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, 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:** A motion was made by C. Tomaine 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 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 except 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 with in conjunction with the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection. They will be conducting a surveillance for the presence of West nile virus in April of 2022to help with 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 except 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 Sheilds Court from Rear Madison Ave. As their mail and packages keep getting delivered to the wrong location.

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

F. Kulick read a letter from Randy Perry. In regards to the interest of restarting the community crime watch but under the name 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 of council where provided a copy of the mission statement and will review and discuss 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 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 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 prior to the vote to accept them. I request that meeting minutes be posted, on the website, two weeks prior to the next meeting pending approval by council.

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

**Public Comment:** Resident Henry Houser, addresses council about the issue he is having with his neighbors 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 concered as 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 enforcment 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 council they have responded to 2,967 incidents this year; they are currently working on several investigations with in 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 decide to race through the town. One if the incidents happed on April 23rd at 3:30am they had gotten a report that sever gun shots where fired, when 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 where being fired.

Also, they had been advised that there has been a bear seen in town. They are requesting for residents to keep an eye out, and when your children 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 we got dividends check from our MRM workman’s comp. in the amount of $6,939.64.

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

Grants: None

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

DPW: T. Fuga advise that starting Monday May 2nd, chipping will begin and he will be going around on Monday’s.

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 corrner property by R. Hunt. Seconded by C. Tomaine. All in favor, motion carried.

**New Business:** F. Kulick wanted a fallow up done with the paving company for Dewight Ave. for an ETA. Then J. Morcom brought up a parking issue in front of the WWll park on Bridge St with the winery events, as only one car is able to fit down the road and any emergency vehicle may have issues getting through. We will discuss with 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 7:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Lee,

Secretary/ Treasurer