

Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

9/3/20

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Jermyn Borough Building, 440 Jefferson Ave. Jermyn, PA 18433.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Amanda Rzucidlo took the Junior Council Person Pledge, administered by Mayor Fuga. The council and public welcomed our new Junior Council Person as she took her seat.

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, and Carl Tomaine.. Attorney Aquilino, Mayor Fuga, Amanda Rzucidlo, and Kathlyn Goodwin were also present. Bob Chase, Stanley Hallowich, KBA, and Jim Perry were absent.

Borough Flag: President Kulick called for Mayor Fuga to present a certificate of appreciation to Amy Ryczak Rogers for designing the borough flag. Mayor Fuga presented the certificate and unveiled the flag along with Amy Ryczak Rogers, Representative Kosierowski, and Borough Manager Dan Markey. Representative Kosierowski presented Amy Ryczak Rogers with a certificate from the PA State House of Representatives as well.

Minutes: A motion was made by K. Napoli to accept the minutes of 8/6/20 as presented. Seconded by C. Stephens. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report/Bills Payable: D. Markey presented the Treasurer's Report:

Sep 3, 20

ASSETS

Current Assets

Capital Reserve - DPW	13,426.77
Capital Reserve - Police	1,823.36
Crime Watch Fund	921.75
General Fund - Community	133,690.18
General Fund - FNB	1,737.05
Holiday Lights Fund	3,346.54
Investment - General Fund	1.39
Investment - Liquid Fuels	34,272.15
Investment - Paving Fund	11.91
Investment - Recycling	1.33
Investment - Refuse	2,602.01

Liquid Fuels - FNB	43,211.61
Petty Cash	162.01
Recreations Fund	5,055.78
Recycling - Community	12,870.57
Refuse Checking - FNB	83,671.70
Total Checking/Savings	336,806.11

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	16,043.40
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A motion was made by K. Dougherty to accept the treasurer's report and pay the 8/20/20 bills as presented. Seconded by C. Tomaine. All members in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by C. Tomaine to pay the 9/3/20 bills payable as presented. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All members in favor, motion carried.

Correspondence: F. Kulick read a letter of resignation from Dominick Delprete to resign from the zoning hearing board, due to moving out of the borough, effective 8/28/20. A motion was made by K. Napoli to accept the resignation of Dominick Delprete from the zoning hearing board. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Reports:

Police Report – Chief Arthur reported there have been 4,281 incidents for the year. The police took into custody Ken Rivenburg of Rivenburg Auctions, for theft of services of over \$142,000. Chief Arthur attended a Chief's meeting to continue to review processes, policies, and procedures. Lackawanna County police departments are ahead of the curve compared to the national average as far as current policies are concerned. The Chief received ARID certification, which is advanced roadside impairment driving enforcement. There have been continued thefts in unlocked vehicles. Please lock vehicles, and even if you don't see anything missing, please call the police. Some bags have been retrieved. House watch checks are ongoing. Bears are everywhere, and the game commission is aware. Keep your garbage and bird feeders out of reach of the bears. Mayor Fuga asked Chief Arthur to explain to the council the accreditation program. Chief Arthur stated they are currently working through the PA Chiefs of Police Association. Policies are updated, and then the association is invited in to inspect the policies and procedures. There are 440 to review and improve over a five year period. If any deficiencies are found, you are given a chance to correct, then the association will come back in to audit, interview officers, etc. Once the department is accredited, there could be an added benefit of decreased insurance premiums, etc.

Fire Chief – Absent.

EMA – Absent.

Solicitor – Attorney Aquilino has nothing at this time for the solicitor’s report.

Code Enforcement – W. Aquilino reported there has been two rounds of district justice complaints filed due to rental permit violations, garbage violations, and two entities with outstanding debts owed to the borough. There were two hearings today, and the next set is September 14th.

Zoning – Absent.

Engineer – Absent.

Junior Council Person – A. Rzucidlo stated she is very pleased with the sanitation service in town.

Tax Collector – K. Goodwin reported there are a few processes she is trying to streamline. There is a receipt request that was posted to our website. She met with the Tax Collector’s Association, and there will soon be access to the county systems to be able to correct bills, change addresses, etc. She is getting a lot of requests for duplicates and certifications, but the companies are not paying the fees, so no certification goes out before payment is made, so things are held up there also. F. Kulick asked about the receipt request form. It was explained by K. Goodwin how it should work. She also explained that she needs to revamp the fee schedule. Community Bank has increased their NSF fee from \$35 to \$36. D. Markey asked Attorney Aquilino to look into charging a \$40 NSF fee to cover the cost of postage, phone calls, etc for a bounced check.

Mayor – T. Fuga would like to thank Chief Arthur and the Police Department for putting in a lot of work the past few months with high profile cases. Mayor Fuga also urged people to lock their vehicles. There is property on Division St that was owned by PG&W and sold to Lackawanna County. There were complaints of it being overgrown, so D. Markey contacted the county. The county came out and offered to Jermyn on a 99 year lease. Mayor Fuga would like to put in a dog park there, since there is a fence. D. Markey explained that Lackawanna County Commissioners would need to approve the lease prior to us taking it over, but we wanted to bring it up to council, because it can be a nice area to benefit our residents. Mayor Fuga stated it wouldn’t take much at all to clean up, and something nice for that area of town.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission – K. Napoli had nothing for the Planning Commission.

Public Safety – K. Napoli spoke with the EMA director, and will have dates within the next two weeks for NIMS training for the council members that still need it.

Finance – C. Tomaine states we should meet regarding the budget shortly. F. Kulick asked if he saw the report that D. Markey sent to finance? C. Tomaine has not seen it yet. F. Kulick reminded department heads to send 2021 needs to C. Tomaine.

Shade Tree – D. Markey stated that R. Hunt gave him a contract between Shade Tree Commission and Jeremy Perrault to cut trees in front of the borough building. D. Markey also stated that Shade Tree is working on obtaining their own EIN as well. F. Kulick asked if any organizations submitted July reports? D. Markey stated no, but he will remind Shade Tree and will gather everything for Jermyn Youth Sports.

Grants – K. Dougherty stated we were awarded the grant for the Bacon St. sewer, and we have other grants we’re applying for.

MS4 – K. Dougherty reported there is a workshop that she is interested in attending, and will look more into it. She also received a call from a Mayfield council member to work together on a project for Mayfield

Elementary, which will help with our permit, and will educate our youth. She stated there will be an MS4 committee meeting before we go to work on anything.

DPW – J. Schreiner had nothing to report.

Jermyn 150 – C. Stephens had nothing to report. She was not at the most recent meeting.

Recreations – C. Stephens had nothing to report.

Borough Manager - D. Markey stated on August 18th, he sent the new Workman's Comp Provider Panel to council to review, and would like a motion from council to accept. A motion was made by K. Dougherty to approve the new provider panel. Seconded by C. Tomaine. All members in favor, motion carried.

We received a phone call from Senator Blake and Representative Kosierowski notifying us that we were awarded the Small Water and Sewer Grant for Bacon Street, and thanked them again. Representative Kosierowski wanted to also thank her staffer, Drew Popish, who was in attendance tonight for all his hard work. The council thanked Drew. D. Markey stated we also received word that we were awarded the CDBG grant for the Head Start playground equipment on Henry Dr. and the Delaware Street CDBG project is nearing completion. The parking lot is scheduled to be paved next week, after Labor Day.

D. Markey stated he submitted for the final reimbursement for the LSA grant for Woodlands Project. We are working on some LSA grant applications to finish off the DPW garage and purchase a new police vehicle.

D. Markey reported we are having a blood drive on Friday, September 25th from Noon-5pm. Blood donors are in short supply and great need.

The bank statement date changes have all been completed, as requested by the borough auditor.

Workman's Comp renewal came in, and the premium is lowered by about \$85/month. D. Markey thanked all the full time and part time employees for making safety our number one priority in Jermyn. Admin and DPW completed active shooter training, and will continue weekly training sessions.

The 2021 MMO (municipal minimum obligation) for non-uniformed employees is \$9,820, and uniformed employees is \$0.

When Chief Arthur was at the most recent Chief's meeting, he was informed by Archbald that they lowered Main Street to Washington Ave to 25MPH, and we would like to do the same for our stretch of 35 MPH road, which is part county, part state. Consistency and uniformity are key for safety measures. A traffic study is required for the state portion, and D. Markey asked for a motion to ask PENNDOT for a traffic study for the state portion of Washington Ave. A Motion was made by K. Dougherty to request PENNDOT do a traffic study for the state portion of Washington Ave that is 35 MPH. Seconded by J. Schreiner. All members in favor, motion carried.

C. Tomaine stated he received a letter from MRM regarding tracking working from home due to COVID-19. D. Markey stated we have no such cases in Jermyn currently.

Zoning Hearing Board:

D. Markey stated he received a verbal resignation from Gail Rosemergy from the Zoning Hearing Board in late August. He asked if a written resignation is required. Attorney Aquilino stated no, council can accept the verbal resignation, and asked council for a motion, due to the urgency of replacing board members. A motion was made by K. Dougherty to accept the verbal resignation of Gail Rosemergy from the Zoning Hearing Board. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor, motion carried.

D. Markey reported that there are two Jermyn residents that have stated interest in serving on the Zoning Hearing Board. Michael Klobucar of 401 Hemlock St. and Andrew Goodwin of 607 Jefferson Ave. A motion was made by J. Schreiner to appoint Michael Klobucar and Andrew Goodwin to the Jermyn Zoning Hearing Board. Seconded by K. Napoli. All members in favor, motion carried.

Ronald Novotny, of Rear 427 Madison Ave, states he must have missed public comment portion, but he wanted to thank all involved for helping him with his issue he recently had. He told D. Markey he's glad to support the blood drive, and will be happy to speak about where he can serve in town.

COVID-19 Relief Resolution: D. Markey announced that we will be getting financial relief through the CARES Act for COVID-19 related expenses. We have a total of about \$900 or so. F. Kulick read Resolution #14-20, and asked for a motion to pass. A motion was made by K. Dougherty to pass Resolution #14-20. Seconded by K. Napoli. All members in favor, motion carried.

CDBG Grant Resolution: D. Markey explained Resolution #15-20 is to enter into the Co-Op Agreement between Jermyn Borough and Lackawanna County for the Head Start Playground Equipment at Henry Dr. F. Kulick asked for a motion. A motion was made by K. Napoli to pass Resolution #15-20. Seconded by J. Schreiner. All members in favor, motion carried.

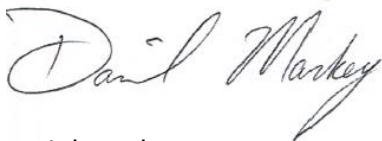
New Business: F. Kulick stated the traffic on Garfield Ave. and unfortunately, one of his pets was killed by a speeding car going down the road. People are flying down the road. He is not blaming the police. There is a speed limit sign missing, which is going to be replaced by DPW, but some of the neighbors mentioned maybe a stop sign is in order by Raymond Dr. F. Kulick asked Mayor Fuga, Police and Safety Chair to speak with some people, look at the situation, and see if a stop sign may be warranted.

D. Markey was notified that Rapid Pallet has invited all borough officials and employees to ice cream from Mannings Mobile tomorrow from 12:15pm-1:00pm.

F. Kulick thanked Commissioner Chermak and Representative Kosierowski for being in attendance tonight.

Adjournment: With no other business to come before the meeting, a motion was made to adjourn by K. Napoli. Seconded by J. Schreiner. All members in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 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