

Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

4/28/2022

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2022, 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, Trish Dabney, Jeff Morcom, Carl Tomaine, and Robert Hunt. Mayor Fuga also present. Kevin Napoli, Kyra Davey, Attorney Larry Moran, KBA, Bob Chase, NEIC, Jim Perry, Nicole Stephens, and Stanley Hallowich were absent.

**Minutes:** C. Tomaine made a motion to accept the minutes of 3/17/22 as presented, seconded by J. Morcom. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Capital Reserve - DPW	10,726.47
Capital Reserve - Police	4,651.82
Crime Watch Fund	222.69
General Fund – Community	231,159.02
General Fund – FNB	4,731.87
Holiday Lights Fund	1,374.09
Investment - General Fund	1,001.63
Investment - Liquid Fuels	33,817.53
Investment - Paving Fund	1,012.02
Investment - Recycling	5,003.93
Investment - Refuse	2,600.48
Liquid Fuels - FNB	62,254.02
Petty Cash	231.00
Recreations Fund	19,007.14
Recycling - Community	10,063.44
Refuse Checking - FNB	69,017.63
Total Checking/Savings	456,874.78

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

200000 · Accounts Payable 33,182.91

Long Term Debt 328,781.45

A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report and pay bills by R. Hunt. Seconded by T. Dabney. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Ratify Bill Paid on 4/4/22 & 4/12/22:** Motion was made to accept bills paid on 4/4/22 & 4/12/22 by R. Hunt. Seconded by T. Dabney. All in favor, motion carried.

**Correspondence:** F. Kulick read a letter from Lackawanna County notifying that, in conjunction with the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection. They will be conducting surveillance for the presence of West Nile virus in April of 2022 to help with the prevention and reduction of nuisance mosquitoes in populated sections of the county.

F. Kulick read a letter from Walter Estile. Please accept this letter as my resignation from the Jermyn Borough Special Fire Police.

A motion was made by J. Morcom to accept the resignation of Walter Estile from the Special Fire Police. Seconded by T. Dabney. All in favor, motion carried.

F. Kulick read a letter from Bruce & Patti Smallacombe, requesting to have their address changed to Shields Court from Rear Madison Ave. Their mail and packages keep getting delivered to the wrong location.

Council approves this change and will follow up with the necessary paperwork so they can have this processed.

F. Kulick read a letter from Randy Perry. Regarding the interest in restarting the community crime watch, but under the name of the Neighborhood Association. He had provided a copy of a mission statement they would like us to review to ensure all entities have a say before they move forward.

All the council members were provided a copy of the mission statement and will review and discuss it at the next council meeting.

F. Kulick then read a letter from Jim Davis. I believe the method for handling council meeting minutes is improper and needs revision. Meeting minutes are not released until after the meeting, after the minutes are recorded. At that meeting, there is a motion and a second to accept the minutes. They are approved and become an official record. At this point, the borough takes the position that the recorded minutes are final and no corrections or additions are allowed. It gives borough residents zero opportunity for input into the validity of the minutes and gives council members zero time to review the minutes before the vote to accept them. I request that meeting minutes be posted on the website two weeks before the next meeting, pending approval by the council.

Councils responded that the way the council handles the council meeting minutes is according to PSAB recommended methods. It is not acceptable for the Borough Secretary to publish minutes until the council meets and approves the minutes of the previous meeting. There is nothing which would preclude the council from considering a minute's revision at the request after they have reviewed the published minutes; however, unless that resident attended the meeting whose minutes are being questioned, it becomes a moot point.

**Public Comment:** Resident Henry Houser addresses the council about the issue he is having with his neighbor's tree that has caused damage already to his property and fence from fallen branches. Now there is another part of the tree that shows rotting, and he is concerned that if this section falls, it will end up hitting his house and potentially hurting someone.

Council will address this issue at the next meeting once they can speak with the Solicitor and code enforcement to see if the borough has any means to enforce any action on the neighboring resident about having this issue resolved, as it was presented as a safety issue.

### **Professional Reports:**

Police: Chief Arthur advised the council that they have responded to 2,967 incidents this year; they are currently working on several investigations within the borough related to issues with children. They are also still doing the house watch checks for the residents who have submitted a request while they are away. They are currently doing the yearly mandatory police update training. They have also been able to address the numerous complaints about several people who have modified their mufflers and decided to race through the town. One of the incidents happened on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 am They had gotten a report that several gun shots were fired. When they arrived in the area, one of the residents where able to provide a surveillance video that confirmed it was a modified car and no actual gun shots were being fired.

Also, they had been advised that there had been a bear seen in town. They are requesting that residents keep an eye out and their children when they are going to the bus stops. If you see a bear on your property and/or due to having any feeders or garbage, please remove these items to prevent them from returning and notify the police department. If the bear is found to be a nuisance bear from the reports they collect, they will be able to call the game commission to come in and trap the bear and have it removed safely and relocated.

Fire: Absent

EMA: Absent

Solicitor: Absent

Code Enforcement: Absent

Zoning: Absent

Engineer: Absent

Tax Collector: Absent

Mayor: None

### **Committee Reports:**

Planning Commission: None

Public Safety: None

Finance: C. Tomaine advised that we got a dividend check from our MRM workman's comp. In the amount of \$6,939.64.

Shade Tree: R. Hunt wanted to remind everyone that they have started the town cleanup month.

Grants: None

MS4: S. Lee played a short video about stormwater management.

DPW: T. Fuga advises that starting Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, chipping will begin, and he will be going around on Mondays.

Recreations: None

**Police Pension Ordinance:** F. Kulick announced the Revised Pension Plan Joinder Agreement Ordinance #02-2022 was advertised and asked for a motion to pass. A motion was made by C. Tomaine to pass Ordinance #02-2022, seconded by R. Hunt. On a roll call vote, members voted in the following manner:

Kulick – yes

Dabney – yes

Napoli – absent

Morcom – yes

Davey – absent

Tomaine – Yes

Hunt – yes

By a 5-0 roll call vote, the motion passes.

**Floodplain Consistency Letter:** Motion was made to approve the Floodplain Consistency Letter as presented by T. Dabney. Seconded by J. Morcom. All in favor, motion carried.

**Coal Miner Corner Tax Issue:** Motion was made to accept the 2021 School Tax for the coal miner's corner property by R. Hunt. Seconded by C. Tomaine. All in favor, motion carried.

**New Business:** F. Kulick wanted a follow-up done with the paving company for Dewight Ave. for an ETA. Then J. Morcom brought up a parking issue in front of the WWII park on Bridge St with the winery events, as only one car can fit down the road, and any emergency vehicle may have issues getting through. We will discuss with the owner how to help resolve this issue.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn by J. Morcom. Seconded by R. Hunt. All members in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Lee,

Secretary/ Treasurer