

Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

2/18/21

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2021 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 President Frank Kulick with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, the following members were present: Frank Kulick, Kristen Dougherty, Kevin Napoli, Cynthia Stephens, Carl Tomaine, Robert Hunt, and Kyra Davey. Mayor Fuga, Attorney Aquilino, Dennis Kutch from KBA, and Amanda Rzucidlo were also present. Bob Chase joined the meeting shortly after Roll Call. James Perry, Kathlyn Goodwin, and Stanley Hallowich were absent.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by K. Dougherty to accept the minutes of 1/21/21 as presented. Seconded by C. Stephens. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report/Bills Payable:** D. Markey presented the Treasurer's Report for February 18, 2021:

**ASSETS**

<b>Capital Reserve - DPW</b>	<b>13,497.72</b>
<b>Capital Reserve - Police</b>	<b>3,470.18</b>
<b>Crime Watch Fund</b>	<b>755.44</b>
<b>General Fund – Community</b>	<b>89,576.90</b>
<b>General Fund - FNB</b>	<b>2,016.44</b>
<b>Holiday Lights Fund</b>	<b>543.90</b>
<b>Investment - General Fund</b>	<b>1,001.39</b>
<b>Investment - Liquid Fuels</b>	<b>33,810.60</b>
<b>Investment - Paving Fund</b>	<b>11.91</b>
<b>Investment - Recycling</b>	<b>5,002.92</b>
<b>Investment - Refuse</b>	<b>2,604.65</b>
<b>Liquid Fuels - FNB</b>	<b>14,710.37</b>
<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>151.42</b>
<b>Recreations Fund</b>	<b>11,466.12</b>
<b>Recycling - Community</b>	<b>9,951.30</b>
<b>Refuse Checking - FNB</b>	<b>17,252.17</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>205,823.43</b>

**Liabilities:**

**Accounts Payable** **38,726.92**

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

**Special Presentation:** Mayor Fuga read a Proclamation and presented John "Webster" Gasper, of Jermyn, with a special Certificate of Achievement for his 40+ years in the local radio industry. Mr. Gasper thanked the Mayor and Council for the honor.

**Correspondence:** F. Kulick advised we have a letter from the NEPA Alliance. F. Kulick stated the perks that they offer in exchange for the membership are already available to the borough. F. Kulick stated we received a plaque from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs to commemorate our membership in good standing.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Police Chief:** Absent. K. Napoli notified Council that the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and EMA Director are all involved with a National Certification Fire Training via Zoom, and that is why they are absent.

**Fire Chief:** Absent. F. Kulick asked K. Napoli if the fire departments check the fire hydrants? K. Napoli stated, yes, they break the hydrants and make sure there is flow. If not, they report to the water company.

**EMA Director:** Absent.

**Solicitor:** W. Aquilino stated he has been working with issues related to R&L Carriers, he prepared an abandoned structures ordinance for review. F. Kulick had a question regarding the draft that Mr. Aquilino hasn't been able to address yet. W. Aquilino has not yet had a chance to prepare the Non-Owner Occupied Structures Ordinance to replace the current Rental Ordinance, as he has had questions asked by council that he wants to ensure he is able to incorporate in his draft. This will be tabled until the March 18, 2021 meeting.

**Code Enforcement:** W. Aquilino stated we have issued 15 citations with the District Magistrate related to the non-owner occupied structures (rental) ordinance, as well as abandoned vehicles ordinance. He has been inspecting properties after snowfalls regarding the sidewalk shoveling ordinance. Compliance has been generally good. There is another group of citations he received tonight, and he will continue filing citations when necessary.

**Engineer:** Mr. Kutch had nothing at this time.

**Junior Council:** A. Rzucidlo reports she has been hearing a lot of positive feedback regarding the tax reduction from 35 to 30 mills.

**Tax Collector:** Absent.

**Mayor:** Mayor Fuga reported there was another rash of car break ins in town a few weeks ago. They are crimes of opportunity, looking for loose change, etc. The Mayor asked everyone to please lock your doors to your vehicles and your home. If you see any suspicious activity, please contact the police department.

**Planning Commission:** K. Napoli stated there is nothing to report.

**Public Safety:** K. Napoli stated he consulted with Mayor Fuga, and would like to make a motion to hire Michael Ranakoski at the part time training rate. K. Napoli stated that this officer currently works in Olyphant, and will be able to work the midnight Wed-Thurs shift that they have been having trouble filling. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All members in favor, motion carried.

**Finance:** C. Tomaine stated he had nothing to report.

**Shade Tree:** R. Hunt stated he had nothing to report.

**Grants:** K. Dougherty asked D. Markey to speak about grants. D. Markey stated we have been contacted regarding some grant applications we have submitted, asking for additional information. All the necessary paperwork has been submitted for the reimbursement of the parking lot paving.

**MS4:** K. Dougherty reported we are waiting for a pollution reduction plan from KBA. We did ask the DEP for an additional 60 days, and they asked if it could be done in 30, so that advertising time can be considered. Mr. Kutch stated we're looking at the two detention ponds in town to see if they can be developed into an infiltration type basin, but we have to look at other opportunities also. Mr. Kutch asked D. Markey about the ESU interns that visited. D. Markey stated we looked at the borough owned pocket parks for rain gardens, and then possibly purchasing the Raymond Development retention pond and getting it up to snuff. We looked at sides of roads on Madison, Jefferson, and Lincoln, and the possibility of permeable pave being laid down, helping to reduce the sediment rate. We may also be able to reuse recycling containers as rain barrels.

**DPW:** T. Fuga stated we've been having some trouble getting our salt deliveries, so we had to be careful with our salt output. The 2018 Ford F550 is up at Powell's for an issue that has been ongoing with the salt spreader since we took possession of the truck. There are new owners that seem more willing to help. T. Fuga stated a snowblower for the John Deere tractor will come in very handy. We have priced one at \$3100, and we can use the DPW Capital Reserve account to purchase. A motion was made by K. Napoli to purchase a snowblower for the John Deere tractor for \$3100 from the DPW Capital Reserve account. Seconded by K. Davey. All members in favor, motion carried. T. Fuga stated we are also looking into getting a snow blower for the JCB Backhoe. When we get heavy snowfall, we can cut back the sides of the roads and intersections, dump in a truck, and dump at the field or somewhere we have room. D. Markey stated we received word from PENNDOT that we can use liquid fuels funds to purchase. F. Kulick stated to get some numbers together. D. Markey thanked T. Fuga and all the part timers that are out plowing. He stated the part timers all have their own full time jobs, and they aren't paid what they're worth to go out and help. D. Markey stated he's gotten more compliments than ever regarding the snow removal.

**Recreations:** C. Stephens stated she had nothing to report.

**Zoning:** B. Chase stated he has approved a few applications, and he has the R&L Carriers application. With Council approval, he approves the zoning application.

**Borough Manager:** D. Markey addressed all elected and appointed officials regarding the use of social media.

**R&L Carriers Land Development Approval:** Justin Doty, from Frederick, Seibert, & Associates, civil engineers for R&L Carriers was present to address council. He stated he's worked with KBA to develop the plans. He received the comments from the Planning Commission, which they are amenable to. He gave a background of R&L Carriers and what they do. He stated average trips per day are 277. They are a 24 hour facility, but most business is done within normal business daytime hours. T. Fuga stated that many think that all the trips will happen at once, and that's not the case. When he's down by the Pittston facility, he hardly ever sees any trucks there. There will not be a convoy. Mr. Doty stated we were able to meet with Rapid Pallet prior to the

council meeting. The project was explained, and he thinks their fears were alleviated. R&L Carriers intends to be good neighbors. Mr. Doty reviewed the utility plan, and it was noted that Bonnie Drive from Delaware St. to the entrance of R&L will be re-paved. He stated if anyone has any questions, he'd be happy to answer them. He wanted more clarification of the fire hydrants. B. Chase said if they're off on an island off the parking plan, that's fine. B. Chase and Mr. Doty reviewed the hydrant plan, and came to an agreement. D. Kutch stated they typically look at a design hourly volume regarding the truck volume, and his only concern is that if they're in construction and someone from PENNDOT requires a traffic study on 107. Mr. Kutch asked about the truck washing system? Mr. Doty stated they will have a reclamation system to recycle the water. Mr. Kutch was asking about the sewage, and Mr. Doty advised that 255 gallons per day is based on their other facilities. Mr. Doty and Mr. Kutch spoke about other points such as noise and stormwater permits. Mr. Doty stated he will respond in writing to the issues brought up by the Planning Commission. F. Kulick asked when ground breaking is? Mr. Doty stated as soon as possible. A motion was made by C. Tomaine to issue conditional approval of the R&L Carriers Land Development plan. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor, motion carried.

**Committees:** F. Kulick stated K. Davey will be appointed to Public Safety, MS4, and will be the Recreations Liaison.

**Climate Action Plan:** F. Kulick stated he wants to resurrect the climate action plan. It doesn't require us to fund any activities, we can explore grant activities, and passing the plan will put us in the forefront in municipalities in the state. He is asking all council members to consider this as something as good and advancing for the borough. F. Kulick asked D. Markey about grant opportunities as they relate to climate resilience. D. Markey stated in 2021, a standard grant question is how the project will advance climate resiliency. Council discussed the plan, responsibilities, etc. D. Markey advised that the plan is just a draft, and council may make any changes as they see fit. Council continued to deliberate the pros & cons of having a climate action plan. K. Napoli suggested everyone re-reading it and coming back to a work session to discuss. F. Kulick appointed a committee of K. Dougherty, K. Davey, and C. Tomaine to review the plan. F. Kulick set the date of March 4, 2021 at 7pm. D. Kutch asked if it was open to the public? D. Markey stated yes. D. Kutch stated he's active on the national level with climate action, and he will have to applaud Jermyn if they go through with this. Climate change needs to be addressed for our children and grandchildren.

**Jermyn 150:** F. Kulick stated he believes that the Jermyn 150 project should be laid to rest. The council discussed, and with the COVID-19 pandemic still looming, it's not worth investing more time and energy into planning. F. Kulick will speak with the committee chair, Bruce Smallacombe, and advise him that council agreed to cease any further 150 activities. F. Kulick stated he will advise Mr. Smallacombe to print & sell the ad book, and give proceeds to Jermyn Historical Society.

**Tax Collector Position:** F. Kulick stated that at the last meeting, the tax collector asked council to seek a deputy tax collector. Nicole Stephens, 525 Lincoln Ave, has agreed to be tax collector. She will be running for the position. Anyone else may feel free to run, but she will be assisting the tax collector this calendar year. A motion was made by K. Davey to appoint Nicole Stephens as deputy tax collector. Seconded by K. Dougherty. C. Stephens abstained from the vote, as Mrs. Stephens is the daughter in law of C. Stephens. All remaining members in favor, motion carried.

**New Business:** F. Kulick stated the part time DPW employees aren't paid adequately. His opinion is to increase to \$12/hr now, and possibly more for the 2022 budget. A motion was made by K. Napoli to increase the part time DPW pay rate to \$12/hr effective immediately. Seconded by K. Davey. C. Stephens abstained

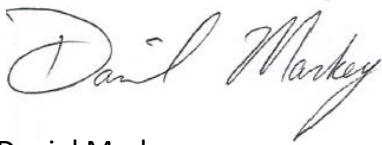
from the vote, as she is the mother of one of the part time DPW employees. All remaining members in favor, motion carried.

**Drug Task Force Agreement:** D. Markey stated he received an updated agreement this morning from Chief Arthur between the Lackawanna United Drug Enforcement Team through the District Attorney's Office, and the Borough of Jermyn. The agreements were outdated, and this agreement allows the Drug Task Force to reimburse salaries to Jermyn Borough in the event of Jermyn Police Officer hours worked towards drug task force cases. The agreement was made into Resolution #03-2021. Attorney Aquilino reviewed the agreement and approved. A motion was made by K. Napoli to pass Resolution #03-2021 – Drug Task Force Agreement. Seconded by C. Tomaine. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Statements of Financial Interest:** D. Markey advised he took a two part Ethics class. The second part covers Statements of Financial Interest. We discovered that many appointed officials should have been filling out all along, and haven't. So now that we know, we will be sending to all officials that are required to file. Again, statements of financial interest are due May 1<sup>st</sup> and kept on file in the borough office.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn by K. Napoli. Seconded by K. Dougherty. Adjourned at 8:41 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