearing.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sofranko was absent from the meeting, nothing to report.

Announcements

Fall Tire & Electronic Recycling – October 16; 7:00 am to 11:00 am
Halloween Parade – October 23; 2:00 pm (rain date October 24)
Trick or Treat – October 30; 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

SALDO

Public Comment – limited to 1 minute per person – public is encouraged to submit public comments via regular mail, email or place in drop box at municipal office

Ed McArdle, 622 Center St, he asked why the cross walk, and the handicap spot? Are you out of paint?

Mr. Yeastedt said we are working on a list of requested ones to be developed. We don't paint all of the crosswalks.

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OCTOBER 7, 2021
MINUTES

Borough Manager Sterner said the paint is on back order, we can't get it.

Ed McArdle asked about the weeds at the corner of 3rd and Center St and 318 Center St.

Borough Manager Sterner said this is for the Nuisance officer. When a request for action is filed out, he will go out and look.

Michael Rivkin gave an update on the Fall Foliage festival, the event meetings paid off.

Action

Discussed Council Meeting Minutes from September 2, 2021.

Discussed Council Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2021.

President Strubinger asked if there are any changes to get them to the secretary before the meeting.

Discussed Expenditures from all Funds as presented, an updated list next Thursday.

Discussed Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Yeastedt asked if we are on target, or are we having issues.

Borough Manager Sterner said Sewer, Sanitation and Water are easier. We should be at the amount of 75% and the figures are pretty good there. Sewer is a little bit more on the income, but that is because of WWTP grant money we had gotten in, that we weren't planning on. Water we paid 100% of a loan that was paid in the beginning of the year, those expenses are a little higher. The General Fund is more difficult to judge because of the way the income comes in. The budget vs actual gives you a better idea and we are showing the income is to exceed the budget figures. Part of that is the American Recovery act income. The tax income we are going to exceed our estimate. For real estate taxes. All of our other income is right on track. The delinquent taxes are an increase since we changed over to Berkheimer for non- real estate taxes.

Discussed Disaster Declaration – COVID – to January 14, 2022

Borough Manager Sterner said the main reason for this is to protect the residents. We have no idea what may be coming down the line from the federal government and we don't want to lose out on anything that we could get.

Discussed Ordinance 2021-06, Deferred Retirement Option Program (Police)

Borough Manager Sterner said this has been included in the amendment to the Police bargaining agreement.

Discussed Ordinance 2021-07, Vehicles & Traffic Amendment; parking first block of Broadway

Borough Manager Sterner said this has been advertised and is ready for adoption.

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 7, 2021
MINUTES

Discussed Resolution 2021-17, LSA Monroe Grant, Jim Thorpe Little League Field Equipment - \$25,714.47 (replaces 2021-16)

Borough Manager Sterner said this replaces resolution 2021-16, in their estimate they forgot to include an estimate for the electrical work, that was added to the grant, there is no match.

Discussed Resolution 2021-18, Sale of 2003 Dodge

Discussed Fire Department 2003 Dodge Bids

Borough Manager Sterner said the bids are up next Wednesday.

Discussed 2021 Line-Item Transfers

- a. General Fund
- b. Sanitation Fund
- c. Sewer Fund
- d. Water Fund

Borough Manager Sterner said one of the main things she did the facilities project for the Public Service and Administration building. They moved those line items from the normal expense line items to transfer line item and transferred them into the Capital Projects funds. So, we have those monies, so we don't spend them on something else. She had some excess monies in other areas that she transferred them into the Capital Project funds as a match for the Multi Modal grant that we submitted. We had smaller items the temp employee, and the fire dept. excess quotes on the grant that we had in for the bay floor, the window and the roof and the police car that was damaged.

Discussed Foreign Firemen's Insurance Disbursement to Mauch Chunk Relief Association - \$20,808.54

Mr. Yeastedt said essentially there is one relief, other than transferring the finances to one and completing the audit. He is waiting Office of Fire Commission to get back to him to get this done.

Discussed Kim Wittig – employment status

Borough Manager Sterner said Kim has reached as of September 29, 2021 the end of her probation period, normally what is done council takes action to approve her as a full-time employee.

Discussed Uniform Construction Code Resignation – James Mason

Borough Manager Sterner said he was our main member, he wanted to resign that but agreed to stay on that board as an alternate member. Now he is resigning as the alternate member.

Discussed Blight Remediation Grant Projects

Jim Thorpe Borough –

Lehighton Borough –

i. KCE Invoices 177507 - \$345.00 & 178790 - \$115.00 paid

ii. KCE Invoice 179134 - \$3,576.50

iii. LaBella Asbestos Testing Proposal - \$3,800.00

Palmerton Borough –

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 7, 2021
MINUTES

Borough Manager Sterner said we have two KCE invoices that have been paid, we need to ratify that and the third invoice that has not been paid, this needs approval. We have a proposal from LaBella for asbestos testing, this needs approval, Lehighton has approved the payments. Lehighton is using Keystone Consulting Engineers and we are using Barry Isett, we are still waiting for our stuff from them. Palmerton is ready for demo, when that is done, we will get the bill.

Discussed Church Alley - Pioneer Payment Application #5 – \$109,920.20

Borough Manager Sterner said this has been reviewed and approved by the engineer and the Public Service Manager.

Discussed Strubinger Request for Action - curbing

President Strubinger said he has had substantial flooding on his property. This is an area that has been prone to flood out because of the substantial rains we have been getting over the years. The Borough has made repairs to the catch basin at 11th and North St this has helped keep the water underground and off the streets. When we get the big rains in a short period of time it overwhelms the storm water system. The 800 block of Lehigh Street does not have curbing or catch basins there, it goes down through the neighbors' yards and onto his property, he has had his basement flooded over the past few years. Two of the main things is there were 2 driveways put in on Lehigh Street and it allows the water to ramp right off of that and no curbing it takes the water off the streets and down along his house. The request was to enforce the curbing ordinance in the 800 block of Lehigh Street and put catch basins in there.

Discussed American Legion Veteran's Day Parade – Nov. 7 (rain date Nov. 14)

President Strubinger said they would like to know if they would be allowed to use the big pavilion after the parade for a gathering for the participants.

Mrs. Klitsch said she did talk to him about the rental.

Mr. Yeastedt said the Police Chief would like to do the Lehigh Street parade route instead of North St, this helps with traffic flow.

Discussed PA Attorney General – request Hall use for Training Nov 9

Borough Manager Sterner said this would be for first responders' connection to treatment sponsored by the Pa. Dept. of Health the request comes from the Carbon County DA's office.

Utility Action

Discussed Utility Accounts Lien Reports

- Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)
- Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (5)
- Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)
- Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (1)
- Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)
- Temporary Off Lien Report (0)
- Inactive (0)

Discussed Uncollectible Accounts Report (0)

Discussed Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (12)

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 7, 2021
MINUTES

Discussed #8810 Payment Plan

Exoneration Request

A. Monthly Report

Committees

Administration

Discussed Medical Marijuana Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Borough Manager Sterner presented Council with the maps for the medical marijuana zoning ordinance.

Council discussed the map for several minutes. They decided to make a committee to review the maps with solicitor Nanovic. Committee members are: Greg Strubinger, Kyle Sheckler and Michael Yeastedt.

Discussed Bishop Zeiser Correspondence thanking Council for the naming of the street in his honor.

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Discussed 2021 Street Project – Front Street

Mr. Yeastedt said he does not have an update of this. He would like to determine what the next step is.

Borough Manager Sterner said she is waiting for Dan to come back with recommendations. They are hoping to have that and the storm water ordinance updates to us.

Discussed Stormwater Management Notices

- a) 924 Laurel Street
- b) 150 West 13th Street
- c) 390 Chapman Street
- d) 322 West 10th Street

Discussed Stormwater Ordinance Update - memo

- a) Draft Ordinance with markup
- b) Draft Map
- c) Draft Attachments

Borough Manager Sterner said this just came in. The plan is to hand this out to council tonight to review. Dan is suggesting holding a special work session to talk about the proposed changes. She asked council for dates they would like to meet. Council decided to meet on October 20, 2021 at 6:30.

Police

Discussed Parking Authority

Buildings/Parks

Emergency Services

JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 7, 2021
MINUTES

Old Business

Brummell Request – to take unopened portion of Quarry St.
Readdressing Phase II
Blight Landbank
UCC Joint Board of Appeals Appointment
Facilities Projects
Chipmunk Trail Addressing

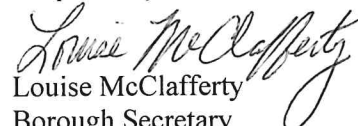
Executive Session

Adjournment: Michael Yeasted second Kyle Sheckler to adjourn motion carried 4 to 3 absent

Absent: 3 Bob Schaninger, Jay Miller & Tom Highland

Adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted


Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary