Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

11/18/21

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Jermyn Borough Building, 440 Jefferson Ave. Jermyn, PA 18433.

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Kulick with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, the following members were present: Frank Kulick, Kevin Napoli, Cynthia Stephens, Carl Tomaine. Mayor Fuga, and Attorney Moran also present. Kristen Dougherty, Robert Hunt, Kyra Davey, KBA, Bob Chase, NEIC, Jim Perry, Nicole Stephens, and Stanley Hallowich were absent.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by K. Napoli to accept the minutes of 10/21/21 as presented. Seconded by C. Stephens. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report/Bills Payable:** S. Lee read the treasurer’s report:

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Capital Reserve - DPW 10,725.40

Capital Reserve - Police 4,516.82

Crime Watch Fund- 222.69

General Fund - Community 101,610.35

General Fund – FNB 4,295.02

Holiday Lights Fund- 940.14

Investment - General Fund 1,001.58

Investment - Liquid Fuels 33,815.77

Investment - Paving Fund 1,011.94

Investment - Recycling 5,003.67

Investment - Refuse 2,600.35

Liquid Fuels - FNB 25,366.57

Petty Cash- 231.00

Recreations Fund- 15,939.25

Recycling - Community 8,673.76

Refuse Checking - FNB 66,851.83

Total Checking/Savings 282,806.14

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

200000 · Accounts Payable 52,797.84

A motion was made to accept treasurer’s report and pay bills by C. Stephens. Seconded by C. Tomaine. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Presentaion:**  Mayor Fuga took a moment to present Officer Rivers with a Certification of Appretiation for his assistance with a structure fire that took place in Mayfield on November 12, 2021. The Certificate was read aloud and presented to Officer Rivers.

**Correspondence:** F. Kulick read a letter from Jermyn Events committee regarding our participation in the upcoming Christmas Events, Friday December 10th 2021 at 6:00pm Christmas dinner dance held at St. Michaels Center. Saturday December 11th 6:00pm Christmas Light Parade sponsored by the Jermyn/ Mayfield girlscouts Starting at Washington and ending at Community center on Jefferson for refreshments. They are requesting for the police to lead the parade and help assist with traffic. And use of the Community Gym for this event starting at 1pm and ending at 9pm. Sunday December 12th at 3pm the Christmas community concert will take place at the United Methodist church. They requested the police or fire police help with directing traffic for this event.

F. Kulick then read a letter dated November 9th addressed to the Jermyn Borough Council and Frank Kulick, from Jim Davis that was requesting an update to a previous request from a right to know letter that was submitted, and a requested a response back from council. In which council confirmed a response was sent.

Council then also read two thank you letters, for Sympathy flower arrangements that were sent on the Boroughs behalf. One from the Hallowitch family and Second From the Kulick Family

**Public Comment:** Mike Bradley, 426 Garfield Ave. Thanking council for the work they had done with having another drain put in to correct the water issue he was having at the end of his driveway/Garage when the road was paved. He said he couldn’t be happier with they way it was handled and corrected.

Carrie Chase, 257 Hudson St. Wanting to discuss the relaunching of the Jermyn crime watch, and renaming it to Jermyn Neigborhood Watch, and confirming there was still a crime watch account. She was advise she was free to organize as it would be a independent citizen organization and they can work with the police department. Another resident Randy Parry advise that he had spoken with Chief Arthur about the crime watch and if they named it Neighborhood association then they would be able to branch out and do multiple community events and donations to help eliminate some of the restrictions they where facing before they closed the Jermyn crime watch. Council suggest appointing a liaison to help keep everyone informed.

Andy Whitiak, 512 Garfield Ave. Approached council with a Proxy letter from James Davis and questioned the Right to Know Act. He wanted to know why a Right to Know form had to be filled out, and why they are not able to come to the office and request an employees personnel document. When explained to him that it is the law when requesting an employees personnel information to have a form filled out, so that the borough’s Solicitor can review the request to ensure the document or documents requested are allowed to be given to the public. Mr. Whitiak was not satified by this response, and proceed to read letters that had be sent by James Davis to council that had already been read at previous council meetings. That request a copy of Daniel Markey’s contract with Jermyn Borough, The total amount spent for training Daniel Markey, and the reason he was allowed to break his contract, the current salary of all Jermyn Borough Employees, and the current debt of the Borough. As he argued that the Borough had not yet responded to Mr. Davis for his requests. President F. Kulick had advised Mr Whitiak that a response was sent to Mr Davis that a Right to Know request would need to be filled out in order to request such documents. At this time L. Moran addressed Mr Whitiak and advised that he had been in touch with him on November 17th about the November 9th letter and that two of his five requests were for personnel information and that Pennsylvania has a Personnel records Act, and that he would need 30 days for a legal review to ensure no laws would be broken by handing these documents over to Mr Davis, Once reveiwed Mr Davis will be responded to.

Mr. Whitiak’s second question then went to wanting to know why his taxes he sent out November 1st had not shown they had been signed for yet to be processed. He was advised by S. Lee that the label that was delivered by the post office was signed by the tax collector and left for the post office to deliver the parcel however they have yet to deliver it to the office. His final request was to know about the sewer issues they where having on his street, and wanting to confirm that the work that was done has fixed the issues. He was advised that they are monitoring it to confirm the work that was done has fixed the any issues with the sewer lines and the grease build up.

**Professional Reports:**

Police: Absent

Fire: K. Napoli made a motion to except the Resignation of Fred Langenhop from the Crystal Fire Company/ Fire Police. Seconded by C. Stephens. All in favor, motion carried.

EMA: Absent

Solicitor: None

Code Enforcement: Absent

Zoning: Absent

Engineer: Absent

Tax Collector: Absent

Mayor: T. Fuga advised that he was approached by Henry Houser in regards to a tree that is leaning towards his property from a neighboring property, and wanted to know what actions he can take or the Borough can take to this issue. Council is reviewing and will contact NEIC to have the tree looked at to confirm if it could be a hazard or public safety issue and how we can move forward to take action if needed.

**Committee Reports:** None

**Cyber Insurance:** F. Kulick Stated that our insurance agent has suggested we look into getting Cyber Insurance. Currently we have only been given a quote for $1,800, C. Tomaine will review the policy and gather more information for the next meeting to discuss.

**County Reinvest Grant Resolution:** Council had met with John Blake as he had approached the County and they agreed to let us apply for a $5,000 Grant which Jermyn would have to match. The Borough has submitted for the grant and so we need to retroactively pass the resolution. The resolution is funding the Borough portion of the Rushbrook Creek flood control. A motion was given by K. Napoli to accept the County Reinvest Grant Resolution. Seconded By C. Tomaine. All in Favor, motion carried.

**LSA Grant Resolution:** Resolution for the LSA grant for DPW Building. A Motion was given by K. Napoli to accept the LSA Grant Resolution. Seconded by C. Stephens. All in favor, motion carried.

**Right to Know Officer:** F. Kulick Suggested to appoint our Solicitor Larry Moran as the new Right to Know Officer. C. Stephens made a motion to appoint L. Moran as the new Right to Know Officer. Seconded by K. Napoli. All in favor, Motion carried.

**12-2021 - Elevator Project Resolution-** K. Napoli made motion to accept the Resolution. Seconded by C. Stephens. All in favor, motion carried.

**Civil Service Commission:** In following up to F. Kulick’s request to find some people interested in serving on commission. L. Moran suggested Ryan Wetzel, 8 Old Mill Rd.

**2022 Budget:**  F. Kulick read through the highlights/changes. No increase in taxes, we are adding $10,000 more than last year to the creek fund, adding $15,000 to the paving fund, Budgeting $5,000 for the Miners corner Development, The Boroughs current Debt is under control and manageable at this time, our debt currently stands at $320,000. Also starting as of the new year, the DPW Supervisor will be getting a 5.9% salary raise/cost of living increase.

A motion was made by C. Stephens to advertise that the proposed budget for 2022 is available for inspection at the Jermyn Borough office from 8:30am-4:00pm week days. Seconded by K. Napoli. All in favor, motion carried.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn by K. Napoli. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.