

## UNOFFICIAL UNTIL MARCH 14, 2013

Jermyn Borough Council met on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: W.Estile, J.Allan, A.J.Fuga and K.Hosie. J.Mark, J.Smith and R.Parks were absent. Attorney Nicholls and Mayor Smallacombe were also in attendance.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** – J.Allan reported: A balance of \$195,163.19 in the General Fund.

Deposits \$47,040.32

Expenses \$62,618.83

Ending Balance \$179,584.61

**MAYOR**– The mayor commended Chief Arthur on his excellent and detailed reports. He said we currently only have one cruiser on the road. The officers are doing an excellent job. The Mayor thanked council for the letters that were written for the donations and the proceeds will be used for the police department.

Mayor Smallacombe said the annual event dinner was well attended, everyone was happy with it and Senator Blake and Rep. Staback were in attendance. The Historical Society will meet the first Thursday of the month and they have received glass cases from the trolley museum. He then commented on a social media issue. He said the criticism of the council is unfounded, they do an excellent job. And should not be judged for sins of the past and are working hard. The current streets were built in the 1800's and were not built for heavy trucks. There was never a maintenance program, although there is a paving program. The council is working towards a maintenance program. He also said that the social media site said that the borough hired someone who was related. The only person he knows who is related is Joann Wilson who is related to him. He said he had no knowledge of her being hired. He said the mayor cannot hire or fire. The mayor commented on the driveway ordinance and said you can't put the cart before the horse. The borough should have had a driveway ordinance 25 years ago. Running water leads to the deterioration of the borough roads.

**SOLICITOR- PARKING FINES** – A motion was made by A.J.Fuga seconded by W.Estile to give Attorney Nicholls permission to advertise an ordinance accepting the 2013 budget and an ordinance to have a standard parking fine of \$25.00 for all tickets. All members were in favor.

Attorney Nicholls said the driveway ordinance can be discussed at the work session, to simplify it.

Attorney Nicholls said he requested proposals from several banks for the Bridge Street Project:

1. Penn Security – 5 years 2.74% 10 years 3.24% Bank fees -\$1500.00
2. F&CB – 5 year 2.99% Prime plus / legal fees/in house bank fees
3. Landmark 5 year 1.99% 10 year/3.65% / no bank charges

A motion was made by J.Allan seconded by A.J.Fuga to have Solicitor Nicholls enact an ordinance to advertise that Landmark Bank is the lowest percentage rate. All members were in favor.

**PUBLIC INPUT** – M.Newberry presented council with information concerning the upcoming CDBG grant, the end of the month judicial sales and the \$500.00 municipal grant for the concert in the park.

Chief Arthur said the crime watch plans on having the national night out, it may be called Jermyn Days or Jermyn Nights to be held in the park sometime in August. The Crime Watch would like to incorporate the Fire companies. The crime watch are hoping to raise enough funds to have fireworks to attract people. Chief Arthur said the crime watch is in the preliminary stages and want to have a nice program.

Chief Arthur addressed the alternate parking ordinance. He said he has received numerous complaints that the residents were unaware of the ordinance. He suggested re-visiting the ordinance or putting the signs back up.

Chief Arthur said he has received complaints about a wood burner in the 600 block of Madison Avenue. The fire department has been dispatched to this location. The next door neighbor said she gets smoke in her home and had to put a wet washcloth over her face. It is a heavy smoke issue and in the Chiefs opinion a health and safety issue.

Mayor Smallacombe said he thought the fireworks was a great idea and that he proposed it back in 2004.

W.Estile said the Crime Watch is looking for members and the food at this year's Night Out will be free.

K.Hosie said she will be glad to help out.

**INVOICES**– A motion was made by A.J.Fuga seconded by W.Estile to pay the invoices in the amount of \$2644.29. All members were in favor.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** – A.J.Fuga explained that the Chevy cruiser has been stripped of any police equipment and is headed for the crusher. The explorer is at Gibbons Ford for a transmission problem but has not been diagnosed yet. Mr. Fuga said he realizes there are budget problems but the Crown Vic is being used constantly and we will run it into the ground. He said there are no grants out there. He said council has to look into the purchasing a new vehicle soon. Chief Arthur said a new vehicle is \$11,000.00 a year for three years. Mr. Fuga said we have to discuss it at the work session.

**ZONING OFFICER** – Mr. Chase said there is not much activity, one permit for a shed.

**BIKE TOUR** – Council addressed the sample letter from LVHS concerning the bike tour and had concerns about the liability item. Solicitor Nicholls will look into it and the matter was tabled.

K.Hosie said the work session for July is on the 4th and suggested having it on June 28th in the morning.

**TAX SALE** – Council received a tax sale bid for property at 430 Delaware Street placed by the Borough of Archbald. Solicitor Nicholls said he would call Archbalds' Solicitor Jay O'Connor. The matter was tabled.

**LOAN BY PRIVATE AUCTION** – Solicitor Nicholls said according to the Unit Debt Act a resolution has to be passed to make a term loan for Bridge Street and to issue a note by private sale by negotiation rather than public sale. A motion was made by A.J.Fuga seconded by J.Allan to pass a resolution to borrow by private bids, that bid being Landmark Bank. All members were in favor.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The issue of raising the fees for the gym rental was tabled.

**RIVERVIEW PROPERTY** – The contract expired with Shamrock Realty for the Riverview property. A motion was made by W.Estle seconded by A.J.Fuga to sign a six month contract with Deecke Realty. All members were in favor.

**RE-APPOINT WILLIAM ARTHUR** –A motion was made by A.J.Fuga seconded by W.Estle to re-appoint William Arthur as Acting Chief until the next meeting or Chief Zellers returns. All members were in favor,

Mayor Smallacombe said the Recreation Committee needs members. Also asked about the Carite property on the 700 block of Madison Avenue. Attorney Nicholls said he has not heard anything.

Council went into executive session. Council reconvened from executive session.

**ACTING CHIEF RAISE** – A motion was made by A.J.Fuga seconded by W.Estle to increase Acting Chief William Arthurs' hourly rate to \$18.50 an hour, effective immediately. All members were in favor.

A motion was made to adjourn by A.J.Fuga seconded by W.Estle. All members were in favor.