

Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

12/19/19

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers of the Jermyn Borough Building, 440 Jefferson Ave, Jermyn PA.

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, Jennifer Schreiner, Carl Tomaine, Kevin Napoli, Cynthia Stephens, and Joanne Wilson. Attorney Aquilino, Mayor Fuga, Bob Chase and Ann Marie DeSanto (7:08pm) were also present. Kristen Dougherty was absent. KBA and Stanley Hallowich were absent.

Minutes: A motion was made by K. Napoli accept the minutes of 12/5/19 as presented. Seconded by C. Stephens. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report/Bills Payable: D. Markey presented the treasurer's report as of 12/19/19.

**Jermyn Borough
Balance Sheet**
As of December 19, 2019

		Dec 19, 19		
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
2019 Revenue Anticipation Note	228,530.23			
DPW Capital Reserve	17,960.90			
General Fund - Community	9,807.64			
Holiday Lights	3,683.40			
Investment - General Fund	1.39			
Investment - Liquid Fuels	45,428.38			
Investment - Paving Fund	11.77			
Investment - Recycling	1.33			
Investment - Refuse	2,574.27			
Petty Cash	162.01			
Recycling - Community	13,360.97			
Refuse Checking - FNB	40,745.60			
Shade Tree Commission	7,045.43			
100050 - FNB General Fund	1,191.04			
100052 - Liquid Fuels - FNB	1,650.28			
100053 - Refuse - FNB	0.01			
100125 - Crime Watch Account	721.75			
100800 - Jermyn Recreations Commission	7,428.68			
Total Checking/Savings	380,305.08			
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
200000 - Accounts Payable	3,631.07			
Total Accounts Payable	3,631.07			
Other Current Liabilities				
210000 - Withholding - Federal Income Tx	1,221.07			
210100 - Withholding - Social Security	1,453.93			
210200 - Withholding - Medicare	340.05			
210300 - Withholding - State Tax	359.97			
210400 - Withholding - PA Unemployment	25.41			
210500 - Withholding - Local Tax	143.61			
Total Other Current Liabilities	3,544.04			
Total Current Liabilities	7,175.11			
Total Liabilities	7,175.11			

A motion was made by J. Schreiner to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills as presented. Seconded by C. Tomaine. All members in favor, motion carried.

Correspondence: F. Kulick read a thank you letter from the United Neighborhood Centers. He also read correspondence from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs regarding different award nominations.

Public Comment: None.

Reports:

Police Report: Chief Arthur reported there were 855 incidents the past month. He thanked the Fire Police for assistance during the Holiday Light Parade. Chief Arthur advised he attended a Police Chief's meeting. House watch checks are continuing for residents who leave for vacation. Burglary arrests were made in town as well. Chief Arthur stated that he was being talked about after he left the last meeting and that he didn't appreciate it. There were three burglaries in town and one in Mayfield, with zero evidence, and all four were solved within five days. It's very important to trust the Chief and give him leeway to do what he needs to do. He was put in this position by council. He needs to be able to control rumors, etc, which can be detrimental to cases. With these last burglaries, there have been seven people arrested so far. He doesn't like to brag about the department during council meetings. He speaks with the Mayor daily, and the Public Safety Chair very often. If there is an issue with the public's safety, they get the word out. This instance, however, could have been compromised due to all the talk in the town. If the public needs to be made aware, the police will inform the public. He will appreciate everyone allowing the department space and leeway to do their job. They have a high crime solving rate for the borough. Mayor Fuga stated Job Well Done!, and council applauded Chief Arthur. F. Kulick asked when the new police cruiser is coming. Chief Arthur stated hopefully we will be picking it up tomorrow.

Fire Report: Chief Hallowich was unable to be in attendance tonight. K. Napoli stated he and Chief Hallowich are in contact nearly daily. They are going over information for insurance ratings, and thankfully, there is nothing else to report right now.

Zoning: Bob Chase stated he had one call about a shed that's been up for about a year, and he paid them a visit. He stated D. Markey will send a letter on his behalf. Chief Arthur stated that the Dive Rescue Specialists, which included Bob Chase as well as Chief's brother, assisted in river diving for evidence retrieval associated with the burglaries. He thanked all the dive specialists. K. Napoli stated he would like to have Council give certificates of appreciation for all the dive team specialists that helped that day.

Tax Collector: Mrs. DeSanto had nothing at this time.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Fuga presented Joanne Wilson with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of six years on borough council and a lifetime of service to the community.

Solicitor/Code Enforcement Officer: W. Aquilino stated he prepared a new refuse ordinance that will be brought up later tonight. From a code officer standpoint, we submitted invoices from NEIC and KBA for 614 616 Washington Ave inspections to recover those fees. We also submitted an invoice to recover inspection invoices for the Rushbrook properties.

Engineer: Absent.

Borough Manager: D. Markey explained we approached our pension benefits administrators to complete a study on the financial implications on lowering the police pension retirement years of service from 25 years to 20 years, or 15 years. We received the study back today. If lowering retirement years of service to 20 years, the estimated minimum municipal obligation (MMO) would be \$11,400. If lowering retirement years of service to 15 years, the estimated MMO would be \$27,700. C. Tomaine asked what a normal MMO is each

year. D. Markey went back and read the past few years of MMO's. W. Aquilino explained the implications of the study. C. Tomaine stated we don't know the cost factor, even as a hypothetical. Council and the solicitor discussed, in detail, the study. J. Schreiner asked if we know what the state aid was? D. Markey advised what we received and we were able to use balance to put towards the General Employee Pension Plan. D. Markey stated he can do research and find out what the state aid was, and what the MMOs were in the past.

D. Markey read a letter from the NEPA Alliance, asking for a membership. F. Kulick asked if there is a listing of other members? D. Markey stated no. Council discussed different reasons to join or not join, is there any additional grant opportunities, etc?

D. Markey announced the 150th birthday ceremony will be held on Friday, January 3, 2020 at 6pm in Council Chambers. We are expecting Representatives from the Governor's office, Senator Blake, Representative Kosierowski possibly outgoing and incoming county commissioners, and representation from the PSAB. We will have a cake and coffee for after the ceremony, and also possibly some fireworks.

We have received 45 rental permit applications so far.

D. Markey asked council for permission to open a new account for Police Capital Reserve. A motion was made by K. Napoli to allow the borough manager to open a new account for Police Capital Reserve. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor, motion carried.

Borough Flag Submissions: D. Markey explained the announcement of a borough flag contest a few months ago. We received multiple submissions and tonight they will be shown to Council, and a winner will be voted on by council. We received submissions from Bella Battenberg, Kommissar Kallstadt, Cody Stang, Brittany Mercadante, Allen Sutton, Jim Piatt, and Amy Ryczak. Council debated and reviewed flag submissions for some time. Council asked if Amy Ryczak would be able to change the red cross to a green cross, as the green cross is the symbol for first aid. Amy was called, and asked if her flag was selected, would she be willing to change the cross to green? She advised yes. A motion was made by K. Napoli to accept Amy Ryczak's submission #1 as the official borough flag of Jermyn, Pennsylvania, with the understanding that the cross be changed from red to green. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by C. Stephens to give Bella Battenberg's submission honorable mention. Seconded by C. Tomaine. All members in favor, motion carried.

Council took a brief recess at 8:21pm for the purpose of TV new interviews. Council reconvened at 8:31pm.

Shade Tree Commission: J. Wilson stated the tree was removed on the 700 block of Madison, and they continue to look for grants for tree planting & removal. Shade Tree will meet quarterly and at the call of the chair. In the future, Shade Tree will be looking forward to planting more trees, as well as the environmental aspect of the urban tree canopy. They are planning for Arbor Day, as well as a new order of trees coming in the spring.

Planning Commission: No report. F. Kulick asked if they are short a member? Mr. Kleha stated Mr. Stephens no longer attends meetings. F. Kulick stated he no longer wishes to be on the planning commission.

Public Safety: K. Napoli had nothing at this time.

DPW: J. Schreiner reported that the DPW pole building has been constructed. The garage door should be here this coming Monday. J. Wilson asked DPW to look into Davis Ct & Lackawanna Ave. She states they may need fill at that corner. There is a large hole.

Recreations Commission: J. Schreiner spoke for C. Stephens (sore throat). She advised the Children's Christmas Party is this Sunday at 5pm. We will be assembling goody bags this evening after the meeting. In light of recent events, the Recreations Commission donated 2 cases of candy to the Crystal Fire Co. for Santa on Christmas eve. We are asking renters of the gym, youth basketball players, parents and coaches to please try to keep the gymnasium, restroom, and hallways clean. We would like to keep the gym looking as nice as possible, so please pick up after yourselves. The Recreations Commission is still in need of members. If anyone is interested in joining, please see Cindy Stephens.

Grants Committee: D. Markey advised we have applied for the PA Small Water & Sewer Grant. Also, we received a grant through WalkWorks, in conjunction with the State of PA and University of Pittsburgh. It helps us establish walking routes in town and get people out to exercise. They will be assisting us with WalkWorks routes in 2020.

2020 Budget: F. Kulick explained the 2020 budget was duly advertised and available for inspection for the past 10 days. A motion was made by J. Schreiner to adopt the 2020 budget as advertised. Seconded by K. Napoli. All members in favor, motion carried.

2020 Tax Ordinance: F. Kulick explained the 2020 Tax Ordinance was duly advertised as well. He read the ordinance and asked for a motion to pass. A motion was made by K. Napoli to adopt Ordinance 9-19, the 2020 Tax Ordinance. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor, motion carried.

Lackawanna County Flood Plain Maps & Ordinance Update: D. Markey explained that FEMA is assisting Lackawanna County to update the flood maps, which will go into effect on August 5, 2020. We have received a preliminary map of the changes. The map is available on the Lackawanna County Website. There have been changes with some areas going into floodplain, some coming out, and some remaining the same. Our floodplain ordinance must be updated prior to the new maps going into place.

Garbage Ordinance: Attorney Aquilino updated all prior garbage ordinances into this one, which was emailed to council earlier this week. D. Markey recommended to not put a specific fee in the ordinance. That way, if the garbage fee ever increases or decreases, it can be handed by fee resolution, and council would not have to amend the ordinance. Some of the prior language from the 1990's was removed, as the borough no longer handles garbage or delinquent fees. Lackawanna County Tax Assessor's Office has delinquency collection now, and they charge a 10% penalty immediately upon delinquency. F. Kulick asked for a motion to advertise the garbage ordinance. J. Wilson made a motion to advertise the ordinance. Seconded by J. Schreiner. All members in favor, motion carried.

2020 Fee Resolution: F. Kulick read resolution 10-19, setting the fees for 2020. A motion was made by C. Stephens to pass Resolution 10-19 for 2020 Fees. Seconded by J. Wilson. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session: Council convened into executive session for personnel purposes at 8:57pm. Council reconvened from executive session at 9:30pm.

2019 Audit: A motion was made by J. Wilson to allow Brian Kelly, CPA, & Associates to handle the 2019 DCED Audit. Seconded by K. Napoli. All members in favor, motion carried.

Adjournment: With no other business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by K. Napoli to adjourn, seconded by C. Tomaine. All in favor, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Markey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Daniel Markey

Borough Manager