

Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

12/5/19

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, December 5, 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, Kristen Dougherty, Kevin Napoli, Jennifer Schreiner, Cynthia Stephens, Joanne Willson and Carl Tomaine. Attorney Aquilino, Mayor Fuga, Bob Chase, and Stanley Hallowich were also present. Ann Marie DeSanto and KBA were absent.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by K. Napoli to accept the minutes of 11/21/19 as presented. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All in favor, motion carried.

**Bills Payable:** A motion was made by K. Dougherty to pay the bills as presented. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor, motion carried.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Madison Ave Parking Ordinance:**

W. Aquilino explained we have a Madison Ave No Parking Ordinance in front of Tri-Star Academy, 626 Madison Ave, between the labeled entrance and exit of the lot, for safety purposes. J. Schreiner asked if there were hours this would go into effect. D. Markey explained it would be any time, no parking between signs. A motion was made by C. Stephens to advertise the ordinance. Seconded by J. Wilson. All members in favor, motion carried.

**Feral Cat Ordinance:** K. Napoli asked for the solicitor to look into our current ordinances, combine them, and add a section for feral cats. F. Kulick stated a new ordinance would be redundant. The new section would make a feral cat your pet if you feed it. J. Wilson asked about the proposed ordinance, and if everyone is ok with it? F. Kulick stated he's not a fan of the new ordinance. A discussion ensued about when the humane officer can get involved, proof of ownership of cats, etc. Chief Arthur explained if we have an ordinance making feral cat feeders responsible, the humane officer can enforce. F. Kulick and T. Fuga stated there's no way to enforce phantom feeders. F. Kulick stated we need to do a TNR program. W. Aquilino stated it would be too expensive. D. Markey asked W. Aquilino about the pictures in his folder. They were from a concerned resident that the feral cats are in her yard again. J. Wilson stated all animals must be leashed according to our current ordinances. K. Napoli asked if we can get the ordinances merged by next week so council can come back with constructive criticism? W. Aquilino stated yes. T. Fuga asked if we can invite the Humane Officer to a meeting to find out what we can do?

**L&I Solvency Fee:** C. Tomaine stated the solvency fee isn't a bad program, but might not be the best fit for our municipality.

**Small Water & Sewer Grant Resolution:** K. Dougherty explained we need a resolution to apply for the PA Small Water & Sewer Grant to make repairs on Bacon St. A motion was made by K. Dougherty to pass the Small Water & Sewer Grant Resolution. Seconded by J. Wilson. All members in favor, motion carried.

**2020 Budget:** F. Kulick stated we need to advertise the budget for 10 days before adopting it. K. Dougherty stated we need to do the budget earlier next year, and there's no time to discuss it. She also stated we need to think forward for saving for the future. D. Markey stated yes, we will need to build some capital improvement funds for the future. F. Kulick stated yes, and we as a small borough are also pressed with the financial constraints that other bigger boroughs and cities are pressed with. T. Fuga stated we are also coming from a place where we had an inordinate amount of equipment to replace and upgrade. J. Wilson asked why the shade tree budget was cut by \$500. K. Napoli asked what their current balance is? She replied \$7000, but that comes from donations. D. Markey stated Rec also took a hit, going from a \$1500 stipend down to \$200. F. Kulick stated we're doing our best to make ends meet. Some equipment was falling apart and needed to be replaced. We may have to crawl for a while, but we'll get out of it and do well. D. Markey stated if Council wants to get rid of the summer activities program again this year, council can fund the shade tree the \$1500. K. Dougherty asked if the budget is amendable? D. Markey stated yes, but we have to pass a budget at the beginning of the year, but it's amendable throughout the year. J. Wilson stated some trees need to come down and be replaced, and there are no grants for disastrous trees. F. Kulick asked for a motion to advertise the budget. A motion was made by K. Napoli to advertise the 2020 budget and make available at the borough office. Seconded by J. Schreiner. All members in favor, motion carried.

**Tax Ordinance, 2020 Meeting Dates:** F. Kulick stated we need to vote to advertise the tax ordinance as well as 2020 meeting dates. J. Schreiner asked if we meet on 1/2/20? D. Markey explained Organization Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of January in an even year, unless Monday is New Years Day. So the first meeting will be on 1/6/20, and we can advertise that it's for organization and any other business to come before Council. F. Kulick asked for a motion to advertise the 2020 Tax Ordinance. A motion was made by C. Stephens to advertise the 2020 Tax Ordinance. Seconded by J. Schreiner. All members in favor, motion carried.

F. Kulick made a motion to advertise 2020 meeting dates as follows: Re-Organization meeting January 6<sup>th</sup>, including all other business to come before council, then the first and third Thursdays of the month, except for June, July, August, September, where council will only meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All members in favor, motion carried.

**FEMA Meeting:** D. Markey explained there is a municipal officials meeting on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am regarding updating the FEMA Flood Risk Maps.

B. Chase asked if anyone has heard anything about something going on in the back of Bardanes? He has heard there might have been construction, or big boxes being delivered. If machines are being replaced, we don't really need to know, but if anything else is happening, we need to know.

**Executive Session:** At 7:46 pm, council convened into executive session for personnel reasons. Council reconvened from executive session at 8:30 pm.

**New Business:** J. Wilson asked for Ashley Wilson and Mark Kilmer to be appointed to the Shade Tree Commission. A motion was made by J. Schreiner to appoint Ashley Wilson and Mark Kilmer to the Shade Tree Commission. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All members in favor, motion carried.

D. Markey asked council about rental permit letters that were sent out, and for clarification. Council agreed that if a parent's home is in the name of a child for estate planning purposes, that is not a rental, but others will require rental permits.

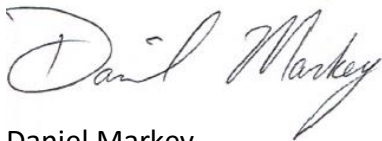
D. Markey asked about garbage exonerations, especially with all the empty buildings in town. Council discussed the implications of keeping the garbage exoneration or getting rid of it. W. Aquilino explained that the borough is being charged whether a unit is filled or vacant, and explained the process if people don't pay their garbage fees. D. Markey stated this is for people who pay their fee and then ask for exoneration. J. Wilson stated it's like the taxes, and if you own a property, you should pay the garbage fee whether it's vacant or not. A motion was made by F. Kulick to eliminate the garbage fee exoneration. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All members in favor, motion carried. J. Wilson asked if the garbage fee will go up? F. Kulick stated yes. J. Wilson stated we as property owners have been saving year over year the past few years, so if the garbage fee goes up, so be it. F. Kulick stated people can put out whatever they want, and the alternative is garbage stickers.

K. Napoli made a motion to accept the resignation of Officer Harvey. Seconded by J. Schreiner. All members in favor, motion carried.

J. Wilson stated she's a lame duck, but if something big happens in town, council should be made aware of it. There were burglaries this past weekend and she found out on the street. T. Fuga stated that it was an active investigation and leaking information could potentially tamper with the investigation. C. Tomaine stated that investigations should not be leaked, but a bridge out, etc. the information should be given to council.

**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 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Markey

Borough Manager