

Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

3/18/21

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, March 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, and Kyra Davey. Mayor Fuga, Attorney Aquilino, James Perry and Amanda Rzucidlo were also present. Bob Chase joined the meeting at 7:08 pm. Kristen Dougherty, Robert Hunt, Kathlyn Goodwin, and Stanley Hallowich were absent.

Minutes: A motion was made by C. Stephens to accept the minutes of 2/18/21 as presented. Seconded by K. Davey. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills Paid on 3/2/21: A motion was made by C. Stephens to ratify bills paid on March 2, 2021. Seconded by K. Napoli. All members in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report/Bills Payable: D. Markey presented the Treasurer's Report for March 18, 2021:

ASSETS

Capital Reserve - DPW	10,397.72
Capital Reserve - Police	3,620.18
Crime Watch Fund	755.44
General Fund - Community	153,732.27
General Fund - FNB	1,906.66
Holiday Lights Fund	543.90
Investment - General Fund	1,001.42
Investment - Liquid Fuels	33,812.22
Investment - Paving Fund	1,011.91
Investment - Recycling	5,003.16
Investment - Refuse	2,604.77
Liquid Fuels - FNB	72,767.57
Petty Cash	151.42
Recreations Fund	13,093.22
Recycling - Community	7,773.52
Refuse Checking - FNB	29,418.20

Total Checking/Savings **337,593.58**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable **27,625.13**

A motion was made by K. Napoli to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills as presented. Seconded by K. Davey. All members in favor, motion carried.

Correspondence: F. Kulick read a thank you card from the family of Phillis Knipper, who was the mother-in-law of Mayor Fuga, for the flowers sent to the funeral.

F. Kulick also announced we received the Jermyn Youth Baseball & Softball financials and listing of officers, as required by ordinance.

Public Comment: None.

Police Chief: Absent. K. Napoli stated he spoke with both the police chief and fire chief, and things are running smoothly.

Fire Chief: Absent.

EMA Director: J. Perry reported that we have 2 of 3 sections of the EMA plan completed. The 3rd one wasn't completed yet, due to COVID-19. The 3rd section is a confidential notification and resource manual. He would like to meet with the fire chief, fire company captains, police chief, borough manager, public safety chair, and mayor. Anyone else is welcome to attend, but those are the people he'd like to bring together to review different resources. Prior to the meeting, we need to put an article in the paper to call in to let us know of hearing impaired, non-English speaking, handicapped, or any residents with any other disabilities or special circumstances. Also, we need to appoint a deputy EMA coordinator. Mr. Perry spoke with K. Napoli and gave his recommendation.

Solicitor: W. Aquilino said there was a tax appeal hearing today, but no one from the county showed up.

Code Enforcement: W. Aquilino stated we are still filing violations for non-owner occupied dwellings that haven't gotten permits. There will be a new garbage lock list shortly, and we will begin enforcing residents on the lock list that put their garbage out for collection. Mr. Aquilino stated we will wait for a formal change to the non-owner occupied structure (rental) ordinance until all the violations for 2021 have gone through the judicial system. Half have already been submitted to the district justice, and the other half will be filed before June. A member of the public asked if nothing regarding the ordinance will happen before June? Mr. Aquilino stated that is correct. He stated that the agenda comes out prior to the meeting, and if the topic is on the agenda, they may attend.

Zoning Officer: B. Chase reported that he has received a few zoning applications, but none of the applications have any setback descriptions, so he will have to contact each of the property owners. Mayor Fuga wanted to bring up the zoning rules regarding parking spaces with rentals. He asked what we have in place regarding this? As this has been an issue with snow plowing this past winter. B. Chase stated you can't make people use off street parking, but you are required to provide two off street parking spots per unit. Different cases were discussed, and W. Aquilino stated we are open to hear solutions. Mayor Fuga stated we may also

change to a hot-spot approach with alternate parking. We can post with signs. B. Chase stated they spoke years ago about an emergency snow route.

Engineer: Absent. D. Markey advised KBA responded to him, stating there really are no bond requirements for R&L Carriers. Also, KBA spoke about the pollution reduction plan (PRP) for the borough's MS4 permit. The engineer asked D. Markey about the work that the East Stroudsburg University interns are doing. D. Markey gave Mr. Kutch the infiltration rate numbers from the possible rain garden sites. Mr. Kutch stated that will help with getting the PRP ready. F. Kulick asked about the retention pond on Bacon and Garfield that the borough does not own. D. Markey stated the property is in the county tax repository, and the borough can purchase, however, it will be wise to file the Pollution Reduction Plan prior to purchasing the property.

Junior Council: Nothing to report. D. Markey asked if she got in contact with her guidance counselor about choosing a replacement yet? She stated yes, they are working through it.

Tax Collector: Absent.

Mayor: Mayor Fuga read a proclamation naming April as Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month in Jermyn Borough.

Planning Commission: K. Napoli stated there is nothing to report.

Public Safety: Nothing to report.

Finance: Nothing to Report.

Shade Tree: Absent.

Grants: Absent.

MS4: Absent.

DPW: T. Fuga thanked Council for the appropriation of funds to purchase the patch roller. It's wonderful, and amazing how far we've come from rolling patches with truck tires to this. These are the investments that are really going to pay off in the long run. F. Kulick stated that's what happens when you buy things that actually function. It's not a toy for the boys. T. Fuga states that when he asks for these things, it's not a toy; he's not having fun with it. It's a tool to do things the proper way, which will do a better job and save the borough money in the long run. He once again thanked Council, and said the tool really makes a difference.

Recreations: K. Davey stated she reviewed an estimate from Tim Stangline to replace the electrical box over at the basketball courts. She had two other electricians review it and it looks good. D. Markey stated he had the attorney review the contract and it has been executed.

Council briefly discussed the Jermyn 150 events, and what is still being planned vs what has been cancelled.

Borough Manager: D. Markey reported that ethics statements are due back to him by 5/1. The blood drive will be Friday, March 26th. D. Markey brought up the American Rescue Plan Funding, and stated the borough is slated to get around \$203K. He reviewed what the funding can and cannot be used for. He asked council members to think about ways that the funds can be used to benefit the most people in town. The old fire siren that is at 509 Madison Ave – we only have another year in the contract to remove it. It was decided to put it out to bid to sell and have the buyer responsible for removing it. D. Markey reviewed the pension plans for general employees and police. Also, the Army Corps of Engineers has given the final permit to the PA DEP for the Rushbrook Creek Project, and advised council that we are waiting on PA Department of General Services to provide easement language and instructions prior to proceeding. D. Markey brought up remote

deposit information to council provided by Community Bank. It would cost \$50/month, and we would have to purchase the equipment. A decision was made to not purchase this service. D. Markey reported that he is working with the East Stroudsburg University students on the Capstone Project internship. Areas being worked on are possible rain gardens, rain barrels, Japanese knotweed eradication, and students are also researching grant opportunities. D. Markey reported that the Holiday Light Committee has received additional donations for raffle prizes to raise funds for holiday lights. There will also be a “pop up” food distribution on Thursday, 3/25 from 1-2pm at the St. James/St. George Episcopal Church.

Bacon St. Sewer Rehabilitation Bids: F. Kulick opened the sealed bids for the project:

Stafursky Paving - \$81,455.75

Leeward Construction - \$126,352.50

Sikora Brothers Paving - \$126,175.00

Linde Corporation - \$127,371.50

Fellinger Construction - \$80,417.00

Andrew Baldan Construction - \$74,623.00

Pioneer Construction - \$94,672.25

Rock Bottom - \$101,690.00

Multiscape - \$134,358.50

A motion was made by K. Napoli to conditionally accept the bid from Andrew Baldan Construction upon approval of the engineer and solicitor. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor. Motion carried. F. Kulick thanked all bidders for their bids.

Climate Action Plan: K. Davey explained that the Climate Action Plan Committee got together to review the currently worded plan. They didn't like the plan as written, as there was a lot that didn't pertain to Jermyn. Commitments to specific percentages of reduction without them being measurable didn't make sense. Plymouth, MA has a good climate action plan on their website. We do a lot of the items, and we don't currently track for credit, but we can track and put on our website to make community friendly.

Bonnie Drive: D. Markey stated he notified council of the issues with Bonnie Drive, and do we want to change the name? We could keep it Bonnie Drive (which is not recognized by GPS), change the name to Chestnut St, to go along with the rest of Chestnut St, or change the name to a new street name. A motion was made by K. Davey to allow the solicitor to draft an ordinance to rename Bonnie Drive to Chestnut Street. Seconded by K. Napoli. All members in favor, motion carried.

Enerlogics MOU: D. Markey stated he gave information to council regarding placing solar panels on the roof. The company would like us to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU), which is not a contract, but is an agreement of good faith and understanding that the two parties will work together to evaluate and apply for federal, state, and local grants. W. Aquilino reviewed the MOU, and stated we should have the laws of PA govern the MOU, rather than the laws of OH. Enerlogics was amenable to that provision, and will change the MOU. C. Tomaine asked if this is binding? W. Aquilino stated if they find grant funding for us, then we are agreeing to use their company for solar panels. C. Tomaine stated that makes no sense to him. A discussion

ensued about whether or not this makes sense to do right now. D. Markey asked if everyone had read the information that he sent to all council members? Some read it, some did not. D. Markey asked if everyone could read the information prior to the next council meeting so they can make an informed decision.

Server: D. Markey stated we received an estimate from Icon Technologies for a Dell T340 Server, which we can purchase through a COSTARS contract. Currently, we have seven pc's in the building at risk, and a server will greatly reduce our chances of having a failure, or facing a fine if we received a Right to Know Request and was unable to respond due to a computer crash, etc. Realized cost savings would take a few years, however liability is increased without having a server. A server is also much more secure. F. Kulick asked if we have somewhere we can get the funds from? D. Markey stated the Bacon Street Sewer Project was funded 15% in the 2021 budget, which was \$12,500, which can be used in the American Recovery Plan funding, so we can use the \$5200 from the general fund. A motion was made by K. Napoli to purchase the T340 Server. Seconded by K. Davey. All members in favor, motion carried.

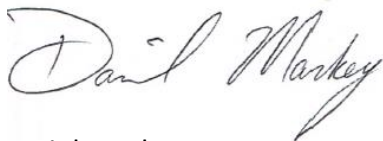
Executive Session: Council convened into executive session at 8:51pm to discuss personnel and possible litigation issues. Council reconvened from executive session at 9:23pm

New Business: F. Kulick stated that D. Markey puts a lot of effort in sending information to council members to be prepared to deal with issues at council meetings, so please read the emails prior to coming to the meetings.

K. Napoli thanked everyone who reached out after the passing of his father. T. Fuga also thanked everyone on behalf of his family who reached out after the passing of his mother in law.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn by K. Napoli. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Markey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Daniel Markey
Borough Manager