

Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

5/7/20

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm via ezTalks virtual meeting, due to the current state of emergency.

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, Jennifer Schreiner, Cynthia Stephens, and Robert Hunt. Attorney Aquilino, Mayor Fuga, Stanley Hallowich and Jim Perry were also present. Carl Tomaine, Isabella Brown, KBA, and Bob Chase were absent.

F. Kulick announced that we are also being joined tonight by County Commissioner Chris Chermak, and thanked him for being with us.

Minutes: A motion was made by K. Dougherty to accept the minutes of 4/16/20 as presented. Seconded by J. Schreiner. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills Payable: A motion was made by C. Stephens to pay the bills as presented. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All members in favor, motion carried.

Correspondence: F. Kulick stated we have a letter from Jim Davis, 614 Lincoln Ave. He stated due to the audio issues, he's not going to read the entire letter, but has instructed D. Markey to attach the letter to these meeting minutes. F. Kulick stated Mr. Davis is voicing his displeasure with the handling of the situation at the Crystal Fire Company.

We received a letter from the Pennsylvania American Water Company, as every resident should have, regarding the rate increase. As a citizen, you may call them and voice your opinion regarding the rate change. F. Kulick stated D. Markey was called at the borough office by a Water Company employee to offer an opinion regarding the rate increase, and D. Markey stated he believed that a rate increase during this time of such an emergency is not welcoming.

Pension Plan Joinder Agreement Ordinance: F. Kulick announced the Pension Plan Joinder Agreement Ordinance #8-20 was advertised and asked for a motion to pass. A motion was made by K. Napoli to pass Ordinance #8-20, seconded by K. Dougherty. On a roll call vote, members voted in the following manner:

Kulick – yes

Dougherty – yes

Napoli – yes

Schreiner – yes

Stephens – yes

Tomaine – absent

Hunt – yes

By a 6-0 roll call vote, the motion passes.

Waive Late Penalty Fee for 2020 Real Estate Tax Resolution: F. Kulick read a resolution to waive the penalty phase for 2020 real estate taxes from 7/16/20-12/31/20, and accept face value for taxes paid in full by

12/31/20. A motion was made by J. Schreiner to pass Resolution . Seconded by K. Napoli. On a roll call vote, members voted in the following manner:

Kulick – yes

Dougherty – yes

Napoli – yes

Schreiner – yes

Stephens – yes

Tomaine – absent

Hunt – yes

By a 6-0 roll call vote, the motion passes.

Bells Across Pennsylvania Resolution #10-20: F. Kulick announced that Mayor Fuga issued a proclamation to take part in Bells Across Pennsylvania Day on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 7pm, and stated the council must ratify the proclamation, by resolution, ex post facto. A motion was made by C. Stephens to pass Resolution #10-20 in support of Bells Across Pennsylvania. Seconded by K. Dougherty. All members in favor, motion carried.

Laurel Street: W. Aquilino stated there was an issue with a resident blocking Laurel Street. He thought he owned the land, however, we have sealed, stamped surveys stating the borough owns the road. W. Aquilino advised the resident of such, and advised him that he needs to keep the road unblocked, and also comply with the necessary corrections for the Department of Environmental Protection and the Lackawanna River Basin Sewer Authority.

Public Comment: County Commissioner Chris Chermak stated he’s just here to see if anyone has any questions for him.

Jason Elliott is looking to buy 571 Washington Ave and wanted to know if he can go forth and renovate the old barber shop in the basement back into a studio apartment and convert the store to a two bedroom apartment. K. Dougherty asked wasn’t there a plumbing issue with the space in the basement? D. Markey stated he spoke with Bob Chase today, and the reason the basement space cannot be a studio apartment has to do with square footage. D. Markey advised Mr. Elliott to continue the conversation with Bob Chase.

Loan Refinancing: D. Markey stated he has heard back from Community Bank, and FNB. We currently have outstanding loans for both. Community Bank offered 3% for the current pole building loan we have through them, and then 3% for an additional \$50K loan to finish parking lot paving. They are not able to refi capital leases or Revenue Anticipation Notes. FNB offered 2.5% financing on all, including capital leases. K. Dougherty asked if the loans are being pulled by separate budget areas, is that an issue? D. Markey stated no, it shouldn’t be an issue within our budget. K. Dougherty asked about the revenue anticipation. D. Markey stated our current note is to reimburse for Woodlands and parking lot paving, which aren’t even completed yet. K. Dougherty asked if it would be a monthly payment or a yearly payment, and is there anything due at closing? D. Markey stated we probably have different options on how to setup, but historically, it’s a yearly payment, due at the end of the first year after the loan closes. D. Markey asked Commissioner Chermak if he knows when the County Reinvest Grants will be awarded, as Jermyn Borough submitted an application for assistance with parking lot paving? Commissioner Chermak stated he did not know off the top of his head, but he will find out and call the borough office tomorrow with an answer. R. Hunt asked how many years we have left on the loans? D. Markey stated we have two years left on the paving loan, 5 years on DPW pole building

and police cruiser, 4 years on the backhoe, revenue anticipation note is due next month, and John Deere tractor note is another 2-1/2 years. K. Dougherty stated the revenue anticipation note is all money we expected to get from grants, which the grant work has not been completed yet, so it is in our best interest to refinance. A motion was made by K. Dougherty to move forward with the loan refinancing through FNB at a rate of 2.5%. Seconded by J. Schreiner. On a roll call vote, members voted in the following manner:

Kulick – yes

Dougherty – yes

Napoli – yes

Schreiner – yes

Stephens – yes

Tomaine – absent

Hunt – yes

By a 6-0 roll call vote, the motion passes.

WalkWorks: K. Dougherty stated as a member of the WalkWorks program, a letter of participation is required to proceed. F. Kulick asked if it was going to cost anything? K. Dougherty stated no. F. Kulick read the letter of participation. A motion was made by K. Dougherty to sign the letter of participation with WalkWorks, seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor, motion carried.

Parking Lot Paving Project: F. Kulick stated the bids were opened and reviewed by KBA. The lowest bid, submitted by Stafursky Paving, in the amount of \$92,098.80 is after \$5,637.50 is subtracted for lawn restoration, which will be handled internally. A motion was made by J. Schreiner to award the bid to Stafursky Paving for the borough building parking lot. Seconded by K. Dougherty. F. Kulick asked to modify the motion to stipulate the award is conditional to the refinancing note going through with FNB. On a roll call vote, members voted in the following manner:

Kulick – yes

Dougherty – yes

Napoli – yes

Schreiner – yes

Stephens – yes

Tomaine – absent

Hunt – yes

By a 6-0 roll call vote, the motion passes.

Jermyn 150 Celebration: F. Kulick stated he spoke with Bruce Smallacombe, chair of the Jermyn 150 committee, and suggested that the festivities be pushed off until 2021. Mr. Smallacombe stated he will speak with the committee members and get back to council. F. Kulick asked him to get back to council by June 4th.

Memorial Day Parade: D. Markey stated he discussed with the American Legion Post #465 Commander, and it was decided to cancel the Memorial Day Parade for 2020 due to COVID-19. F. Kulick asked if anyone was in disagreement? No one stated disagreement.

New Business:

F. Kulick asked Commissioner Chermak regarding the reopening committee, and stated his disappointment that no representatives from small towns or boroughs were on the committee. Commissioner Chermak advised that Senator Blake setup the committees, but he will mention it to Senator Blake. Even if the Senator doesn't agree, Commissioner Chermak stated he's just a phone call away and will be our representation.

D. Markey suggested doing a banner for the graduating seniors that reside in the borough. J. Schreiner stated don't forget about private schools also. A motion was made by K. Napoli to allow the borough manager to handle the details of assembling a banner for graduating seniors to hang at Scout Corner. Seconded by C. Stephens. All members in favor, motion carried.

D. Markey announced that a blood drive is scheduled for September 25th, due to lack of air conditioning in the gymnasium.

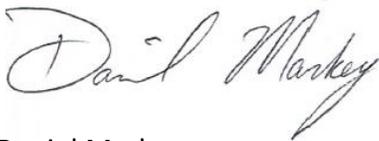
As the president of Jermyn Youth Baseball & Softball, D. Markey was asked to approach council to ask if it would be ok for the teams to resume practices & games once the county goes green. K. Napoli stated this isn't something that should be discussed prior to being in the green phase. F. Kulick stated to follow Little League International rules. D. Markey stated their position is to now follow the rules of your county and local municipality. K. Dougherty agreed with K. Napoli to wait until the borough is in the green phase prior to resuming talks.

C. Stephens thanked D. Markey. She states he is doing a really great job.

C. Stephens also stated she received a request from Dottie Lee asking if the borough can do anything to help the feral cats. D. Markey asked how? With the trap/neuter/release program, or does she want us to feed the feral cats? C. Stephens stated she thinks it is more along the lines of food and litter. D. Markey stated, if anything, we may want to promote donations to the organization trying to help. He understands we don't want the cats to starve, but most of council, the borough manager, police chief, and code enforcement officer that see the feral cat colony as a problem. If we're going to help, we should go about it the right way. C. Stephens stated she understands; she stated she would bring it up. F. Kulick stated we're on a tight budget, and now we will be taking in less by waving the penalty phase for real estate taxes. K. Napoli stated that in his opinion, the borough cannot financially support such a cause right now, but would be in support of a social media post to promote private donation.

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 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Markey
Borough Manager