

Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

7/2/20

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm at 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, Kristen Dougherty, Kevin Napoli, Jennifer Schreiner, Cynthia Stephens, and Robert Hunt. Attorney Aquilino, Mayor Fuga, Isabella Brown, Jim Perry, and Stanley Hallowich were also present. Carl Tomaine, KBA, Kathlyn Goodwin, and Bob Chase were absent.

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

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

**Jermyn Borough
Balance Sheet**
As of July 2, 2020

		Jul 2, 20
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
DPW Capital Reserve	▶	13,426.10 ◀
General Fund - Community		113,393.12
Holiday Lights		3,346.54
Investment - General Fund		1.39
Investment - Liquid Fuels		33,744.56
Investment - Paving Fund		11.89
Investment - Recycling		1.33
Investment - Refuse		2,599.56
Petty Cash		162.01
Police Capital Reserve		1,701.51
Recycling - Community		12,642.68
Refuse Checking - FNB		98,321.71
100050 · FNB General Fund		2,090.84
100052 · Liquid Fuels - FNB		57,887.05
100125 · Crime Watch Account		921.75
100800 · Jermyn Recreations Commission		5,157.78
Total Checking/Savings		345,409.82
Total Current Assets		345,409.82
TOTAL ASSETS		345,409.82

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
200000 · Accounts Payable	582.04
Total Accounts Payable	582.04
Total Current Liabilities	582.04
Total Liabilities	582.04
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	582.04

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

Correspondence: F. Kulick reported that each property owner along the Rushbrook Creek project was sent a postcard regarding the comment period. F. Kulick read a letter from FEMA advising the borough that the updated Floodplain Management Ordinance passed brings the borough into compliance with the new flood rate maps to be released on August 5th.

We received a letter from the Crystal Fire Company, which he will read later when the Fire Company comes up on the agenda.

Public Comment: None.

Reports:

Police Report – Chief Arthur reported there have been 3,268 incidents to date this year. The police have done COVID-19 education, increased business checks on businesses that were forced to close, participated in Lakeland High School graduation parade, assisted in birthday drive-by parades. ATV enforcement continues, and penalties are parallel with activity. The Chief met with District Attorney Powell regarding ongoing issues with law enforcement in the country. PA is one of the best states in the country in terms of police training. House watch checks continue for vacant houses due to vacations. Residents can fill out a house watch check form with the police if they are going away.

Fire Report – Chief Hallowich reported there were 36 calls through the end of June. Not much has happened in Jermyn. There are manpower shortages, which they continue to work on. Chief Hallowich stressed that each qualified firefighter has to train for over 200 hours on their own time, and asked everyone to keep that in mind while we work through fire company issues.

EMA – Nothing to report.

Solicitor – Attorney Aquilino reported he completed the Solicitor's Letter for the Debt Consolidation Bank Loan. He proposed for discussion and will seek advice of council regarding getting a blighted and abandoned properties ordinance on the books.

Code Enforcement – W. Aquilino stated since our last live meeting in March, code enforcement has been ongoing. He wanted to personally thank the Borough Manager, D. Markey, for being instrumental for cutting costs in code enforcement efforts, and having knowledge of the borough in general in his daily activities for making the Code Enforcement Officer's job easier. W. Aquilino also thanked Mayor Fuga and Chief Arthur for the rest of council for supporting code enforcement. We had 56 total code enforcement notifications that went out for different issues: lawns, trees, roofs, fences, garbage, rental permits, pave cuts, and illegal cat colony. One unfortunate thing we're seeing is repeat violators – repeat grass violators, people who have been taken to the district justice, paid their fines, and don't improve the situation. We will take further action with those violators, by filing criminal complaints with the district attorney. One other issue is people that leave their garbage out when not paying their fee. You have to be up to date with your garbage fees to have the garbage collected. Bears could pose an issue to people that are leaving their garbage out.

Building permits continue to be an issue, where people aren't pulling permits. If there are repeat offenders, we will go to the district magistrate.

W. Aquilino asked if there was anyone here with regard to property maintenance issues? Peter Glass was here regarding 536 Washington Ave. W. Aquilino asked him to explain where he is going with the property? Mr. Glass stated they were discussing tearing the house down and putting up a modular. A salesman stated they couldn't do it. He then had some drawings made up for a new structure. Then another salesman stated they could, but then they decided again they could not put up a modular home. Then other things happened, including coronavirus. W. Aquilino asked for a timeline going forward. Mr. Glass stated that he has another architect on it, but he lives in New Jersey. Mr. Glass is hopeful to have drawings to submit by the end of September. W. Aquilino asked Mr. Glass to stay in contact with him once per month regarding updates.

W. Aquilino asked if there was anyone here about the Vitucci property? Christine Vitucci was present. W. Aquilino asked for an update. Mrs. Vitucci stated that there were 3 large doorways that were opened, and a huge hole. The doorways were closed and the hole was covered. The next step is to take down the back section of the roof and the front. W. Aquilino asked if the house is habitable? Mrs. Vitucci stated yes, it will be able to be lived in. W. Aquilino asked about a timeline? Mrs. Vitucci stated they got a permit, they don't do work in the winter, and it is a process. F. Kulick asked about the long term plans for the property? She stated she wants to close everything up and begin working on the inside. W. Aquilino stated the properties need to be secured. No trespassing signs or purple paint can be put up. Mrs. Vitucci stated the entire back should be completed and hopefully the front prior to the weather getting bad again. She will keep in touch with W. Aquilino.

Zoning – D. Markey stated B. Chase cannot be here tonight, but submitted a report. There is a steady stream of zoning applications, but for every 3 applied, we catch 1 without permits.

Junior Council Person – I. Brown had nothing to report at this time.

Mayor – T. Fuga would like to thank all first responders – police, fire, etc. – during the COVID-19 pandemic. They did birthday parades, passed out meals, etc. It showed a lot, and really helped the community through the pandemic.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission – K. Napoli reported the Planning Commission needs to meet on the R&L Carriers building. D. Markey was sent all the paperwork.

Public Safety – K. Napoli reiterated what the Mayor said, thanking all the fire, police, and EMS regarding their response during the pandemic. K. Napoli asked J. Perry to setup NIMS training for the newer council members.

Shade Tree – R. Hunt had nothing to report.

Grants – K. Dougherty stated deadlines for some grants were extended due to COVID-19, including Greenways & Trails Grant, which we used for the gym floor. K. Dougherty asked for Council's permission to apply for the Greenways & Trails grant for some sanitation stations for Callahan Park, as well as some new playground equipment. F. Kulick stated sure.

A member of the public asked about grants for sidewalks. K. Dougherty stated since we joined Walkworks, we have a better chance of obtaining sidewalk grants.

W. Aquilino asked K. Dougherty if she can help apply for cat neutering grants.

MS4 – K. Dougherty reported that storm drain cleaning was done on about 10 drains that were fully clogged.

She also reported that we received a letter from the PA DEP that our MS4 permit application was received. The only notes they had were on items that KBA was handling. K. Dougherty made a motion to send a letter to KBA to advise them that if we need them on MS4, we will contact them, but otherwise, the borough will handle on our own. Seconded by J. Schreiner. All members in favor, motion carried.

We received a letter from DEP about work that was done partially on borough property and partially on private property. The borough did not pay for any of the work done. The MS4 joint permit application fee is \$2,000. There will be additional work to be paid for by the property owner, which the borough will not participate in. K. Dougherty made a motion to pay the \$2K permit fee to DEP, conditionally, provided that the homeowner foot the rest of the expenses. Seconded by K. Napoli. All members in favor, motion carried.

DPW – J. Schreiner reported we have estimates to repair Davis Ct. from Maple St. to Bridge St, and also Lane St. Together, the projects are just over \$10K. Do we want to get 3 quotes? D. Markey explained that the quote was from the same company that handled our alleyways last year, however, after the alleyways were completed, he and the Mayor both received phone calls from other local construction businesses asking why they didn't receive the opportunity to bid on the work. It may be best to receive quotes from other local businesses to remove the perception of partiality, even though the estimate is below the threshold of quote requirements. D. Markey showed Council pictures of both Davis Ct and Lane St. F. Kulick stated if we want to get these done in July, we have to take action tonight. W. Aquilino stated to get two more telephone quotes and give it to the lowest bidder. A motion was made by J. Schreiner to obtain three quotes for Davis Ct and Lane St and award to lowest bidder, not to exceed \$10,222. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All members in favor, motion carried.

Jermyn 150 – C. Stephens reported that the decision was made by the Jermyn 150 committee to hold off further events until 2021. Dates will be set later for the events, and beginning in August again, we will meet on the second Sunday of each month at 7pm at the borough building.

Borough Manager - D. Markey reported that he applied for COVID-19 relief grant funding earlier today. Woodlands Phase I is finished, and will shortly be ready to pay. Once we pay, we will submit for reimbursement. The 2019 Revenue Anticipation Note has been paid and closed. D. Markey reported he has been working on a lot of different projects during the pandemic. He made a mobile office to deliver permit applications to people. He made an Ordinance Tracking Sheet, and also made Ordinance Books for the Police Department for each vehicle. D. Markey reported we have been providing public services for tax delinquents and garbage services for garbage delinquents. Since we're in "green" phase, that is going to cease.

D. Markey reported that during COVID-19, he and T. Fuga did a lot of training. D. Markey is proud to announce that T. Fuga met the requirements for the Road Scholar 1 designation, and presented T. Fuga with a Certificate of Achievement.

Fireworks Ordinance: F. Kulick explained that the fireworks ordinance was duly advertised, and limits fireworks to Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day, as well as the day before each holiday, and limits fireworks to a stop time of 10pm, plus all the state regulations. A motion was made by K. Dougherty to advertise the fireworks ordinance. Seconded by J. Schreiner. On a roll call vote, the members voted as such:

F. Kulick – yes

K. Dougherty – yes

K. Napoli – yes

J. Schreiner – yes

C. Stephens – absent (had to adjourn meeting early)

C. Tomaine – absent

R. Hunt – yes

On a vote of 5-0, the motion passes.

Cats: W. Aquilino explained the Borough of Jermyn has and continues to have a problem with feral cats. There is an illegal cat colony on the 700 block of Mellow Ct. W. Aquilino has received many complaints from people living in the neighborhood, and has received a lot of information from Council, Police Chief, Borough Manager, DPW regarding damage from the cats. The organization “In Pursuit of Grace” has trapped 25 cats, and has had to euthanize one due to illness. The problem is that the cat colony was down to 5 cats, and now due to feeding and shelters, the cat colony is up to 40 or more. At the rate we’re going now, we may never catch up. W. Aquilino stated he spoke with Mr. Krenitsky and Mr. Krenitsky advised he does not give any permission for any cat colonies on his property. W. Aquilino stated he sent letters to Ms. Vosburg, and will need to pursue district justice action if the cat colonies are not removed. Ms. Vosburg was in attendance, and stated she is working on it, and the Tahoe will be towed out shortly. Mr. O’Boyle was in attendance as well, and stated none of these cat structures are on his property and he does not give permission. He stated he put up no trespassing signs, but they were taken down. W. Aquilino explained the purple paint law to them, and advised them to try that. W. Aquilino stated all the cat structures are to be removed. In Pursuit of Grace stated Jermyn is funded up to 25 cats right now.

Crystal Fire Company: F. Kulick stated that both Fire Companies adopted a drug and alcohol policy. Crystal’s policy was a zero tolerance policy. One week later, the policy was broken. F. Kulick contacted the fire company captain, which was ignored. A letter was sent, which was ignored. A second letter was sent, which was responded to. F. Kulick read the response. F. Kulick stated he was advised he would be contacted by the president of the company, which didn’t happen. Then he received a call from an attorney, acting as a mediator. The fire company wants to have a special meeting to discuss disciplinary actions regarding the members that violated the policy, but they cannot do so until July 13th. F. Kulick asked the attorney to ask the company to amend their bylaws to state policy violators are expelled from the company. He also asked for a 6 month suspension for current violators, rather than the proposed 90 day suspension. F. Kulick stated that at the next meeting, if the borough doesn’t receive a satisfactory report, he will recommend further sanctions. J. Schreiner asked if we can pass conditional sanctions now? W. Aquilino stated we are best to wait until the August meeting.

New Business: D. Markey wanted to congratulate Isabella Brown, our Junior Council Person, for graduating high school. The Council and crowd applauded. She will be attending Syracuse University on a full scholarship. She is working on a recommendation for a new Junior Council Person to replace her.

Adjournment: With no other business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by K. Napoli to adjourn, seconded by J. Schreiner. All in favor, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Markey
Borough Manager