

Jermyn Borough

Council Minutes

October 19, 2017

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on October 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jermyn Community Center, 440 Jefferson Avenue, Jermyn, PA in the Council Chambers.

On roll call present were: Frank Kulick, Robert Parks, Dan Markey and Kevin Napoli. Also present were Atty. Moran, Evan Samuelson, Ray Rood and Bob Chase. Absent were; Mayor Smallacombe, Joseph Smith, JoAnne Wilson, John Mark, KBA.

Mr. Kulick asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for Cathy Nicholls.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Mr. Markey to accept the October 5, 2017 minutes and seconded by Mr. Napoli; all in favor, motion carried. A motion was made by Mr. Napoli to add the email from DEP into the October 5, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Parks. All in favor; motion carried. Mr. Kulick said DEP has sent an email correcting what was said in last meeting when they stated we would be “shovel ready” in 2019. It is now changed to 2022.

25 Years of Service: Mr. Markey- DPW Chairman presented Joseph Esagro with a plaque for 25 years of service for Jermyn Borough Department of Public Works. Council thanked him for 25 years of loyal service to the Borough of Jermyn.

TREASURER’S REPORT: General Fund \$155,463.61, Recycling \$4,137.10; Refuse \$99,409.55, Investment Liquid Fuels \$78,191.35. Disbursements from September 22, 2017 to October 19, 2017, \$77,593.82. Deposits \$37,660.52. A motion was made by Mr. Napoli and seconded by Mr. Parks to accept the finance report. All in favor; motion carried. Mr. Parks asked if we are receiving payments from the garbage company for recycling. Borough Secretary said we have received two checks so far.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ray Rood asked if we ever heard back from the federal representatives in regards to the last meeting. Mr. Kulick said he spoke to Larry West and he reached out to Mr. Casey and Mr. Cartwright and he has not heard back yet. Mr. Kulick said Larry West plans on coming to our November 2, 2017 meeting.

Basil Kleha said he noticed the job done by the DPW on the corner of Bacon and Madison. It is very nice.

Insurance Renewal: Jeff Kyle from DGK will be at our next meeting on November 2, 2017.

Pension:Mr. Kulick said we will have to table this until Mr. Smith is here. Mr. Markey said Mr. Smith wanted to talk to our solicitor about this in executive session and Mr. Markey will ask for executive session tonight later in the meeting because budget time is coming up.

Paper Streets on Rushbrook:Atty. Moran said this was an issue that was open when he took over and Mr. Nicholls had explained it to him. There are parcels that the state identified as necessary for us to acquire easements but they are unidentified. Atty. Moran said he needs a better description on the area, if we have to have it surveyed we will have it surveyed. He reached out to the DGS attorney and she will get back to him. He said Atty. Nicholls wasn't sure either and he said we need a better understanding on where these paper streets are so we can identify them.

Fire Report:Mr. Rood said Tony and Joe helped them out fixing the wire for the Artisan Fire siren. They went out in the bucket truck and it is now working again. Mr. Rood said the Captain of the fire police gave Mr. Rood information about a basic fire police class that he wants to hold. He said it is hard getting a class. It is a \$350 fee and it could come from the fireman's relief or the municipality. Mr. Rood said maybe next year in the 2018 budget for the fire police it can come out of that budget. It is a 16 hour class. The instructor said it is a good class for fire chief, firefighters, mayor, council and supervisors attend as well. Mr. Rood said if any members of council or mayor would want to attend. It is a weekend class and we can possibly have it in two Sunday's. Mr. Rood said he will also bring this up at the fireman's relief meeting. Mr. Napoli questioned what the fee includes and what members. Mr. Rood said he will have to ask. Mr. Napoli said he will take the lead on this and contact the fire police captain and go over what it would be and include for that amount.

Our two fire companies got two new gas meters from Fireman's Relief. Mr. Rood said we have the same type now and are on the same page.

Zoning:Mr. Chase said he has received a lot of permit applications. He does not think he received one permit this year that was complete. It's the drawing; people draw a picture of their house. He needs a plot plan. He said he explains to them what he needs and he just gets a drawing instead of a plot plan. He has several people that are putting sheds without any permits. The police chief called him on one. He called the person, took care of it immediately. He has had several calls in the past 3 days with people with sheds and decks without permits. The corner of Madison and Franklin, he stopped one time and spoke to the owner. He has a shed two feet from the sidewalk. He tried to explain to the owner the rules. He said the conversation wasn't going anywhere. Mr. Chase is going to write the owner a letter. Mr. Napoli said to let him know or the police chief if he plans on going over there.

Mr. Chase spoke to NEIC about the house that is going to be demolished on Washington.

Code Enforcement:Mr. Kulick said he spoke to the code enforcement officer and he had nothing to report today.

DPW:Mr. Markey said as everyone knows the street light in town was out for a little bit and we had to go procure some emergency stop sign equipment. Tony and Joe did a great job putting that together quickly for us. It was mentioned we should put the invoice in for a claim to the insured insurance company. Mr. Markey said we are having some problems with our equipment. The tailgate on the 2002 fell off; we are also having issues with the bucket truck and the backhoe. Tony Fuga said there is no hope replacing the tailgate it has rotted. He said with the backhoe we are starting to have issues, it is an older machine. Mr. Parks said when it was requested to be replaced, it should have been replaced and we wouldn't be in the position we are now. Tony Fuga said we should keep turning over our stuff before we start putting money into our older equipment. Mr. Rood asked what happened to the grant for the truck. Mr. Markey said we applied, it probably won't be awarded until January and funds wouldn't be released until March.

Mr. Markey said he is finishing up estimates on the new DPW building.

Trunk or Treat will be on October 26, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Artisan Parking lot.

Other:Mr. Kulick read a letter from Randy Parry. Lakeland Youth Basketball will be entering a team into a league at the Throop Civic Center, we can host games at our gym if we did it will be two games on a Sunday night at 6 and 7, it will be our team and another team. Mr. Parry asked if council will be ok with that. Mr. Markey said it is not council's decision it is recreations decision. Anne Boylan asked what the dates are because they will start rehearsing on the stage for Christmas concert on Sunday evenings and it's usually from 6 until 8. Mr. Markey said the season itself for LYB doesn't start until after the New Year, so it shouldn't be a problem. Mr. Napoli said as long as it coincides with their league youth it should be afterwards. Mr. Markey said they will make sure they will not schedule any basketball practices on Sunday after 5pm.

Mr. Markey said he has a letter he wants to read from Dave Lamareux from KBA, he is working on all of our MS4 permits and progress reports. Some of the storm water issues remain unresolved such as the passage of an ordinance which the Borough is working on, Jermyn Borough is attempting to comply with all the requirements for its MS4 permit. Dave is working on the 2016-2017 report and some information is expected to change for that period. Mr. Markey said there is information about the MS4 in the packet as it regards to Jermyn Borough on everything, an employee training plan and some type of ordinance we have to pass as well. Mr. Markey asked Atty. Moran if he wants a copy. Atty. Moran said he can have the ordinance for next meeting.

Mr. Markey said the other thing he has, has to do with the secretary about the property that was sold to her prior to becoming the secretary. They had some issues with their sewer in the past. The sewer line broke and they paid to get it fixed, it's on their property but it's on the Borough right of way. Where the property is, there was a question of

ownership as to whether the Borough has ownership there or whether the property owner has ownership. Mr. Frankosky, contacted Mr. Markey, they went over there about a week ago and went over to check it out. Mr. Markey made some calls to Rock Bottom and KBA. Rock Bottom said that they would be over to check it out and KBA said they would have maps for next meeting as to where everything is at and what sewer systems are owned by Jermyn Borough. There is still an outstanding question of ownership. Mr. Napoli said we have to get KBA and Rock Bottom to go over and see if it's our responsibility or the homeowners. Tony Fuga said we also need the maps. We don't know where anything is down there. Tony Fuga said we also need maps for the Woodlands.

Mr. Kulick said it has been asked about switching our refuse account to First National Bank. Atty. Moran said we would need bids. We already have accounts with them. Mr. Napoli questioned if we could collect interest on our refuse account since it's a fee that is collected. Atty. Moran said he would look into that.

The Historical Society will have their open house on October 22, 2017 from 1-5pm. At the United Methodist Church parsonage.

Mr. Kulick said one of the bills we voted to pay is a class for the tax collector for \$50. The class is in November. Atty. Moran asked if it's before November 7. Mr. Kulick said no it's for credits for next year. Atty. Moran said she is still the class tax collector. Mr. Parks asked if it is for the current tax collector. Mr. Kulick said yes.

Mr. Kulick said Wednesday night October 25 at 7pm we are going to have a sponsored by the Jermyn PA is awesome Facebook page "Meet the Candidates" night. All 7 candidates were asked to come and give a 15 minute max presentation of their qualifications and ideas on the position they are seeking. This is not a debate and no questions from the audience. So far 5 confirmed out of the 7 candidates that will be here.

Holiday Lights Presentation: Mr. Markey we are not doing this necessarily as council but as members of the community. Two and a half years ago, Mr. Markey started a community Facebook page called Jermyn Pa Is Awesome and Mr. Kulick had a great marketing idea last year to start selling Jermyn PA is awesome mugs and then built on that and Mr. Markey, Mr. Napoli and Mr. Kulick as members of the community, they expanded on that and started selling t-shirts, sweatshirts that said Straight out of Jermyn. They decided that all the proceeds would go towards new holiday lights in town. What we did was, after we got enough we went back onto the Jermyn PA is awesome Facebook page and we let all the members vote on what light we were going to buy.

Mr. Markey presented the 7ft tall Holiday hat tipping snowman. Mr. Markey said we wanted to present it to the chairperson of the holiday lights committee, Mr. Tony Fuga. Mr. Kulick asked how much it costs. Mr. Markey said about \$750.

Anne Boylan said she was one of the original holiday lights committee person along with Mr. Parks. She has been getting calls from some of the former members as to what is going on because we usually have a meeting in October to discuss if we have to update the wreaths etc. She heard about the snowman and she told Tony that she thinks we should have a reorganization meeting because some of the original members are not with us anymore; some are older and want no part of it. She suggested a reorganizational meeting and she has the files on the poles that were used and the contacts with PPL and letters that were wrote, we were not sponsored by Jermyn. It was strictly a holiday lights committee; we did an envelope drive, pancake breakfast and fundraisers. Mr. Markey said that's why he wanted to clarify we acted independently. Anne said there are people that would interested in staying involved and she's not sure how we want to do this, not everyone reads Facebook. We might be able to get a lot more people interested and a lot more workers. Anne said even if we don't want to use all the same we can have something like this along with the wreaths. There are people that are interested in updating the lights, she suggested to call a meeting and let's see what we can do.

Public Comment: Charles Beth 518 Jefferson- said he has been there for 20 years, his property is right in the middle of the block on the low spot on both side coming down the back alley. He has never had a problem. We had a snowstorm last year and the alley was blocked and the snow was plowed right by his house. He said he spoke to the Borough Engineer. He has walked that alley and when it was plowed the contour must have been changed. The old fire house drains all into the alley, down the slope; there is no other place for it to go. Coming from the other way there is water coming down that was never there before. Mr. Beth said he has dug a ditch to drain the alley into his side yard and when it rains he gets 8-10 inches of water on his side yard on both sides of his garage because he is draining the alley into his property because it has no place to go. When he walks up there during a rain storm the back of the old fire house is now draining into the back of the alley, you can see it running into the alley. Coming the other way you can see the water coming down from up above. Whether the people have regraded or the plow of the alley has changed the contours. His blacktop has sunk 6 inches. His two side yards are dropping, actually sinking down. He said the person who bought the old fire house was digging was running the drains right out to the alley now his water is running down to his property. His whole roof is draining into the alley. Atty. Moran asked if there is something in the ordinance about storm water management. Mr. Chase said there might be something in there stating you cannot divert it to an adjoining property. Atty. Moran said we should ask the code enforcement officer to look at the zoning ordinance and see if any aspect of the zoning ordinance that deals with storm water management is being violated and if so deal with it as a code enforcement issue. We need to get the Borough's engineer and see. Mr. Kulick said we will make sure the Borough engineer goes over there and see what is going on.

Council went into executive session at 8:14 p.m. for personnel reasons

Council reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Napoli and seconded by Mr. Markey to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. All in favor; motion carried.