JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION
May 14, 2026
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:33 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.

Roll Call of Members

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

Announcements

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 Spring Tire & Electronics Recycling Event took place on Saturday, May 9th.

The Jim Thorpe Birthday Celebration will be taking place on Saturday, May 16th at 10:30 a.m. at the Monument.

Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 555 for painting the signs at the Mausoleum.

Thank you to the residents and staff who assisted with the beautification at the Mausoleum.

There is a Part-Time Parking and Code Enforcement position available. If interested, please submit an application and/or resume to the Police Department.

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.

This week is National Police Week. Connor Rodgers thanked the Police Department.

Council wished Mayor Cinicola Happy Birthday.

Mayor's Report

NONE

Public Comment

Dennis McGinley – He explained he is the Secretary for the Fairview Hose Company and recently they held a Block Shoot. They raised $762.00 for the Police Department.

John McGuire – He was concerned that Planning Commission was not involved in the draft Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance Amendment for Oversized Vehicles. He explained most of the same ordinances across the state require trailers to be hooked to a vehicle at all times while parked on the street and cannot be parked there for more than 12 hours. He said the Borough's alleys are full with trailers, boats, and campers. These kill the sightline for drivers. He explained Planning Commission would help review the ordinance and make suggestions should Borough Council request it. He discussed the possibility of switching the Planning Commission meeting day from the third Tuesday of the month. County Planning meets the same day and Jim Thorpe Planning Commission does not always get their recommendations in time for the night meeting.

Public Hearing

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **open the Public Hearing for the Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Data Center Provisions.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Connor Rodgers explained this is an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for definitions and standards for data center.

John McGuire – He asked if what was before Council was the final draft. Manager Sterner explained she wasn't sure, as this is currently the public hearing. Comments were received from Jim Thorpe and

Carbon County Planning Commission. She explained the Borough should have provisions in place, but should not rush the process and miss something that could have a negative effect to the Borough.

Jill Williams – She explained she was having a hard time understanding the Ordinance. She asked who was in charge of putting an ordinance like this together. Manager Sterner explained amendments to the Zoning Ordinance happen from time to time. Council requests both Jim Thorpe and Carbon County Planning Commissions review a draft and provide feedback. The intent of the ordinance is to protect the Borough. Pennsylvania state law requires the Borough provide for all types of land use. Municipalities cannot exclude certain uses entirely.

Lyla Degessa – She requested Borough Council do whatever they could to protect the land from the damage that data centers cause.

Alice Roberti explained the ordinance does not say that Borough Council wants a data center. The ordinance is being put in place because state law says the Borough has to.

Jill Williams explained she wished the Borough would send a newsletter out to residents to get the information out to educate them.

Michael Orange – He explained he had concerns about the ordinance not having a verbiage for power usage for crypto currency and mining.

Courtney Clements – She read statistical data about data centers and their effects on the environment, wildlife, and people.

Manager Sterner explained this use would only be permitted by Special Exception, which goes before the Zoning Hearing Board.

Trish Spillman – She explained that if residents truly don't want a data center, then they should not be using AI.

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

SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance)

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Kanick Minor Subdivision dated April 2, 2025 (revised January 28, 2026) Sewage Easement Agreement.** It must be approved and sign by the County and returned to the Borough to record. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Mauch Chunk Parking II Land Development dated January 8, 2026 (revised April 1, 2026) waiver requests for the following:**

1. **SALDO 390-51.X.(4) – Minimum size driveway culvert shall be 18" in diameter**
2. **SALDO 390-53.B.(5)(f)[6](a) – Minimum allowable drainage conveyance pipe size shall be 15" in diameter**
3. **SALDO 390-29.C.(1)(i) – Location & type of permanent monuments and markers which have been found or set in place**
4. **Stormwater 377-12.E – Storm Sewers must be able to convey post-development runoff from a twenty-five-year design storm without surcharging inlets, where appropriate**

The pipe size will be 12 inches. Due to the location of the proposed driveway, a monument/marker cannot be placed. The Borough's Stormwater Engineer approved the stormwater study that was provided with the plans. Jonathan Rogers, the applicant's engineer discussed the project from the beginning through today – conditional use, land development plans, stormwater management plans, Zoning Hearing Board variance approval. Tom Chapman explained the applicant did everything Borough Council requested of him and he would be ok with the project moving forward. Mike Yeastedt asked if the issues presented by PennDOT have been addressed. Jonathan Rogers explained PennDOT had some concerns with the existing inlet and will be having an upcoming site visit with them. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Mauch Chunk Parking Land Development dated January 8, 2026 (revised April 1, 2026) conditioned upon addressing comments from the Borough Engineer's review letter dated April 15, 2026, addressing comments from the Carbon County Planning Commission plan review of April 21, 2026, complying with decisions made from the Zoning Hearing Board on April 23, 2026, acquisition of a PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit, and addressing any concerns from other entities such as the Carbon County Conservation District, etc.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Action

The following items were reviewed:

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Alice Roberti to **approve Council Work Session Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2026.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from April 9, 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 **send the Carbon County recommendation letter to the Jim Thorpe Planning Commission to review and provide their feedback of what should be incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Provisions for Data Centers.** Connor Rodgers briefly reviewed the County's recommendations for additions to the amendment. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **have the Jim Thorpe Planning Commission review the Zoning Map for boundary line changes.** Additional properties were found to be split by two different Zoning Districts after further review. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **authorize the Solicitor to incorporate the feedback from residents and Connor Rodger's recommendations to the Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance Amendment – Large Vehicle Parking on Streets Restriction.** Connor Rodgers recommended under letter E to provide restrictions on detached trailers, such as wheel chocks. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Tom Chapman, second by Alice Roberti to **authorize the Solicitor to advertise the Jim Thorpe Fire Department Ordinance Update.** Tom Chapman explained this amendment updates the language to include the Fire Commissioner. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Resolution 2026-07 Housing Unit Numbering to comply with Carbon County 911 Public Safety System.** This is for a parcel on North Avenue that has not yet been assigned a house number. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve Resolution 2026-08 2026 CDBG Grant Application.** This authorizes the Borough to apply for CDBG grant funding for the West Side Water Plant. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Resolution 2026-09 DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Grant Application and Funding Commitment Letter.** The grant application would be for Phase IV of the Memorial Park Project. This will include an updated bathroom and additional ADA compliant paths. The Borough will be committing to a 15% match, which is $44,069.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Resolution 2026-10 National Rural Water Outreach Assistance Program – Sourcewater Protection Grant and a letter authorizing staff time at a rate of $71.41/hour.** This is for assistance protecting the Borough's water source on the West Side and authorizing an hourly rate of $71.41/hour for staff eligible work performed in connection with grant-related activities, including coordination, source water protection efforts, and other eligible tasks associated with the program. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve the 2026 Lehigh Valley Chamber Main Street Grant Application.** The Borough will be applying for patriotic decorations for Memorial Hall and Memorial Park, and replace the Memorial Park entrance sign. It requires a 50/50 match of no more than $2,000.00. Motion carries 6-0.

Facilities Project
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott Litigation Rates for 2026 – No action taken at this time.

Public Works Building - NONE

Memorial Hall - NONE

Memorial Park Project
Phase I - NONE

Phase II - NONE

Center Avenue Water Main Project – Manger Sterner explained the Borough received an update today that the new curb cuts will be installed starting in June.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Entech Engineering Invoice #101933 totaling $4,880.00.** This is for professional services from February 27, 2026 through March 28, 2026. Motion carries 6-0.

Memorial Hall Insurance Restoration Project – No action. Electrical repairs to begin Monday.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve WTP Purchase order totaling $14,777.84 for the 6th Street PRV Pit.** This is to replace the pressure reducing valve pit as the current one is at the end of its life expectancy and is starting to fail. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve WWTP Purchase Order totaling $8,934.16 to replace the Sewer Plant Chimney.** During the Sewer Plant annual maintenance review, it was determined the current chimney needed to be replaced due to age and condition. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tony Augustine to **authorize the Sewer Committee to review and recommend action on the Keystone SCADA Contract.** Tony Augustine explained he wanted to speak with the Sewer Supervisor more on the contract. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve the 2026 Multimodal Grant – Downtown Vehicular & Pedestrian Project Traffic Planning and Development Grant Assistance Proposal not to exceed $4,500.00.** Manager Sterner explained Traffic Planning and Development would be making changes to the scope of work and removing one crosswalk from it. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **authorize the Administration Committee to review the company proposals for the Borough Website and make a recommendation.** No one from the Administration Committee was able to review the proposals and examples shared. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the lowest 2026 Chemical Bids as presented for the following items: Sodium Permanganate, Dense Soda Ash, Liquid Chlorine, Ortho/Polyphosphate Blend-Carus 8100, Ortho/Polyphosphate Blend-Carus 8500, Poly Aluminum Chloride, Sodium Hypo-Chlorite 15%, Magnesium Hydroxide Wet 60%, and KC-138 Polyacrylamide Emulsion.** These are chemicals needed for the Water and Sewer Departments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **deny the Memorial Hall Parking Lot Paving Project Bids received and allocate those funds for Stormwater Engineering.** A pre-bid meeting was held with interested bidders. Upon further review of the parking lot with the bidders, it was determined there would be issues with stormwater and should have the Stormwater Engineer review the area. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve the Park Mobile Agreement.** Flow Bird was bought out by Park Mobile. The are no changes to the rates. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the BRC Cable TV Agreement.** This is a 10-year agreement and the fee will continue to be 4%. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **reject the Enfirm UGI rates.** Their prices are higher than what the Borough is currently paying. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve the Romanchik Easement.** The easement will allow him to run his water pipe to hook into the water main. The deed number would be for Mr. Romanchik's property on the Easement. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **ratify sending a formal request to PennDOT for roadway improvements on Liberty Road/Center Avenue (SR 3014).** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Lyle Augustine to **table the Jim Thorpe Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures Updates.** Council did not have the updated copy of the SOP. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Police Operational Plans for Approved Events and Fall Foliage Weekends.** The plans are for public safety. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve the Community Relations/Outreach Program – Parking Incentive Program.** There will be a business program and a resident program. One business a week would be granted a parking pass to utilize in any general paid parking space. The pass would be eligible from Monday through Sunday. Residents will have the opportunity to get a two-hour parking pass to use on the weekdays for one of the general paid parking spaces (if available). There will be 2 passes available and it will be on a first come, first served basis. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **table the Municipal Complex Event Parking.** Due to the stormwater issues needing to get resolved with the Memorial Hall Parking Lot, this item is getting put on hold. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by **approve the Public Works Garage Open House being held on July 22nd from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve National Night Out on August 4th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **deny the Cannarella Handicap Parking Sign Application.** The spot that is being requested on School Street is further away from the applicant's house than it is in their driveway off of North Street. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve the Shade Tree Committee Recommendation for a tree removal on Center Street.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. Connor Rodgers thanked the Committee for planting trees in Twinning Park. Tom Chapman inquired about the old Memorial Park sign that is now at Twinning Park. He felt the sign would be more fitting to go back to Memorial Park. **MOTION** by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve removing the old Memorial Park Sign from Twinning Park as long as it is electrically disconnected.** There were no additional comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Nesquehoning Police Request for the June 13th Big Boy Assistance.** Chief Schatz explained he is denying the manpower request, but will let them borrow from the Borough's inventory that can be spared. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **table the Carbon County Commissioners Request for a Tax Exoneration.** Manager Sterner explained she is waiting for the Solicitor to return from vacation for further verification on the property. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the JTTA Request to include Shozo Park in Porchfest.** Music in Shozo Park would be from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the Kemmerer Park Request to be included in Porchfest.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Kemmer Park Request for a Fine Arts Festival.** the Association is working in conjunction with JTTA to host a Fine Arts Festival on August 22nd and 23rd in the park. There would be a maximum of 35 vendors and there will be music in the pavilion. The Association and JTTA are working with the County to try to secure parking in the Annex Lot for the vendors. Motion carries 6-0.

Christman RFA-Wedding Ceremony on Mansion Grounds September 23, 2026 – The couple who was interested in eloping at the Mansion has changed their minds.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti to **approve Account #3165 Payment Plan.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Exoneration Request

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Alice Roberti 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
T-2 Systems - Upsafety Agreement – Manager Sterner explained the Solicitor still needs to work on the Agreement.

Buildings/Parks
NONE

Asa Packer Mansion
NONE

Emergency Services
NONE

Planning Commission
NONE

Old Business

NONE

Executive Session

Held after the meeting/

Adjourn

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **adjourn the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting ended at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Assistant Borough Manager/Secretary