JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL
July 9, 2026
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Connor Rodgers with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders, and their families, and Vince Yaich Sr. and his family.

Roll Call of Members

Police Chief Schatz-absent	Joanne Klitsch	Sydney Wernett-absent
Borough Manager Sterner	Mike Yeastedt	Connor Rodgers
Borough Secretary Klotz	Tom Chapman	Lyle Augustine
Solicitor Nanovic-absent	Alice Roberti	Atty Greco-left@7:05
Mayor Cinicola-absent	Sergent Bokeko	Water Sup. Sterner

Announcements

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **move Borough Website from Old Business to Action.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Executive Session was held yesterday, June 16th and July 8th for personnel.

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

There is a vacancy on the Planning Commission, four-year term ending December 31, 2027. If anyone is interested, please submit a letter of interest.

There is a vacancy on the Shade Tree Commission, five-year term ending December 31, 2029. If anyone is interested, please submit a letter of interest.

The America 250 PA Celebration that took place last weekend was successful, despite the heat. Connor Rodgers thanked all of those involved in the celebration.

National Night Out will be taking place on August 4th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Borough was not awarded the T-Mobile Hometown Grant for the Asa Packer Mansion Community and Fundraising Event Initiative Project.

A reminder for residents – pertinent information can be found on the Borough's website and Facebook page. Residents are encouraged to sign up for the All-Call system to receive information as well.

Executive Session

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **adjourn into Executive Session.** There were

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **resume the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting resumed at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor's Report

Sergent Bokeko explained all of Borough Council should have the Police Report. He discussed the Bog Boy Train event and the America 250 event being successful. Connor Rodgers explained there were 210 traffic citations issued last month. Residents may notice updated lettering on the fleet of police vehicles.

Fire Commissioner's Report

Fire Commissioner Sgrillo gave his six-month report. He discussed the positive things the Fire Department has accomplished in the past six months such as recruitment, developing a fire protection program, smoke detector program, actively working on changing the requirements for Act 172 for retention, actively researching and applying for grants, a safety and training officer was added, both stations training together, created a new company patch, update SOP's and Policies, developed a succession plan. After reading his report, Fire Commissioner Sgrillo gave his resignation effective immediately.

Public Comment

Trish Spillman – She discussed the fee schedule for a vendor permit. The annual permit for $400.00 is per location. She asked if Borough Council would consider making it per merchant and not location.

Public Hearing

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **open the floor for the Public Hearing.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Manager Sterner explained the advertisement for the Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Data Center Provisions was completed on June 15th and June 22nd. No one signed in to speak.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **close the floor of the Public Hearing.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Proclamation
Connor Rodgers explained this will be presented next month to Dave Gasker.

Presentation
Lehigh Canal Recreation Committee – Doug Makofka, who is the Borough's representative, discussed the storm that came through over July 4th that caused damage to the Weissport section of the trail. The area has since been cleaned up and has reopened. He discussed the issues with the Spillway Project. It is currently in litigation with the company that completed the project. Work also needs to be completed on the lock in Weissport.

SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance)
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve the Makofka Lot Consolidation dated June 4, 2026 conditioned upon the Solicitor's approval of the new deed.** Secretary Klotz explained the applicant has not submitted the new deed to be recorded for Council to review. Motion carries 6-0.

Action
JTASD-Sidewalk Permit Fees Waiver Request – Superintendent Rob Presley discussed prior renovations to the L.B. Morris School were to include a sidewalk from North Street and down West 10th Street to the school entrance, but they were never installed. The school district now wants to install the sidewalk, which is estimated to cost around $140,000.00. He asked how the school district was to move forward with this project due to not owning all of the property the sidewalk will be installed on. Manager Sterner explained he would need to get in touch with the property owner of 1003 North Street to see if they would approve the installation of the sidewalk on their property. Mike Yeastedt asked if the school district has a conceptual plan. Rob Presley explained there are plans that include paving and stormwater. Manager Sterner recommended the Public Service Committee sit down with the school district and their engineers to review the plan. Borough Council agreed there should be a meeting held. Rob Presley asked since the school district is paying for the sidewalk, would Borough Council consider waiving the permit fees. Mike Yeastedt explained he would like to see the conceptual plans first.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve Council Work Session Meeting Minutes from June 4, 2026.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from June 11, 2026.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve Expenditures from all Funds as presented.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve the Treasurer's Report.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Ordinance 2026-02 Vehicle and Traffic Amendment-Large Vehicle Parking.** This amendment will prohibit large, oversized vehicles from parking on Borough Streets. This includes tractor trailers, campers, and boats. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **table Ordinance 2026-03 JTFD Update.** This update adds the duties of the Fire Commissioner. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **authorize the Solicitor to advertise for consideration at the August meeting the Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Data Center Provisions.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **authorize the drafting of a new Zoning map based upon the committee recommendations.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **forward the discussion of an amendment to the Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance for no truck traffic on Hill Road and Packer Hill Road to the Police Committee.** Connor Rodgers explained this was at the request of a resident for this amendment. He believes no truck traffic is already in place on Packer Hill Road. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **table Resolution 2026-11 Housing Unit Renumbering to Comply with Carbon County Public Safety System with the intent to meet with Carbon County GIS and Zoning.** This item was tabled last month. It is to readdress 11 Germantown Road to comply with the County 911 Public Safety System. Connor Roders explained he did a little research on the measurement of the blocks in town. if you take the measurements, which is approximately 425 feet, and add apply it to Germantown Road, it would fall under 1200, therefore being in the 1100 block. The likeliness of surrounding property owners subdividing their properties is slim. Secretary Klotz explained she didn't feel comfortable signing the document based on these calculations. Jason Shellhammer from County GIS verified the number 1265 as being the correct number to assign to the property. Connor Rodgers explained he would like to know how Jason Shellhammer came up with that number to assign to the property. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve Resolution 2026-13 CFA Multimodal Grant – High Street Wall Project per the Engineers financial recommendations.** Manager Sterner explained this wasn't a project that Council originally approved for the Multimodal Grant. Entech Engineering is recommending this application due to the project moving to the next phase of Federal Appropriations Funding determinations and applying for LSA funds, which cannot exceed $1,000,000.00. They are still working on final numbers. This resolution will authorize the Borough to apply for this grant and authorizes Connor Rodgers and Secretary Klotz to be signers on the grant. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve the Financial Commitment Letter for the High Street Wall Project per the Engineer's financial recommendations.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve EWO #P260505.000 for the 2026 DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application.** The fee is $4,000.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve EWO #P260502.000 for the 2026 DCED Local Share Account-Statewide Grant Application.** The fee is $4,000.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Resolution 2026-14 2026 CFA Multimodal Transportation Grant – Downtown Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety Project per the Engineer's financial recommendations.** Traffic Planning & Design is still working on final numbers. This will authorize the Borough to apply for this grant and authorizes Connor Rodgers and Secretary Klotz as signers on the grant. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve the Financial Commitment Letter of up to a $100,000.00 match.** Manager Sterner explained Borough Council had budgeted $100,000.00 as a match for this project. The final numbers are being worked on. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve the FY 2025 CDBG Cooperation Agreement.** This is an annual agreement and is always signed a year after grant approval. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve the 2026 CDBG General Application.** The Borough will be applying for new equipment for the West Side Water Treatment Plant. Motion carries 6-0.

Facilities Project
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot Litigation Rates for 2026 – No action taken.

Public Works Building – NONE

Memorial Hall – NONE

Memorial Park Project - NONE
Phase I

Phase II

Center Avenue Water Main Project
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Entech Engineering Invoice #102796 totaling $262.50.** This is for professional services from April 25, 2026 through May 29, 2026. Motion carries 6-0.

Project Update – The ADA curb cuts have been installed at the intersections. Paving will commence at the end of July/beginning of August. It will not be fully paved, just in the areas where the work was completed.

Memorial Hall Insurance Restoration Project – Manager Sterner explained the Borough received the May Firewatch reimbursement. She also explained the carpeting is coming up in the vestibule and has been reported to the insurance company.

DEP PES Project – East Side Water Treatment Plant
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the Task List and Cost Estimate/Schedule**. The task list and cost estimate are for drilling a new well. The task list and cost estimate have nothing to do with well #4. Water Supervisor Sterner explained the hydrologist who is part of this project recommends pulling well #4 to complete an inspection. The hydrologist claims he can gather a tremendous amount of information needed for the new well the Borough would like to have completed with the PES project. The Borough's well company is recommending if the well pump were to be pulled from well #4, it would need a full replacement of pipework and drive shaft bearings as the current equipment is at the end of its life expectancy. Water Supervisor Sterner is worried that if something happens to well #1, well #4 is the only backup. He explained he doesn't have exact numbers yet, but it would be at least $80,000.00 to replace the equipment in well #4. The quote he received from a different well company was not the same as the one from the company the Borough uses for the wells. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Lyle Augustine to **approve the Waste Water Treatment Plant Purchase Order for a submersible mixer totaling $13,556.33**. The remaining mixers in the treatment plant are nearing the end of their life expectancy. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Tom Chapman to **approve the lowest quote for $11,280.00 by First Responder Flooring to repair the Onoko Station exterior for cracking.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve financing through Caterpillar Finance for the Mini Excavator**. Caterpillar has the lowest interest rate at 4.99%. The Borough will finance for 5 years. This was already a budgeted item for this year. Manager Sterner suggested using that money towards unanticipated expenses and start the payments as planned next year. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the transfer of $1,000,000.00 into a new PLGIT account for the General Fund.** Manager Sterner explained PLGIT has a higher interest rate than Mauch Chunk Trust. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Lyle Augustine to **authorize the Solicitor to draft an amendment to the Ordinance for EDU pricing based on Lyle Augustine's proposal**. Lyle Augustine explained the current rates are ridiculously high for a new business to open in the Borough. He proposed to remove the current chart and charge based on actual usage. He explained the first EDU should be paid for in full and the remaining at a reduced rate. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **authorize the repeal of Resolutions 2016-08, 2020-06, and 2025-15.** These resolutions established the protocol for UCC by third-party inspectors and agencies. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve giving the required notice to Bureau Veritas terminating their contract.** The required notice is 90 days. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **appoint Advanced Code Consultants as the Borough's UCC Officials.** They will be secondary during the next 90 days. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Jim Thorpe Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures Updates.** The SOPs were last updated in 2018. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **hire Applicant #709 at a rate of $16.00 an hour conditioned upon receiving proper clearances.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve Account #0010 Sewer Credit Request totaling $167.99.** The property owner's water heater failed and the water never went to the wastewater treatment plant. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve the Carbon County Parks & Recreation Request for the Annual Heritage Festival being held on September 19, 2026.** The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Vendors will be required to obtain a Transient Merchant License. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Joanne Klitsch, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve Carbon County RFA for use of Kemmerer Park on September 29, 2026.** This is to host their employee appreciation day. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **deny Rich RFA – Foam Party.**

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Trick or Treat to be held on October 29, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Course Vector as the Borough's website vendor.**

Exoneration Request

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the monthly Exoneration Report.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Committees

Grant Projects – Manager Sterner explained the Borough will be applying for the LSA Statewide Grant for the Memorial Park Phase IV Project and High Street Wall Phase III Project. The Borough will be applying for the LSA Monroe Grant for Police Body Cams.

Administration
NONE

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

NONE

Police
NONE

Buildings/Parks
NONE

Kemmerer Park
NONE

Asa Packer Mansion
NONE

Shade Tree Committee
NONE

Emergency Services
NONE

Planning Commission
NONE

Old Business
NONE

Executive Session
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **adjourn the meeting into Executive Session.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting paused at 9:05 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **resume the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting resumed at 9:36 p.m.

MOTION by Tom Chapman, second by Mike Yeastedt to **accept the resignation of Fire Commissioner Charlie Sgrillo, with regret, effective immediately.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Adjourn
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **adjourn the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting ended at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Assistant Borough Manager/Secretary