JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
July 10, 2025
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders, and their families, and the victims of the recent flooding in Texas.

Roll Call of Members

Police Chief Schatz-absent	Mayor Cinicola-absent	Mike Yeastedt
Borough Manager Sterner	Connor Rodgers	Ted LaRizzio
Borough Secretary Klotz	Tom Chapman	Sydney Wernett
Solicitor Nanovic-absent	Joanne Klitsch	Greg Strubinger
Police Sergeant Bokeko	Water Sup. Sterner	

Announcements

The Borough is accepting letters of interest for two (2) vacancies on the Shade Tree Committee, terms ending December 31, 2028 and December 31, 2025. If anyone is interested, please submit a letter of interest.

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 Zoning Hearing Board (Alternate seat). This is a three-year term that expires December 31, 2027. Anyone interested in this seat should submit a letter of interest.

There will be a Paint & Sip fundraiser at the Asa Packer Mansion on July 19th.

Go Joe 28 will be taking place on July 24th. Joe Snedecker will be making a stop at Memorial Park. There will be food trucks and a basket raffle to raise funds for St. Joseph's Center.

Keystone Timber and Forestry will be conducting two walkthrough sessions for the purpose of educating residents on how Timber Harvesting work. There are two different days to choose from; Monday, July 28th from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and Tuesday, July 29th from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Residents must RSVP by July 24th in order to attend.

This month's Zoning Hearing Board meeting has been changed from the 24th until the 31st.

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

Public Comment

Terry Fatzinger – She was there to update Borough Council on the status of her property – 44 Coal Street. She explained she is working with an attorney to get the property fixed.

Wayne Smith – He requested the status of 46 Coal Street. Manager Sterner explained the case was continued at court and rescheduled to August 5th.

Gail Solomon – She was there to discuss the possible appointment of a new fire chief who does not live in town. She felt the by-laws were not being followed correctly and explained a new fire chief should live within the Borough.

Bob Ewashko – He was there to discuss the possible appointment of a new fire chief and felt a new fire chief should be from the Borough.

Josh Finsel – He discussed the Fire Department being called out to a false alarm on West Broadway. While the guys were cleaning up their equipment, they all discussed the possibility of a new Fire Chief from outside the Borough being appointed. Most members from the Diligent Fire Company said they would quit the Fire Department if that were to happen.

Annette Schwartz – She asked if the girl scouts or boy scouts have recently met at the fire department to get more interest in volunteering.

SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance)
NONE

Action
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from June 5, 2025.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2025.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch 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 Connor Rodgers, second by Joanne Klitsch to **authorize the Police Committee to meet with Chief Schatz, pick a parking spot, and authorize the Solicitor to draft an amendment.** Steve Uliana spoke on behalf of the library. He explained the library is losing attendance from residents because of the parking situation in downtown. The library is requesting 2 15-minute parking spaces. This in turn will help attendance increase at the library and help the businesses too. Greg Strubinger explained this request has come up before, but the problem was enforcement. Mike Yeastedt suggested trying it out with one parking spot and see if it works out. Manager Sterner explained Borough Council must adopt an Amendment to the Vehicle & Traffic Ordinance. Sergeant Bokeko explained there is a parking spot by the Silly Goose and the Jerky Shop. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Mike Yeastedt to **authorize the Solicitor to draft an amendment to the Vehicle & Traffic Ordinance to include one-way on South Avenue from Pine Avenue to Spruce Avenue (existing).** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **authorize the Solicitor to draft an amendment to the Vehicle & Traffic Ordinance to include one-way on Race Street (existing).** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Mike Yeastedt to **authorize the Solicitor to draft an amendment to the Vehicle & Traffic Ordinance to include one-way on Trap Alley.** Joanne Klitsch asked about the status of not painting the parking lines, per Trooper's request. Mike Yeastedt explained that's a separate discussion and does not pertain to the one-way direction. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Resolution 2025-11 CFA Multimodal Grant-High Street Wall.** This resolution states the Borough is applying for the CFA Multimodal grant for the High Street Wall in the amount of $1,503,100.00. It also authorizes Greg Strubinger and Secretary Klotz to execute all documents and agreements. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve a match of $100,000.00 towards the High Street Wall Project.** Connor Rodgers asked if Entech has gotten back to Manager Sterner on how much more work needs to be completed on the High Street Wall. Manager Sterner explained she had not heard back from Entech. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the match waiver request for the High Street Wall Project.** Due to the anticipated amount of the project, a larger match than $100,000.00 should be applied, but it is not required. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve a letter authorizing the grant application for the High Street Wall Project.** This letter informs the Commonwealth Finance Authority that Borough Council approved the application process for the High Street Wall Project. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Resolution 2025-12 Items to Sell on Municibid.** The items to be sold include one 2013 Ford Explorer, two Code 3 Light Bars with accessories, one Amber Lightbar with accessories, one vintage Polaroid Camera, one set of rear 2024 Chevy Tahoe seats, one clear Lightstick, and one Hilt Mobile Computer Stand. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the ACH limit increase for Utility Billing.** The limit is increasing to $125,000.00. This is due to more people utilizing ACH for their utility bill payment. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Tamaqua Transfer-Notice of and Consent to Assignment.** Tamaqua Transfer has been sold to Casella. The current garbage contract the Borough holds will not change. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **authorize the Solicitor to draft a two-year amendment to the Kemmerer Park Lease Agreement.** James Dougher spoke on behalf of the Kemmerer Park Association. He explained the lease agreement is expiring on January 11, 2026 and the Borough holds the insurance coverage on the park. The Kemmerer Park Association is looking into acquiring their own insurance, but is having a hard time receiving quotes. He asked is Borough Council would take the current lease agreement and extend it for an additional two years or to write a new lease agreement. Greg Strubinger explained the Borough entered into the lease to assist the Association in applying for grants and maintain the park. Manager Sterner explained the Association has been taking care of the park for the past few years. James Dougher asked that, if the contract were to be extended, a

subcommittee be formed to come up with a long-term plan for the park. Motion carries 6-1, with Connor Rodgers voting no.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Carbon County Commissioners Request for Action for use of Kemmerer Park.** The County will utilize the park on September 25th for their Employee Appreciation Day. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve the Inn at Jim Thorpe withdrawing their Conditional Use application.** The application was for a parking lot in the area of 375 West Broadway. The property is in the process of being sold. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **accept the highest bidder of items sold on Municibid.** A siren was sold for $525.00. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Biro's 3-year Hauling and Disposal of Liquid Sewage Sludge Contract.** Secretary Klotz explained only two companies placed bids; Biros and Environmental Service Corp. Waste Management opted not to submit a bid. Biro's 3-year bid was $0.1326 per gallon or a grand total of $103,428.00 for three years. Environmental Service Corp's 3-year bid was $0.1389 per gallon or a grand total of $108,342.00 for three years. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the purchase of a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) for the Water Treatment Plant totaling $11,795.00.** Water Supervisor Sterner attended the meeting to answer any questions Council might have. He explained it helps run the wells at the Germantown Plant. The plant has been having issues where the pumps have been shutting down. Allied Control Services did some trouble shooting and recommended replacing the VFD. It was also recommended within the next 3 to 5 years to replace the well pump because it has been quite some time since it was replaced. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the rental of a temporary Generator Switch for the Water Treatment Plant totaling $2,815.00 and the purchase of a permanent Generator Switch conditioned its warranted totaling $16,075.00.** Water Supervisor Sterner explained there have been issues with the generator for over a year. Albarell has been out to complete some trouble shooting, and they think it's the transfer switch. Due to the age of the generator, replacement parts are minimal and it's recommended to replace the generator in the near future. The Borough will rent the switch for a month. If the switch works, Albarell recommended purchasing one. Motion carries 7-0.

Facilities Projects

Public Works Building

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Reading Mechanical Payment Application #9 totaling $63,806.81.** This is for work completed and materials purchased from May 20th through June 20th. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Bracy Payment Application #17 totaling $8,946.43.** This is for work completed and materials purchased from April 20th through May 20th. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor.

Bracy Payment Application #18 – No action was taken due to not having an architect certified application.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Ted LaRizzio to **approve Spillman Farmer Architects Invoice #8121.22.30 totaling $231.00.** This is for professional services from May 12th through June 8th. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Ted LaRizzio to **approve Spillman Farmer Architects Invoice #8121.22.31 totaling $700.88.** This is for reimbursable expenses from August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Ted LaRizzio to **approve Spillman Farmer Architects Invoice #8121.22.32 totaling $3,823.00.** This is for the various amendments to the original contract. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Ted LaRizzio to **approve Requisition #19-Partial Payment for Work Completed totaling $76,807.24.** This includes Reading Mechanical Payment Application #9, Bracy Payment Application #17, Spillman Farmer Architects Invoice #8121.22.30, Spillman Farmer Architects Invoice #8121.22.31, and Spillman Farmer Architects Invoice #8121.22.32. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve United Inspection Services Invoice #25911 totaling $1,320.00.** This is for testing that was completed during the month of June. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

Memorial Hall
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Bognet Payment Application #17 totaling $162,471.03.** This is for work completed and materials purchased from May 20th through June 20th. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Reading Mechanical Payment Application #12 totaling $6,745.00.** This is for work completed and materials purchased from May 20th through June 20th. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve GR Noto Payment Application #17 totaling #32,468.78.** This is for work completed and materials purchased from May 20th through June 20th. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Spillman Farmer Architects Invoice #8122.22.24 totaling $1,409.84.** This is for reimbursable expenses from August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Spillman Farmer Architects Invoice #8122.22.25 totaling $1,869.50.** This is for the various amendments to the original contract. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yestedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Requisition #18 – Partial Payment for Work Complete totaling $203,554.31.** This includes Bognet Payment Application #17, Reading Mechanical Payment Application #12, GR Noto Payment Application #17, Spillman Farmer Architects Invoice #8122.22.24, and Spillman Farmer Architects Invoice #8122.22.25. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

Memorial Park Project
Phase I
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve LB Construction Payment Application #6 totaling $38,531.70.** This is for work completed and materials purchased through June 23rd. Motion carries 7-0.

Phase II
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve LB Construction Payment Application #6 totaling $20,036.70.** This is for work completed and materials purchased through June 23rd. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **approve Barry Isett & Associates #0201395 totaling $6,459.70.** This is for professional services during the month of May. Motion carries 7-0.

Center Avenue Water Main Project
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Entech Invoice #96931 totaling $4,281.25.** This is for professional services from April 26th through May 30th. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Nanovic Law Offices Invoice totaling $7,500.00.** This is for professional services rendered as counsel for the Pennvest loan. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **encourage residents to replace their lead lines if found during the Center Avenue Water Main Project and set up a fund for no or low interest loan.** Manager Sterner explained Council will need to make a determination on how to handle any lead lines owned by a resident., should the contractor encounter them. Money has been budgeted within the Pennvest loan for replacement. Council would need to decide if the property owner will pay to replace or the Borough. The thought was the property owner could take a loan out through the Borough for no interest or low interest. As it gets paid back, the money could be utilized the same for other property owners outside of the project with lead lines to be paid back with the same conditions. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Joanne Klitsch to **appoint Kyle Kohler to Corporal effective July 13, 2025.** Council established the Corporal position a few months ago. The Civil Service recommended Kyle Kohler based on his testing. It is a twelve-month probationary

period. Borough Council thanked and congratulated Kyle. Motion carries 7-0. Sergeant Bokeko gave a brief background about Kyle. Kyle was then "pinned" by his wife and mother.

Jim Thorpe Fire Department

MOTION by Sydney Wernett, second by Tom Chapman to **appoint Charles Sgrillo as Fire Chief.** Greg Strubinger explained there has been a recent vacancy. Connor Rodgers explained he feels before appointing someone to chief, there should be a discussion with the Officers and he felt that Council would not properly be following the Ordinance. He asked if a roll call vote could be taken and explained from his understanding there was no communication between the Emergency Services Committee and the Officers. Sydney Wernett explained there was contact with the Officers, but per the Ordinance, Borough Council appoints the Chief, not the Officers. Mike Yeastedt explained Sydney reached out to the Captains for candidates for Chief, and the only candidate was Charles. Connor Rodgers explained in the Ordinance, the Chief must be a full-time resident. Sydney Wernett explained previous discussions with the Solicitor determined a waiver could be granted. Ted LaRizzio requested this be tabled. Gail Solomon explained, from the audience, the new potential appointment doesn't know the area well enough to give direction as a Chief. Greg Strubinger then introduced Charles and allowed him to speak to give a brief background about himself. Charles also discussed his plans to unite both companies moving forward should he be appointed. Gail Solomon then explained she just received a message from one of the linemen who would be interested in the Chief position. This person did not initially step forward because he felt there was no trust within the EMS Committee. **MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Ted LaRizzion to **adjourn into Executive Session.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0. The meeting paused at 8:45 p.m. **MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Sydney Wernett to **resume the meeting.** There were no comments. The meeting resumed at 9:11 p.m. Greg Strubinger explained Council had Executive Session before the start of tonight's meeting. **MOTION** by Ted LaRizzio, second by Connor Rodgers to **table appointing a Fire Chief.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0. Greg Strubinger explained applications for Fire Chief will be accepted until July 17th at 4:30 p.m. Interviews will then be conducted and the most qualified individual will be appointed at the August meeting.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the 2025 Return to Mauch Chunk Pow Wow.** The event will be taking place on September 6th and 7th. Vendors will need a transient merchant license, and insurance for the event will be needed naming the Borough as additionally insured. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Sydney Wernett, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve the 2025 Heritage Festival.** The event will be taking place on September 20th. Vendors will need a transient merchant license, and insurance for the event will be needed naming the Borough as additionally insured. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the 2025 Switchback Scamper.** The race will take place on September 28th and will need insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve the JTCAA request for a wrestling fundraiser.** JTCAA will host professional wrestling matches, as well as have vendors and a basket raffle. The event will take place on August 30th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Vendors will need a transient merchant license, and insurance for the event will be needed naming the Borough as additionally insured. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **authorize the Solicitor to draft an amendment to the Vehicle & Traffic Ordinance for stops signs at 5th and Lehigh.** Mr. Blisko requested this intersection have 4 stops signs, rather than two. There have been many near misses for car accidents at this intersection. He also requested additional pedestrian crossing signs be placed at the intersections of 4th and North, 5th and North, and 6th and North. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **authorize the Solicitor to draft an amendment to the Vehicle & Traffic Ordinance for stop signs at 5th and Oak.** Mr. McLaughlin requested this intersection have stop signs switched from 5th Street to Oak Street. There have been many near misses for car accidents at this intersection. Motion carries 7-0.

Strohl RFA – remove no parking signs along odd side of 400 block of North Street – Mike Yeastedt explained this was where the old Borough office was and it was thought the signs were placed due to the Police needed to get in and out of the parking lot. Connor Rodgers explained this isn't in the Ordinance and asked if the Police Committee could review.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Mike Yeastedt to **deny Romano RFA to move a handicap parking spot.** Mr. Romano requested the handicap spot that is in front of his property be moved up one space to accommodate the driveway he intends on installing. Handicap spots are paid for annually in the area of where the property owner lives. Motion carries 7-0.

Lesisko RFA-Memorial Hall Portrait – Greg Strubinger explained the portrait of Tish Lesisko was hanging in Memorial Hall for many years and was taken down because of the construction. Manager Sterner explained now that the project is winding down, she did not want the original request to be forgotten about. Mike Yeastedt asked if Council should wait until the offices get set up. Manager Sterner explained that would be Council's choice.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Y on Broadway networking event on August 13th.** The networking event will be for the tour guides from the Asa Packer Mansion and St. Mark's Church. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Utility Account #7935 Payment Plan.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Utility Account #6776 Payment Plan.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Ted LaRizzio to **deny Utility Account #5410 Penalty Waiver Request.** The property owner did not receive their utility bill until June 18th and did not pay until after the due date of the 15th. Greg Strubinger explained there are other options to ensure on time payment of the property owners utility bill, such as ACH or paying online. Motion carries 7-0.

Exoneration Request

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the monthly Exoneration Report.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0.

Administration

NONE

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

Police

Buildings/Parks
NONE

Asa Packer Mansion
NONE

Emergency Services
NONE

Old Business
NONE

Executive Session

Adjourn
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **adjourn the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 7-0. The meeting ended at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Assistant Borough Manager/Secretary