JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL
June 11, 2026
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:31 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
Borough Manager Sterner
Borough Secretary Klotz
Solicitor Nanovic
Mayor Cinicola
Joanne Klitsch
Mike Yeastedt
Tom Chapman
Alice Roberti
Sydney Wernett-absent
Connor Rodgers
Lyle Augustine

Announcements

Executive Session was held yesterday, June 10th 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 will be taking place July 2nd through July 5th. There will be an opening ceremony and block party on the 2nd, bingo on the 3rd, an ecumenical service and picnic on the 4th, and additional festivities at Sam Miller Field on the 5th. There will be various celebrations at the local clubs throughout this timeframe, as well as a scavenger hunt for the residents and kids.

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

The Borough was awarded the 2025 LSA Monroe Grant for the Asa Packer Mansion HVAC Improvements totaling $127,834.00.

The Borough was awarded the 2025 LSA Monroe Grant for a replacement ambulance for Lehighton Ambulance totaling $116,858.00. Connor Rodgers thanked the Administrative Staff and Barry Issett for their work on these projects. He thanked the state legislators for supporting these projects.

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.

Public Comment

Ed Gula – He explained he was happy to see the American flag on the pedestrian bridge across the Lehigh River. He thanked Trish Spillman for putting it up. He discussed the 300 block of Center Street being marked for utility maintenance. This work should be done before the paving project so not to ruin the new blacktop. He believes the stormwater pipe on 7th Street between Fern and South Streets and asked if someone could look into unblocking it.

Attorney Keith Strohl – He explained he represents Bob Wisocki, who owns 5 Lehigh Street and is requesting the bus stop be moved

SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance)

NONE

Action

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve sending a thank you letter to Mountain View Restoration for their demoing services.** They helped tear down a condemned garage in the Borough. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve Council Work Session Meeting Minutes from May 7, 2026.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from May 14, 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 **table Ordinance 2026-02 JTFD Update.** This update includes the duties of the Fire Commissioner. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **authorize the Solicitor to advertise the Vehicle & Traffic Ordinance Amendment for Large Vehicle Parking.** This amendment will prohibit large, oversized vehicles from parking on Borough Streets, such as tractor trailers, campers, and boats. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **authorize the Solicitor to advertise for a Public Hearing for the Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Data Center Provisions.** All of the recommendations from Carbon County and Jim Thorpe Planning Commissions have been included in the updated draft. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **table Resolution 2026-11 Housing Unit Renumbering to Comply with Carbon County 911 Public Safety System**. Connor Rodgers asked for an explanation for why a number is chosen. Manager Sterner explained street addresses are assigned based on how far a building is from the beginning of the street. Zoning makes this determination based on the calculations per the Ordinance. That is how a number is assigned to the address. Connor Rodgers explained he doesn't feel the number on the Resolution should be the one used and would like to speak with Zoning first before approving. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Resolution 2026-12 Appalachian Region Commission Grant-Asa Packer Mansion Electric**. Manager Sterner was contacted by the Appalachian Region Commission about applying for this grant for the remaining funds needed to complete the Asa Packer Mansion Electrical Upgrades Project. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the Appalachian Region Commission Grant Commitment Letter**. The Borough is requesting $100,000.00 in grant funding for this project. The Borough will use the 2024 LSA Grant it was awarded as a match for this project. Motion carries 6-0.

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

Public Works Building

Memorial Hall

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 #102434 totaling $3,766.43.** This is for professional services from March 28, 2026 through April 24, 2026. Motion carries 6-0.

Memorial Hall Insurance Restoration Project – NONE

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the East Side Water Treatment Plant Purchase Order totaling $7,577.10 for a LG 15K Split Unit.** This is a dual unit for heating and air conditioning. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the purchase of a Caterpillar Mini Excavator.** Mike Yeeastedt explained Public Service demoed four (4) out of five (5) different units from various vendors. It was determined the Caterpillar would be the best fit for the Borough. It has an automatic turn bucket, stick controls, and more metal than plastic parts. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the lowest bid of $6,500.00 by Dugan & Marcon to replace the Diligent Building Sign.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **send a letter to PennDOT requesting the removal of the Lehigh Avenue Bus Stop.** The owner of the property at 3 Lehigh Street is requesting the bus stop be moved to a different location than their property. A site visit by Chief Schatz determined there is no other spot downtown to drop off passengers safely. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve the water connection agreement for 29 Broadway pending final edits and a $500.00 deposit for inspections.** Mike Yeastedt explained the new owners need to connect to the Borough's water system in order to finish installing the fire suppression system. They cannot continue renovating the building without this. The owner has submitted revised plans for seating as per the Borough's request. The Borough and the property owners are still negotiating the cost of the EDU's they are to pay for. Motion carries 6-0.

EDU's-Fee Schedule – Mike Yeastedt explained the chairs of each Public Service Department took into consideration the cost of well and on-lot systems to what the Borough charges per EDU. Each committee chair would like to see something similar to how Palmerton Borough charges based on the average of the annual usage. No action was taken.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **table the Jim Thorpe Fire Department Standard Operation Procedures Updates.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the T-2 Systems UPsafety Agreement.** Solicitor Nanovic provided updates to this agreement and believes it to be ready for approval. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **accept with regret Mike Letourneau's resignation from his Zoning Hearing Board Alternate seat.** This is a three-year seat expiring on December 31, 2027. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **cancel the July 2nd Work Session meeting.** The opening ceremony for the America 250 celebration is taking place the same night. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **deny Account #0395 Late Fee Request - $151.79**. The property owner mailed out their payment and it was not received by the Borough, to no fault of the Borough. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve Account #5418 Sewer Credit Request $143.39**. The property owner recently had their water line break and the excess water did not go into the sewer system. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve the Carbon County Commissioners request for a Tax Exoneration.** This request is only for the portion of the train station that was rented by Mauch Chunk Trust Company who vacated it prior to the start of 2026. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the America 250PA RFA-Semiquincentennial Ecumenical Service**. The service will take place in Memorial Hall on Saturday, July 4th at 11:00 a.m. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Jim Thorpe Summer Basketball League RFA-use of basketball courts June 22nd through August 20th.** This is an annual request. The league will use the basketball courts on Monday and Thursday nights. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **deny the JT Elopements Request-Wedding Ceremony 6.25.26.** There would not be enough time to order chairs and other supplies needed for this ceremony. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the JTTA RFA-Fall Foliage Weekends.** The request submitted is the same as in years past. The first three weekends include food vendors, general wares vendors, and music. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the 2026 Switchback Scamper being held on 9/27/26.** This is an annual event. The race takes place starting in Summit Hill and proceeds down the Switchback Trail to Mauch Chunk Lake. No Police services are needed. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Tom Chapman, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve the Lisa Napoletano Run with the Angels 5K being held on 5/15/27.** This is an annual event. The race takes place from the County lot towards the Lehigh Gorge and turns around to come back. No Police services are needed. Motion carries 6-0.

Exoneration Request

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

Committees

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
Zoning Ordinance Amendment-Map Update – The Planning Commission has formed a three (3) person committee to review the Zoning Map for the additional updates. Connor Rodgers explained he would like to see a committee from Borough Council formed to assist with helping the Planning Commission review the map. Connor Rodgers, Mike Yeastedt, and Joanne Klitsch will be on this committee.

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 7:16 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **resume the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting resumed at 8:12 p.m.

MOTION by Alice Roberti, second by Tom Chapman to **add a letter in the file of Employee #336 for the first incident and a written reprimand for the second incident.** 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 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Assistant Borough Manager/Secretary