

Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

5/2/19

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers of the Jermyn Borough Building, 440 Jefferson Ave, Jermyn PA.

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, Jennifer Schreiner, Kevin Napoli, Cynthia Stephens. Joanne Wilson joined the meeting at 7:10 pm. Attorney Aquilino, Bob Chase, and Chief Arthur were also present. Mayor Fuga, Dan Markey, Carl Tomaine, Kristen Dougherty, KBA, Stanley Hallowich, and Ann Marie DeSanto were absent.

Minutes: A motion was made by C. Stephens to accept the minutes of 4/4/19 as presented. Seconded by K. Napoli. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills Payable: A motion was made by J. Schreiner, seconded by C. Stephens to pay the bills as presented. All members in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: Kaitlyn English from Lackawanna County Community Relations read a few flyers: Lackawanna County Job Fair, Family Fun Days, Arts In The Park, Fishing Derby, Youth Soccer Clinic, Gymnastics Clinic, Tennis Clinic, Adult Tennis League, Amateur & Junior Golf Clinic, Lifeguard Hiring, Scranton Armed Forces Parade, Penn State Extension Programs & Events.

Bob Chase thanked everyone for their patronage at the Artisan Fire Co Fish Dinner. There was a lot of help, and they sold out at 5pm. He presented on behalf of the Dive Team, there is the John Cavanaugh Memorial Golf Tournament on July 14th. Hole sponsorships are \$30/hole.

Code Enforcement: W. Aquilino asked if there was anyone present for code enforcement issues. No one present.

Cat Issue: Chief Arthur asked Council to revisit the cat ordinance again. There are issues with a spot on Jefferson & Division St. He states there was a complaint, and the Chief doesn't have an ordinance to be able to enforce. The cats seem to keep multiplying. The humane society currently won't take feral cats any longer. W. Aquilino stated Griffin Pond will take them, but you have to pay for them to be fixed. F. Kulick asked what type of ordinance could we pursue? Chief Arthur stated we looked at a sample from Old Forge before. W. Aquilino stated that we can create an ordinance stating that feeding equals ownership, therefore if people feed strays, they can be in violation of the ordinance for not having them leashed, and for violating zoning for having more than 4 animals. W. Aquilino stated he will review the current ordinances on the book and see if there is anything on the books currently that is enforceable and will get with Chief Arthur.

Correspondence: F. Kulick read a letter complaining about a residence.

F. Kulick read a thank you card from the family of Mary Caljean addressed to the Jermyn Police Department, Council, and Mayor.

F. Kulick read a thank you card addressed to the Jermyn Police Department, Lions Club, and Knights of Columbus from Gail Plant.

F. Kulick read a letter from Griffin Pond Animal Shelter advising 2018 Jermyn numbers, and asking for monetary support. 7 cats and 18 dogs were reported delivered to Griffin Pond in 2018. Chief Arthur stated those numbers seem high, because the PD doesn't take dogs there very often; their owners usually show up for them within an hour or so. F. Kulick stated there's currently no money budgeted for Griffin Pond, but we can look at that in the future.

F. Kulick read another letter from the Wally Gordon Community Singers regarding a performance on 5/5/19. He also read a letter from Adams Cable about increasing rates.

Business Permit Application Review: D. Markey is absent. F. Kulick stated we will table.

Chickens: F. Kulick advised all council members were sent the draft of the chicken ordinance. F. Kulick asked to eliminate side yards. B. Chase stated that the ordinance looks good; it is well written, and has everything he'd like to see in there from a zoning standpoint. He stated that chicken coops should be exempt from accessory structures in the zoning ordinance. K. Napoli suggested dropping the maximum number of chickens from six to four. B. Chase stated he wasn't sure if there is anything in there about selling eggs. K. Napoli stated there is. F. Kulick explained that once this is approved tonight, it needs to be advertised, the ordinance will be available for inspection at the borough office, before it is voted on and carried out. Karen Bevan asked if they are allowed to purchase chickens and keep in their house until the ordinance is passed? W. Aquilino stated no. K. Napoli made a motion to advertise the ordinance to allow chickens in Jermyn, with the maximum number of chickens being four, and being kept in rear yards only. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor, motion carried. W. Aquilino asked B. Chase what happens with chickens in the winter. B. Chase stated people customarily put a heat lamp in the coop.

Alleyway Update: F. Kulick asked K. Napoli if we know what alleyways will be done yet. K. Napoli reported that besides Johnson Ct, we're still waiting for estimates. Basil Kleha stated they started on Davis Ct and it's looking good. J. Wilson stated she received a complaint regarding the section of Davis Ct between Lackawanna & Maple streets. The alleyway itself is ok, but vehicles are bottoming out at the entrances.

Public Comment Continued: Kathy Vosburg from 208 Division St addressed council about the cat situation. She states she is working with someone Baby Jack's Rescues. The cats are being trapped, neutered, and adopted. She states she's tired of being threatened. She's done everything she can do by herself to get rid of this problem. She states there are rumors floating around town to have people putting antifreeze in the food and shooting the cats, as long as they don't get caught. She stated there are two other problems on Division St. She stated someone took out the stop sign, and the potholes are so bad in the alleyway, people bottom out. She also stated when she moved here, she had a Jermyn address, now she has a Mayfield address. Can anyone explain that? She was told she lives in Jermyn, and should have a Jermyn address. She stated when someone lived in one of the houses near her, they left all the cats when they moved out.

J. Schreiner asked if we can make Division St a one way? J. Wilson advised that Division St. is a state road from Washington to Depew. K. Napoli suggested D. Markey speak with Phyllis from Mayfield to determine who owns the road and what we can do about it.

Garbage Contract: W. Aquilino stated D. Markey and himself have reviewed bid specs and additions to specs for 2019, and should be ready to go out for bid by next meeting.

RTKA Resolution: W. Aquilino stated the borough of West Easton asked us, along with other boroughs, to pass a resolution to send to PA Legislature to request an update on the definition of harassment under the Right To Know Act, as there are many communities plagued by continuous frivolous RTKA requests. A motion was made by J. Wilson to have the solicitor draw up a resolution regarding the proposed. Seconded by K. Napoli. All members in favor, motion carried.

Electronics Recycling: Tabled

Community Yard Sale: J. Wilson stated the Shade Tree can schedule one if there is a desire for it. K. Napoli stated that it might be best to wait until late summer, early fall, weather-wise. J. Wilson stated Shade Tree meets this weekend, and she will bring it up.

New Business: K. Napoli reported he and Mayor Fuga attended a class on Municipal Police Supervision, and it was very informative. They have take-aways from the class that they will get with Chief Arthur on to make sure everyone is on the same page.

J. Wilson thanked Council President Kulick and Mayor Fuga for attending Arbor Day ceremonies. She stated tonight they had the unveiling of the plaque at Callahan Park, in memory and honor of all who volunteered their time to make the park a nice place for the children and community.

Social Media: F. Kulick urged council members to stay off community facebook pages, especially when people are complaining. He stated there is no need to get involved with the nonsense.

Artisan Envelope Drive: B. Chase asked if there is a process for the envelope drive, if he needs council approval, or if he just needs to speak with D. Markey? K. Napoli advised to check with D. Markey.

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 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Markey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Daniel Markey

Borough Manager