

Jermyn Borough
Council Minutes
July 18, 2024

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2024 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 Vice President Trish Dabney with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, the following members were present: Trish Dabney, Mark Kilmer, Jeff Morcom, and Chris Cook. Mayor Fuga and Attorney Brendan Fitzgerald were also present. Robert Hunt, Carl Tomaine, KBA, Bob Chase, NEIC, Jim Perry, Nicole Stephens, and Stanley Hallowich were absent

Minutes: C. Cook made a motion to accept the minutes of 6/20/24 as presented, and J. Morcom seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report/Bills Payable: S. Lee read the treasurer's report:

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

American Rescue Plan Fund	135,760.91
Capital Reserve - DPW	909.60
Capital Reserve - Police	5,859.82
Crime Watch Fund	222.69
General Fund - Community	221,218.31
General Fund - FNB	5,969.71
Holiday Lights Fund	300.59
Investment - General Fund	1,092.74
Investment - Liquid Fuels	24,059.93
Investment - Paving Fund	1,104.12
Investment - Recycling	120.68
Investment - Refuse	172.08
Liquid Fuels - FNB	38,334.71
Petty Cash	196.50
Recreations Fund	23,329.19
Recycling - Community	3,468.14
Refuse Checking - FNB	232,835.15

Total Checking/Savings 694,954.87

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

200000 - Accounts Payable	88,551.59
Long Term Debt	161,370.37

A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report and pay bills by C. Cook. Seconded by M. Kilmer. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Ratify Bill Paid on 7/3/24: Motion was made to accept bills paid on 7/3/24 by J. Morcom. Seconded by M. Kilmer. All in favor, motion carried.

Secretary Report: S. Lee advises the council about a resident who has been getting charged for an extra garbage bill since 2020. She requested that it be advised that a credit will need to be issued to this resident after confirming by having a reassessment of the property by the county, and also reaching out to the tax claim bureau.

Correspondence: T. Dabney read a letter from Jeff Bachak received via Facebook Messenger. Which he addressed his concerns for the safety of those walking on Moon Rd to the heritage trail. After discussion by council it was noted that the borough would have to reach out to the Lackawanna rail and trails council about this safety concern to see what they can do to help resolve these concerns.

Public Comment: K. Napoli requested an update on the paving of Mellow Ct. where the retention pond was installed. A. Fuga advised that he has spoken to the contractors and it should be done within the next following weeks as they had some delays due to weather.

F. Kulick of Garfield Ave then addressed the council regarding the appointment of Mr. Bruno to the vacant council seat.

I believe the appointment was made potentially illegally and most definitely without proper consideration for other interested citizens.

First of all, there was not an appointment made within 45 days of my resignation which in itself violates the borough code.

Secondly, it is obvious that Mr. Bruno was given advance notice of the open seat before it was even advertised, and it was said to some residents even before the next council meeting after I left that Mr. Bruno would be given the seat. That could be a violation of the sunshine law.

Once the council finally did advertise properly, although beyond the prescribed time limit for filling the seat, 2 citizens stepped up to apply besides Mr. Bruno.

By the right to now act, I have copies of all 3 letters sent to the council regarding the open seat. 2 of them at least list some reasons why the resident would want to fill the seat, along with listing some skills that might have some value to the council position. Bruno's letter offers no listing of any skills.

The usual procedure for filling an open council seat involves interviewing the interested citizens. There were no interviews conducted, at least not in a public setting. If there had been, perhaps some of the questions might have been How much time do you spend in the borough? Have you ever made comments on social media belittling the council or bordering on slanderous against the police or mayor, or DPW? What, if any, organizations have you spent time working with since you have been a resident of the town?

What skills or education do you have that could benefit the council?

Finally, borough code clearly states that to be appointed a person must have lived continuously in the borough for a year before the appointment Borough code section 901., it does not say must own property or must have paid taxes it says must have lived continuously -I do not think Mr. Bruno meets those criteria.

The borough code section 901 also requires that a notarized affidavit of residency be provided and refers to section 801 which requires that such affidavit be presented to the borough secretary before being sworn in. There is not one on file for Mr. Bruno. - by virtue of all these inconsistencies and code violations council has the authority to remove Mr. Bruno from the council seat and declare it vacant and start over. It seems to me that would be both the right and prudent thing to do.

Mark from Lackawanna County just wanted to advise of some of the vents that will be coming up in our area and pass along some flyers to be posted at the borough.

Professional Reports:

Police: W. Arthur wanted to discuss some issues they have been having. First is the use of 911 for non-emergency calls. He is requesting that if it is not of an immediate emergency to please use the non-emergency number which is 570-342-9111. Please only use 911 in a true emergency as by calling this number you are holding up an operator from taking a true emergency.

Also, the ATVs are still an issue, but it seems that we do have a decrease in violations.

Fire: Absent
EMA: Absent
Solicitor: B. Fitzgerald requested to have an executive session.
Code Enforcement: None
Grants: None
Zoning: Absent
Engineer: Absent
Tax Collector: Absent
Mayor:

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: None
Public Safety: T. Dabney has a request for a handicap parking sign to be placed out front of 216 Bacon St.

A motion was made to approve the placement of a handicap parking sign by J. Morcom. Seconded by M. Kilmer. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Finance: Absent
Shade Tree: None
Grants: None
MS4: None
Recreations: None
DPW: None

New business: None

Executive Session Council convened into executive session at 7:32 pm for to discuss litigation matters. Council reconvened from executive session at 8:06 pm.

A motion was made to re-advertise for the open council seat by J. Morcom. Seconded by C. Cook. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn by J. Morcom. Seconded by C. Cook. All members in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Lee, Secretary/ Treasurer