

Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

3/7/19

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, March 7, 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, Kristen Dougherty, Jennifer Schreiner, Kevin Napoli, Joanne Wilson. Attorney Aquilino, Mayor Fuga, KBA and Bob Chase were also present. Cynthia Stephens, Ann Marie DeSanto and Ray Rood were absent. Carl Tomaine joined at 7:53pm, while executive session was in process.

Minutes:

A motion was made by K. Napoli to accept the minutes of 2/21/19 as presented. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills Payable: K. Dougherty asked about streetlight bills. D. Markey explained that there's one non-LED and one LED bill, and separate bills for supply and distribution. F. Kulick asked if inspection fees paid to NEIC would be reimbursed to the borough. W. Aquilino stated yes, when the borough requires an inspection for a rental unit due to a complaint, the property owner must reimburse the borough. A motion was made by J. Schreiner to pay the bills as presented. Seconded by J. Wilson. All in favor, motion carried.

MS4 Presentation: D. Markey played a short video regarding how the public can help with stormwater management issues. A sign in sheet was provided for all attendees to sign in.

Correspondence:

F. Kulick read a letter from the PA DCED, which extends the LSA grant to pave the parking lot for a period of 12 months. F. Kulick made a motion to allow the council president to sign the documents to extend the grant until June 30, 2020. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All members in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: Kaitlyn English from Lackawanna County presented information on the Women's Golf Clinic, Junior Golf Clinic, Outdoor Basketball Clinic, Seedling Sale, Red Cross Blood Drive, Neighborworks information, and information on programs from Penn State Extension.

Gym Floor: F. Kulick asked where we stand with the floor cover? D. Markey stated we were outbid. Mrs. Stackel asked what's happening with the gym floor? F. Kulick explained we have the grant for the gym floor, and he wanted to make sure we're not too aggressive with donation requests for the covering.

Police Pension Contribution Resolution: F. Kulick read resolution 2-19, establishing a 0% contribution rate for contributing police officers in year 2019. A motion was made by K. Napoli to accept Resolution 2-19. Seconded by J. Schreiner. All members in favor, motion carried.

Fire Chief: K. Napoli explained due to health reasons, Chief Rood has tendered his resignation upon the successful hiring of a new Fire Chief. A motion was made by K. Napoli to regretfully accept the resignation of Fire Chief Ray Rood effective immediately. Seconded by J. Wilson. All members in favor, motion carried.

K. Napoli explained that we interviewed six applicants for the new Fire Chief, and the committee would like to recommend to council that Stanley Hallowich be appointed the new Fire Chief of Jermyn Borough. A motion was made by K. Napoli to appoint Stanley Hallowich as Fire Chief. Seconded by J. Schreiner. All members in favor, motion carried. K. Napoli asked Mr. Hallowich to stand. The council and audience applauded him. F. Kulick added that the hiring committee interviewed the six applicants, and the borough should be very grateful that we had so many people step up and want to take a leadership position, and they all interviewed very well. He thanked all applicants.

Garbage Contract: F. Kulick explained our garbage contract expires in November, but we have to have the solicitor review the specs and put out to bid in a timely manner. D. Markey stated he would like to add to the specs for this year that the “community” cans on the main street sidewalks outside of businesses are specifically included, that we include dumpsters for trash and recycling at Callahan park, and to include the Lackawanna County Housing Authority properties on Henry Dr. D. Markey explained he and W. Aquilino met with them, and explained that they would need to pay whatever the fee is per unit; it could be \$125, it could be higher, it could be lower, depending on how the bids come in. D. Markey stated he will send the 2016 bid specs to W. Aquilino.

Polling Location: F. Kulick asked if we had heard back from any fire companies about willingness to host elections beginning in 2020? D. Markey stated we heard from Artisan Fire Co, but not Crystal Fire Co. A motion was made by F. Kulick to advise the Lackawanna County Elections office that we would like to relocate the polling location for Jermyn to the Artisan Fire Company beginning in 2020. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All members in favor, motion carried.

Energy Contract: D. Markey stated he was advised by C. Tomaine to continue to look into energy rates to get the best deal. He looked to see who the recommended provider from PSAB was, and found APPI. Our current broker contacts 6-8 suppliers for rates, but APPI reaches out to 35-40 suppliers. If we went with a 48 month term, the price per kwh would be \$.04999, which would translate to a 1 year cost savings of about \$1070 over our current rates. Also, the new supplier would use PPL to bill, so everything would be on one bill again. If council would like to go with a 36 month term, it would be \$.05050 per kwh, which would save about \$1000 per year over current prices. F. Kulick asked how long the prices are good for? D. Markey stated that the prices fluctuate with the market, and if we wanted to lock in one of these rates, council would need to vote tonight, and we would send the contract to them tomorrow. This would take place in July. J. Wilson stated with the way the market is going, she doesn't see energy going down. K. Dougherty stated that's one of the few things that may go down. D. Kutch stated we may not see much savings, because whatever we save in energy costs, we'd be paying back in maintenance costs. D. Markey explained we currently have a fluctuating rate, and the average in the past year has been about \$.0582 per kwh, and also the fluctuating rate program will be going away. D. Kutch stated the borough would be paying a flat rate per streetlight, because they are not metered. A motion was made by K. Napoli to enter into a 4 year contract with AEP energy through APPI brokerage for our electricity. Seconded by J. Wilson. All members in favor, motion carried.

Council entered executive session at 7:38pm to discuss personnel and real estate issues.

Council reconvened from executive session at 10:00pm.

Adjournment: With no other business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by K. Napoli to adjourn, seconded by K. Dougherty. All in favor, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Markey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Daniel Markey

Borough Manager