

Jermyn Borough

Council Minutes

December 8, 2016

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on December 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jermyn Community Center, 440 Jefferson Avenue, Jermyn, PA in the Council Chambers.

On roll call present were: Messrs. Frank Kulick, Robert Parks, Dan Markey, Kevin Napoli, Joseph Smith, and JoAnne Wilson. Absent were: John Mark & KBA. Also present were Mayor Bruce Smallacombe, Fire Chief Ray Rood, Zoning Officer Robert Chase, Atty. Chris Harrison & Dylan Reeves; Junior Councilman.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Markey to accept the December 1, 2016 minutes, seconded by Mr. Napoli; all in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT & DISBURSEMENTS:

General Fund: \$ 119,636.31

Refuse: \$94,598.22

Recycling: \$20,451.06

Deposits: \$47,639.72

Disbursements including payroll: \$48,757.31

A motion was made by Mr. Markey and seconded by Mr. Napoli to accept the disbursements read aloud. All in favor; motion carried. A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to accept the treasurer's report. All in favor; motion carried.

JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER AWARD:Edward Knittel from Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's presented Junior Councilman; Dylan Reeves with a distinguished Junior Council Award. His participation in Borough Government and decision making is very much appreciated and has made a positive impact on the community. Dylan plans on attending Penn State University and majoring in Nutrition.

PROCLAMATION:There was a presentation in honor of Mr. Walter Wiegand. Mayor Smallacombe read aloud the proclamation honoring The Five Jermyn Survivors of the

Pearl Harbor Attack. We hereby proclaim December 8, 2016 as Walter J. Wiegand Day in Jermyn, Pennsylvania.

MAYOR REPORT:They interviewed police officers for the full time position. There were 5 qualified candidates. The first Crime Watch meeting went very well. Crime Watch is open to everyone in the Borough. Mayor Smallacombe said we are in good hands with the people that stepped forward that want to take part of it. This week is a busy week in the borough with the Girl Scout Light Parade on Saturday and the Community Concert on Sunday. This will be the 24th year for the Community Concert. Mayor attended the presentation honoring the Pearl Harbors Survivors. Mayor Smallacombe said we have 5 residents; the most of any in Community in Lackawanna County that were survivors of Pearl Harbor. Mayor Smallacombe said the effort we put forward for Veterans in this town is far above most communities in Lackawanna County.

The House Holiday Decorating Contest will start December 10th thru December 31st. They will pick 4 houses that are the best decorated.

Mayor Smallacombe commended Borough Council on doing a great job on the Budget for 2017. They worked very hard; it is very tough in a small community very with little revenue to come up with enough money to keep the borough going.

FIRE CHIEF/CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Mr. Rood said he has not heard back from the red house on Washington Ave after sending a certified letter. 536 Washington zoning application was put in. Once it is approved they will start demolition of the building. He has been in contact with 3 different people for demolition. 504 Washington, the process is being laid out and 4 unit rental will be in there. Mr. Rood also said they need to decide on appeals court and a fee schedule.

ZONING:Mr. Chase said he is working with a company that is moving in across from Rapid Pallet. He discussed with them what they are doing there. They will be assembling large parts for the utility company. They will be here for 6-8 months. When they are done they will tear the concrete pad out. Mr. Chase contacted NEIC about it and they have to acquire permits through them. Mr. Kulick asked how many employees they are going to have. Mr. Chase did not know. Mayor Smallacombe said to make sure we get their wage tax.

DUMPSTER PERMIT:Mr. Kulick said the dumpster problem on the East side of Jermyn is moved. He suggested there should be an expiration date on the permit application.

JUNIOR COUNCIL:Dylan Reeves thanked council for the award that was presented tonight. He introduced Evan Samuelsen who will be our second Junior Councilman. He will be sworn in January 5, 2017. Mayor Smallacombe congratulated Dylan on his great football season and his accomplishments.

DPW:KBA is working on what they can do for the 700 block of Lincoln. Mr. Markey said the plow schedule is working out very well. Chief Ray Rood and Mayor Smallacombe will be unavailable to plow and will be removed from the plow schedule. It has been going very smoothly so far. DPW received new snow emergency signs.

RECREATION:Mrs. Wilson said the recreation commission is setting up a regular monthly meeting date. The bricks for the memorial garden is an ongoing item, if anyone wants to purchase a memorial brick please contact Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. Wilson reminded council that we have to do something with the borough parking lot. Mr. Markey said we have money for that. Mr. Kulick said we agreed to wait until the spring. Mrs. Wilson said she was hoping it would have been done when the paving co. was here. Mr. Markey said it is separate because it's a grant. Mrs. Wilson said to put it on the agenda for the spring time.

FINANCE:Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Markey and Mrs. Wilson. He said the real hard work starts now; in regards to the budget. Mr. Smith said each chairperson is in charge of their department. We look forward to the budget and hopefully it works the way we think it will work. Mr. Kulick said the tax levy and garbage was not included in the budget, since it was already advertised we do not have to advertise it again. A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Parks to include the levy of the tax millage of 29 mills which is 1 mill lower than last year and garbage fee of \$145.00 which is \$20.00 lower than last year.

SAFETY:Mr. Napoli said the dumpster was taken care of on Hudson St. There was a fire call at 77 Franklin St. and it is being investigated as a possible arson. The police department received Narcan(a drug used to resuscitate a patient for an overdose) in October. It was used last week in Mayfield to bring a patient back from an overdose, the patient survived.

On Sunday; The Safety Committee, Mr. Napoli, Mr. Parks & Mr. Smith met with the 5 applicants for the full time officer position in Jermyn. They recommended Dominic Calzola for the full time officer in Jermyn. Mr. Markey made a motion to hire Officer Calzola as the full time officer in Jermyn, seconded by Mr. Napoli. All in favor; motion carried. Mr. Napoli said the next step is to offer the job to Dominic Calzola.

CRIME WATCH:Mr. Kulick said we have to decide whether we want to establish Crime Watch as a Committee or Commission. Carrie Chase; Crime Watch VP was at the council meeting. She said we have a group of people that can make their own decisions; we are independent of ourselves. Mayor Smallacombe said if there are any problems you can always appoint and make it a commission. It was decided Crime Watch will be a committee.

VONAGE:

Mr. Markey said we are paying about \$130.00/monthly for phone/fax; with Vonage the phone lines and e-fax we would be saving \$35+ a month. Our internet would go up

\$10.00. Mr. Markey said we have been paying a Frontier internet bill for \$25.98/monthly for a long time. The frontier monthly fee was continued to be paid every month, we can only assume because the Jermyn borough@epix.net email address comes with this frontier internet subscription. For the past 10 years the Borough has been paying for an e-mail address. We have been paying for a dial-up internet because it included the Jermyn e-mail address. Mr. Markey said it was at least \$3,000 that was wasted over the course of 10 years. A motion was made by Mr. Markey to cancel Frontier effective Jan 1. Mrs. Wilson suggested waiting longer because there is state correspondence and grants that use the epix email. She suggested giving 30 days or more to let everyone know the email address changed. A motion was made by Mr. Markey and seconded by Mr. Smith to eliminate Frontier internet service effective Feb. 1 2017 and have the borough secretary notify all the appropriate people who use the epix.net to change it to jemynpa.com.

Mr. Smith said we do not need a motion to switch to Vonage; there is already a motion on the books that was made years ago. Mr. Smith said no council member canceled the subscription.

LITTLE LEAGUE:Mr. Kulick said he agreed with Mrs. Wilson from the previous meeting when she suggested getting a list of officers and financials and suggest someone on council make a motion to have the solicitor draw up an ordinance establishing that any organization that has Jermyn in its name provide a list of officers and a financial report in January of every year to council. Mr. Napoli suggested January and June; a lot can happen in a year. A motion was made by Mr. Markey and seconded by Mr. Parks to have the solicitor draw up an ordinance establishing that any organization that uses Jermyn in its name provide to council the first of January and fist of July every year a list of officers and a financial report. All in favor; motion carried.

OFFICER CALZOLA:Officer Calzola entered the meeting. Mr. Napoli told him we voted tonight and would like to offer him the full time officer position. Officer Calzola thanked council. Council congratulated Officer Calzola.

RENTAL UNIT:Mr. Kulcik said nowhere in the ordinance does it say if the apartment unit is not rented that the fee is waived. The fee is not waived if the apartment is not rented. The affidavit is for a single unit converting into a multi or a multi-unit into single dwelling.

OTHER:The Mayor has submitted a letter that he will refuse his salary for his position that is in the budget and requests to use the money for the good of the Borough. There are 2 annual membership fees for the Mayors Association; he will pay for 1 membership. Mr. Markey made a motion to pay both memberships out of the budget because we specifically budgeted for such memberships for fees and subscriptions for that very reason. Mr. Markey said he appreciates that he wants to pay for it on his own; Mr. Markey said Mayor Smallacombe does a lot for the town. A motion was made by Mr. Markey and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to pay both subscriptions for 2017. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Karen Striefsky said she lived in Jermyn all of her life. She asked if there is a code enforcer for the occupied dilapidated houses; specifically the house on Franklin St. Mr. Rood said yes, he is in the process of working on the one on Franklin. She is concerned because it is a hazard and her property value is going down.

Carrie Chase addressed council in regards to The Forever Sammie Foundation. They will be having a Christmas Clothing drive for the homeless. They will be accepting new or gently used coats, hats, gloves, etc. There will be a donation drop off box at the Borough Building.

A motion was made by Mr. Napoli and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to allow Carrie Chase to setup a collection box for The Forever Sammie Foundation. All in favor; motion carried.

Council went into executive session at 8:12 p.m. for personnel reasons.

Council reconvened at 8:27 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Markey and seconded by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. All in favor; motion carried.