JIM THORPE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
October 9, 2025
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:35 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 fire in Franklin Township.

Roll Call of Members

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

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.

The Memorial Hall Open House and Dedication ceremony is taking place on October 22nd from 1:00 to 6:30 p.m.

This year's Halloween Parade will be on Saturday, October 25th at 2:00 p.m. with a rain date of October 26th.

Trick or Treat will be held on Thursday, October 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Leaf Collection will take place from October 29th through November 19th.

The Fall Tire & Electronics Recycling Event will take place on Saturday, November 1st from 7:00 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. The location has moved to the Memorial Hall parking lot.

The Festival of the Trees will take place on December 2nd starting at 5:30 p.m. More information will be posted on the Borough's website and Facebook page.

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

AJ Patrucci – He explained this time of year is bad for accidents. Last week there was a bas accident at the intersection of Coal and Center. Mike Yeastedt explained both roads are

PennDOT roads. They were contacted to cut back the brush and the Borough inquired about painting “Stop Ahead” on the road or installing flashing light stop signs.

Brandon Fogel – He explained he is against the proposed Timber Harvesting. He said it’s not financially worthwhile for the Borough. It will cause damage to the forest and the roads.

Danny Kunkle – He explained he is an advisor to the Carbon County Open Space Board. He said he was happy to hear Borough Council was taking their time on making an informed decision on the Timber Harvesting. He claimed the Timber Harvesting is not an ecologically good deal and will cost more to regrow. He requested the area be preserved.

Lucy Freck – She explained she is against the proposed Timber Harvesting. The land has towering trees and is home to many animals, plants, and insects. She requested the trees not be cut during nesting season and to take plenty of time before making a decision.

Darryl & Marianne Monteleone – They thanked Connor Rodgers for letting them know about the proposed Timber Harvesting. They live by the gate at the end of Germantown and have concerns about the Timber Harvesting. They are concerned about stormwater issues if the trees are cut.

Pat Huber – She explained she is concerned about what the logging trucks will do to the roads if Council allows the Timber Harvesting.

Sue Urban – She explained she was in attendance to discuss the parking issues from Fall Foliage. She asked if Borough Council has considered a monthly permit or something to help residents who want to go downtown, but can’t. Connor Rodgers recommended she speak with the Carbon County Commissioners. Manager Sterner explained Lanta does make stops in the Borough, but would need to be contacted for a ride.

Wayne Smith – He asked for an update on 44 & 46 Coal Street. Manager Sterner explained all of the nuisance items have been addressed.

Bill Malatak – He explained he was happy to see the walkway extended from the sidewalk to the train station. He explained he does not want to see the Timber Harvesting happen. He said all of the Borough’s Real Estate Taxes is going towards public safety and nothing towards paving. The Borough lost one million dollars due to the MEM and the Railroad. AJ Patrucci asked why the Railroad isn’t paying amusement tax. Greg Strubinger explained railroads were cut put of the PA law.

Ciro Pinto – He explained he is against the proposed Timber Harvesting. He suggested Borough Council should have someone from DCED come look at the area to see if the Borough is being taken advantage of. There should be a forest management plan in place. He felt the County should be giving the Borough more money since its seat is in the Borough. Connor Rodgers asked him if the air quality is any better in the Heights. He explained it depends on the weekend.

Sharon Pinto – She requested an advisory committee be formed to further discuss the proposed Timber Harvesting. She explained the Heights still experiences fumes from the trains. She is concerned about the visitors exiting the trains across from Highland Beverage and their safety.

Emma Bast – She explained she's an environmental attorney. She is concerned about the proposed Timber Harvesting. Contracts have less protections built in and requested Council consider other options.

Connor Rodgers explained due to the residents against the proposed Timber Harvesting, he would like to see it moved from Old Business to Action. **MOTION** by Connor Rodgers, second by Ted LaRizzio to **move Timber Harvesting from Old Business to Action.** There were no questions. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Ted LaRizzio to **deny the request from Keystone Timber and Forestry and explain the Council is not interested in Timber Harvesting within the Borough.** Mike Yeastedt asked if the Borough signed a contract with Keystone. Manager Sterner said no. Motion carries 6-0.

Greg Strunbinger wanted to take a moment to thank the school district for allowing the Borough to use their facilities for meetings.

Public Hearing
NONE

SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance)
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Kanick Minor Subdivision dated April 2, 2025 (revised June 17, 2025) time extension through January 19, 2026.** The Kanick's have submitted a Conditional Use application to be allowed to build a house on one of the lots they a proposing in their subdivision plans. Motion carries 6-0.

Action
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from September 4, 2025.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Council Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2025.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

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

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

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Ordinance 2025-06 Vehicle and Traffic Amendment – Stop Signs, One-Way Streets, and 15-Minute parking Spot.** A section of South Avenue and Trap Alley and all of Race Street would be one-way. Stop signs would be added to the intersections of 5th and Oak, as well as 5th and Lehigh. The 15-minute parking space will be next to the Treasure Shop and utilized this way 7 days a week. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Ordinance 2025-07 Police Department Amendment – Addition of Corporal Position.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **approve Ordinance 2025-08 Fire Department Amendment – Membership Residency Requirements & Additional Officers.** This extends the residency requirement to a 5-mile radius outside of the Borough limits to be an officer and adds an additional deputy. Motion carries 5-1, with Connor Rodgers voting no.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **table advertising for a Public Hearing for Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Residential Parking Lots.** Council would like to discuss this further with the Solicitor. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Resolution 2025-26 Auditor Appointment.** This is an annual appointment. The audit for the 2025 fiscal year is to not exceed $30,000.00. Manager Sterner explained the Borough will have at least one single audit due to the Facilities Projects. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **accept Buckno, Lisicky, & Co.'s proposal.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Resolution 2025-27 2025 LSA Monroe – Asa Packer Mansion HVAC.** The Borough is requesting $127,834.00 in funding to update the Asa Packer Mansion's HVAC system. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the 2025 LSA Monroe Grant Authorization letter.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve ratifying the 2025 LSA Monroe Grant match of $22,500.00.** This match will come out of General Funds. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Resolution 2025-28 2025 LSA Statewide – Digital Radios.** The Borough is requesting $270,134.01 in funding to upgrade the remaining municipal, police, and fire vehicles with digital radios. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the 2025 LSA Statewide Grant Authorization letter.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve ratifying the 2025 LSA Statewide Grant match of $30,014.89.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Facilities Projects
Public Works Building

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Reading Mechanical Payment Application #12 totaling $14,625.00.** This is for work completed and materials purchased through September 19, 2025. This is their final payment application. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Ted LaRizzio to **approve Larry McCullion & Son's Payment Application #11 totaling $14,275.00.** This is for work completed and materials purchased through May 31, 2025. Thus is their final payment application. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve KC Mechanical Payment Application #11 totaling $3,250.00.** This is for work completed and materials purchased through August 30, 2025. This is their final payment application. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Spillman Farmer Architects Amendment #9 totaling $7,723.31.** This is for contract incidentals, such as copies. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Zurawa Invoice #1110-16 totaling $3,740.00.** This is for site visits, project meetings, and administrative work completed during the month of August. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Requisition #22 totaling $43,613.31.** This includes Reading Mechanical Payment Application #12, Larry McCullion & Son's Payment Application #11, KC Mechanical Payment Application #11, Spillman Farmer Architects Amendment #9, and Zurawa Invoice #1110-16. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Tom Chapman abstaining due to being a subcontractor on the project.

Memorial Hall

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Zurawa Invoice #1111-15 totaling $1,615.00.** This is for site visits, project meetings, and administrative work completed during the month of August. Motion carries 5-0-1, 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 #8 totaling $75,780.00.** This is for work completed and materials purchased through August 13, 2025. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve LB Construction Payment Application #9 totaling $18,258.30.** This is for work completed and materials purchased through September 25, 2025. Motion carries 6-0.

Phase II

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve Cooper Electric – lighting totaling $45,732.00.** This was an add on item to the contract, that has since been removed. The Borough is purchasing the lighting needed for the park. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Ted LaRizzio to **approve LB Construction Payment Application #8 totaling $4,320.00.** This is for work completed and materials purchased through August 13, 2025. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Ted La Rizzio to **approve LB Construction Payment Application #9 totaling $28,581.30.** This is for work completed and materials purchased through September 25, 2025. Motion carries 6-0.

Center Avenue Water Main Project

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Entech Engineering Invoice #0098636 totaling $44,373.40.** This is for services during construction from July 26, 2025 through August 29, 2025. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve PACT One Payment Application #2 totaling $242,772.21.** This is for work completed and materials purchased through September 19, 2025. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve PACT One Change Order #1 totaling 13,513.27.** This is for Line Stop Installation, Water Meter Pit Installation, Pit Meters, and a Pit Radio. Motion carries 6-0.

High Street Wall Project

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Axis Stabilization Payment Application #5 totaling $34,483.00.** This is the final Payment Application for the project. This is for additional vegetation removal and paving to divert water away from the wall. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve the 2025 Volunteer Fire Relief Allocation.** This is an annual allocation. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve a Traffic Panel Purchase totaling $5,269.62.** This is for 70 additional panels. Connor Rodgers expressed there were no tax dollars spent on these. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Joanne Klitsch to **table the Asa Packer Mansion 501c3 Proposal – not to exceed $12,500.00.** Greg Strubinger requested Solicitor Nanovic review and provide feedback on the proposal. Connor Rodgers expressed he would like to see additional proposals. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Greg Strubinger, second by Connor Rodgers to **move forward with the East Side Water Treatment Plant Generator and allow the Water Committee to approve the amount.** Manager Sterner explained the transfer switch is not the issue with the current generator as once thought. There is $100,000.00 in the Water Fund and additional money in the Capital Reserve Funds to cover the cost of a new generator. The last quote received was from 2023 and was under $100,000.00. Council requested it not to exceed $125,000.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve the highest bid received on Municibid for used C-Channel Posts.** The highest bid was $32.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve a Letter of Support for Carbon County's DCNR Peer Grant Application.** The County will be applying for a Vendor and Pedestrian analysis for Josiah White Park. Connor Rodgers expressed he would like to see the Borough be able to participate in this study as well. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **appoint Solicitor Nanovic as the Borough's Police Contract Arbitrator.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Mike Yeastedt to **deny the purchase of a Fire Siren.** Mike Yeastedt and Connor Rodgers explained from their research, the cost for one new fire siren and installation would be around $75,000.00. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve holding a second Jim Thorpe Borough Tourism Meeting on October 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Mike Yeastedt to **deny Feller Request for Action – Purchase of Property.** Mr. Feller is looking to acquire the property adjoining his, which the Borough owns. Manager Sterner explained the Borough has no sewer or water on the property. The water main is just west of the property. There is stormwater drainage there. Connor Rodgers thanked Mr. Feller for taking care of the property. Greg Strubinger explained if the Borough were ever to sell Borough owned property, it would have to go out for public bid. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **table St, Mark's Request for Action – Parking Spaces.** The church is requesting to be allowed to have 2 regular spaces and one handicap space for church business. The church only owns five feet of where the lines are painted and the remainder is in the Right of Way. Manager Sterner explained she had spoken with Solicitor Nanovic. The parking space in question has a long history, if there was any sort of agreement, it precludes him. He suggested reaching out to Commissioner Sofranko and past Councilmember Jay Miller. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve Gasker Request for Action – America 250 Celebration.** The request includes use of Memorial Park and Hall on July 3rd and 5th, 2026, use of War Memorials from July 2nd through 5th, 2026, Bus Signage, and One-Way Traffic. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Ted LaRizzio to **approve Ruch Request for Action – Use of Memorial Hall.** Kevin Ruch and other residents are looking to hold a Memorial Service for Mari Gruber, the butterfly lady on Sunday. October 26th. Council felt the charge to rent the Hall should be what the church pays for their Halloween Ball. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve LaRizzio Request for Action – Veteran's Dinner Committee Meeting.** The request is for use of the Hall for the Veteran's Dinner Committee meeting to further discuss how they will host the Veteran's dinner in November in Memorial Hall. The meeting will be held on October 15, 2025. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Joanne Klitsch to **approve McElmoyle Request for Action – Use of Memorial Hall.** The request is for use of the hall on February 1st for a birthday party. Council felt the charge to rent the Hall should be what the church pays for the Halloween Ball. Motion carries 6-0.

Exoneration Request
NONE

Administration
Connor Rodgers requested the committee get together to come up with a fee schedule for Memorial Hall rentals.

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

Police
NONE

Buildings/Parks
NONE

Asa Packer Mansion
NONE

Emergency Services
Greg Strubinger explained the committee met with the Fire Department Officers. They agreed with the committee in creating a Fire Commissioner position, and would like to instruct the Solicitor to amend the Ordinance to add this position. Ted LaRizzio asked if this position gets a stipend. Manager Sterner explained once the job description is written up, then yes. **MOTION** by Greg Strubinger, second by Mike Yeastedt to **authorize the Solicitor to draft an amendment to the fire Department Ordinance to add the Fire Commissioner position.** There were no additional comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Old Business
NONE

Executive Session
MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Tom Chapman to **adjourn into Executive Session.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting paused at 8:34 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **resume the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting resumed at 9:32 p.m.

MOTION by Connor Rodgers, second by Mike Yeastedt to **approve hiring Applicant #630 at a rate set by the Teamster's Contract conditioned upon employee having a CDL Class B Driver's License and obtaining a PA-DEP Class C Water Operator License and Subclasses 1, 7, 8 and 11 within three (3) years of date of being hired in this position and receiving proper background clearances.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **approve hiring Applicant #339 at a rate of $13.00/hr conditioned upon receiving proper clearances.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0.

Adjourn

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **adjourn the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 6-0. The meeting ended at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Assistant Borough Manager/Secretary