JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
January 8, 2026
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. by President Rodgers with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders, and their families.

Roll Call of Members

Police Chief Schatz	Mayor Cinicola	Mike Yeastedt
Borough Manager Sterner	Alice Roberti	Lyle Augustine
Borough Secretary Klotz	Sydney Wernett	Tom Chapman
Solicitor Nanovic	Joanne Klitsch	Connor Rodgers

Announcements

There is a vacancy on the International Property Maintenance Board. This is a five-year term expiring December 31, 2029. If interested, please submit your letter of interest.

There is a vacancy on the Planning Commission. This is a four-year term expiring December 31, 2027. If interested, please submit your letter of interest. Connor Rodgers thanked Ted LaRizzio for serving on the Planning Commission.

There is a vacancy on the Kemmerer Park Association Board. This is a three-year term expiring December 31, 2028. If interested, please submit your letter of interest. Connor Rodgers thanked Jay Miller for serving on the Board.

Permit Parking Enforcement starts Friday, January 9th at 4:00 p.m. Any permit parking resident that was issued a citation will be revoked and refunded.

The dedication of the Police Community Room in Thomas Highland's memory will take place on Saturday, January 10th at 1:00 p.m.

The America 250 PA Carbon County Kick Off Event is taking place on Sunday, January 18th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

A reminder for residents: pertinent information for residents can be found and received through the Borough's All-Call, website, and Facebook page. Residents can sign up for the All-Calls through the Borough's website; just click on the Civic Ready button on the homepage to sign up.

Mayor's Report

NONE

Fire Commissioner Report

Charlie Sgrillo thanked last years and this year's Borough Council. He discussed his goals for the year, such as updating inventory, evaluate training, and implementing new programs.

Public Comment

John McGuire – He congratulated the newly elected and re-elected Council members. He explained there is a vacancy on Planning Commission that has been held previously by a Council member. He would like to see another member of Council be appointed to the seat to keep the communication current between Council and Planning Commission. He also explained he attended the Penn Forest Township meeting about the potential Data Center there. He feels with the amount of water it's looking to consume daily, it will dry out the aquafer the East Side uses for its drinking water.

Bill Malatak – He discussed Memorial Hall and needing to get people in to use the building. He also said there is nothing for seniors to do and there should be some events specifically geared towards seniors. He discussed his safety concerns about the sidewalk to the train station. He discussed his disfavor of all real estate taxes going towards public safety when it should be going towards other items in the Borough such as roads. Connor Rodgers explained he agrees the roads throughout the Borough are in poor condition and there was additional money budgeted with the 2.25 milage increase to pave more. He explained he hopes Memorial Hall becomes the community center it once was. He asked Manager Sterner for an update on Memorial Park. Manager Sterner explained the play structures and teen area has been installed. The park is about 90% completed.

SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance)
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Kanick Minor Subdivision dated April 2, 2025 (revised November 14, 2025) time extension.** The time extension is through April 19, 2026. Motion carries 7-0.

Action
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Council Work Session Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2025.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from December 11, 2025.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Council End of Year Meeting Minutes from December 30, 2025.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Expenditures from all Funds as presented.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Treasurer's Report.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Ordinance 2026-01 Police Department Amendment-DROP Program.** This amendment is due to the result of the collective bargaining agreement. Officers may enter the DROP Program for 3 years, up previously from 2 years. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Resolution 2026-01 Bituminous Price Adjustment.** This is an annual item. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve moving Employee #455 off of probationary period to Full-Time status.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve moving Employee #456 off of probationary period to Full-Time status.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve a Leave of Absence request for Employee #445.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **authorize the Administrative Committee to conduct interviews for a new Zoning Officer.** Manager Sterner asked if Council wanted a committee or the entire Council to conduct the interviews for a new Zoning Company. Mike Yeastedt explained it should be a committee. Manager Sterner explained it's normally the Administration Committee who conducts the interviews. Connor Rodgers explained Alice can take charge of setting them up. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve All Departments Purchase Order totaling $20,250.00 for the IT Support Contract.** This is for 150 hours of service. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Entech EWO P250841.000 totaling $1,850.00 for the 2025 AWWA Water Audit.** This authorizes Entech to develop and submit the Borough's water audit as required by the Delaware River Basin Commission. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Entech EWO P250842.000 totaling $3,400.00 for the 2025 WWTP Chapter 94 Report.** This authorizes Entech to develop and submit the Borough's Chapter 94 Report as required by Pennsylvania DEP. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve the Lease Commencement date of February 1, 2026 of 101 East 10th Street to Lehigh Valley Health Networks.** Solicitor Nanovic explained he reviewed the agreement and he is comfortable with it. Bill Malatak, who was in the audience, asked if any additional information could be shared. Solicitor Nanovic explained the building will be leased to Lehigh Valley Health Networks. The lease amount will be $3,185.00 per month and it increases by 2.5% each year. Motion carries 7-0.

Facilities Projects – No action taken.

Center Avenue Water Main Project
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Entech Invoice #96283 totaling $6,353.75.** This is for professional services from March 29, 2025 through April 25, 2025. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Entech Invoice #100213 totaling $1,468.75.** This is for professional services from November 29, 2025 through December 19, 2025. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve applying for the 2026 DCNR C2P2 Grant, 2026 DCED Sports Marketing & Tourism Grant, and 2026 DCED GTRP Grant for Memorial Park Phase IV.** Manager Sterner explained these grants will be for Memorial Park Phase IV. There have been discussions with Charlie Sgrillo, who is affiliated with AAU, on the DCED Sports Marketing & Tourism Grant for the old Public Works Garage building. She explained a meeting will need to be set up with Barry Isett to discuss these grants as most grants do not cover buildings. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve setting up a meeting with the Engineer to further discuss EDU Rates.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve a Sewer Credit Request totaling $61.04 for Account #6740.** The request is due to a leaking hot water heater. Mike Yeastedt asked if confirmation was received. Manager Sterner explained the property owner submitted pictures. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve the Utility Rate Change Report (1).** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve the Utility Uncollectable Report (1).** This is due to the property being sold at tax sale and there was a billing cycle that occurred while the deed was being processed. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Carbon County RFA-Use of Memorial Hall on January 13, 2026.** The County is requesting to use Memorial Hall for the America 250 PA Steering Committee meeting. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike YEastest, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Hibbler RFA-Use of Memorial Hall on January 15, 2026.** Mauch Chunk Trust Company is requesting to use Memorial Hall for offsite training. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **table James RFA-Removal of 2 Parking Spaces pending further investigation and information.** Mike Yeastedt explained he would like to further discuss the plans with Bureau Veritas. Motion carries 7-0.

Exoneration Request
NONE

Committees
Connor Rodgers explained he has assigned the chairs to each committee and he would like to see the chairs visit their respective areas.

Administration
NONE

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)
NONE

Police
NONE

Buildings/Parks
NONE

Asa Packer Mansion
NONE

Emergency Services
NONE

Old Business
Manager Sterner asked Council to review and let the office know what items they would like to keep and move forward with or remove from the agenda. Mike Yeastedt explained he has not heard back from the County regarding the Open Space Program. Manager Sterner explained she would reach out to the County.

Executive Session

Adjourn
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **adjourn the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0. The meeting ended at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Assistant Borough Manager/Secretary