

**JESSUP BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2025, AT 7:00 PM**

The regular monthly meeting of Jessup Borough Council was held on Monday, February 5, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jessup Borough Building, 395 Lane Street, Jessup, PA 18434. The following business was transacted.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag was given.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of the past Chief of Police, Patrick Kane.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President, Roberta Galati

Council held an executive session February 5, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. regarding personnel.

Roll Call: Present 5

Absent 2

Gregg Betti

Tom Fiorelli

Curt Camoni

Roberta Galati

Jerry Crinella - absent Joe Mellado – absent

Jeffrey Castellani

Lackawanna Energy Center – Harry had nothing there was nothing to report.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 6, 2025. Motion made by Jeff Castellani second by Gregg Betti. Aye carried. (5-0)

Motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting on January 9, 2025. Motion made by Gregg Betti second by Jeff Castellani. Aye carried. (5-0)

Motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting on January 23, 2025. Motion made by Curt Camoni second by Gregg Betti. Aye carried. (5-0)

Motion to approve the secretary's report. Motion made by Gregg Betti second by Jeff Castellani. Aye carried. (5-0)

Motion to amend the motion to approve payroll to read the January payroll. Motion made by Gregg Betti second by Curt Camoni. Aye carried (5-0)

Motion to approve the January payroll in the amount of \$97,030.04. Aye carried. (5-0)

Motion to approve general fund monthly payments in the amount of \$50,510.60. Aye carried. (5-0)

Old Business

Community Vision Plan

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Reports

Finance and Grants – Tom Fiorelli gave a recap of the capital improvement projects the borough completed in 2024. We received \$1,174,181.00 in grant funding.

Zoning Hearing Board Chairman – Jeff Smith noted there is a zoning hearing scheduled for February 26, 2025, regarding 308-310 Hill Street. Solicitor Hanyon is going to try to make contact with the court regarding Kearney Steel. Mario did speak with Attorney Walsh. The required policy for the borough's insurance is in progress. In conjunction with the policy, ethics training is required.

Mayor – Mayor Buckshon thanked the police for putting on a classy show for past Chief Patrick Kane's funeral as well as DPW for all their help.

Controller – Ben Cardoni reported the balances of all borough accounts.

Tax Collector – Genevieve Lupini gave an account of taxes collected in 2024. She also announced there are two (2) KOZ's that received extensions.

Zoning Officer, Anthony Mengoni – The zoning officer reported there will be a hearing February 18, 2025, regarding the 4th Avenue property that was destroyed by a fire. There was a question regarding raising chickens. Anthony noted residents with questions regarding raising fowl on their property should reach out to the zoning officer directly.

Police Chief, Derek Fozard – Chief Fozard thanked the local fire companies police departments and Jessup DPW for their participation in the funeral services for past Chief of Police, Patrick Kane. He gave an overview of police department activities for the month.

Solicitor, Maura Armezzani Tunis – The solicitor gave an update regarding the transfer of a NPDES permit for the property previously owned by Jessup Crossings. She looked into a sewer hookup fee, and it is something Council could consider.

Borough Manager, Coleen Watt – The borough received a quote for the chimney extension on Saxon for \$600.00 and it will raise the chimney two (2) feet. For \$900 it can be raised to four (4) feet which is the maximum height.

Public Comment – Angel Muchal with Citizens for a Healthy Jessup asked to use JYSA for an Easter Egg Hunt on April 5, 2025, with a rain date of April 6, 2025.

Brittani Barcheski thanked everyone for taking her seriously and hearing her out in regard to the burned-out property next to her home. She will be in attendance at the hearing on February 18th regarding the property on 4th Avenue that burned. This has been ongoing since 2018. It would be great to not have to look at that.

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Genevieve Lupini asked if there is any hope in getting a show mobile set up at Memorial Stadium because when Jessup 21st Century has events they need to rent a show mobile. This year they are planning a large entertainment group. She asked if there might be a grant. She also asked about a grant to provide upgrades at Station Park.

Mark Cordelli of Lackawanna County gave an overview of events happening throughout the County in the coming months.

Jeff Smith asked about motions M and G. He will follow up with motion M next month. He feels RFPs should be put out for all services in the fall for January appointments. Doing this now seems to be disruptive.

Sara Helcoski shared her appreciation for the Chief and the other officers who monitor the school bus stops. She has seen much safer driving, and they are improving the traffic flow and obedience to traffic rules. She is very appreciative.

Craig Pezak asked Council to consider entertaining motion G.

The floor was opened for public comment on motion K as there was an error. The motion should have read to reinvest a treasury security in the amount of \$134,986.73.

New Business/Motions

- A. Motion to advertise to amend the pave cut ordinance. Motion was made by Curt Camoni second by Gregg Bett. Aye carried. (5-0)
- B. Motion to approve the purchase of a vehicle camera for the Police Department from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$6,343.00. Motion was made by Tom Fiorelli second by Gregg Betti. Aye carried. (5-0)
- C. Motion to approve conditional hiring of Zach Wargula for the police department provided he passes all background checks and testing. Motion was made by Jeff Castellani second by Gregg Betti. Aye carried. (5-0)
- D. Motion to hire Coleen Watt, Borough Manager retroactive to February 1, 2025. Motion made by Curt Camoni second by Tom Fiorelli. Aye carried. (5-0)
- E. Motion to approve a change order for Lawler Drive not to exceed \$28,500.00. Contractor is to mill the entire roadway and install 3 inches of 25mm base and overlay with 1 ½ inches of 9mm blacktop. Motion was made by Curt Camoni second by Gregg Betti. Aye carried. (5-0)

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- F. Motion to hire Joseph Pollock for DPW at the rate of \$24.68 per hour contingent on passing a background check and pre-employment drug test. Motion was made by Gregg Betti second by Tom Fiorelli. Aye carried. (5-0)
- G. Motion to advertise a request for proposals (RFP) for engineering services. Motion was made by Curt Camoni second by Gregg Betti. Roberta Galati and Tom Fiorelli voted no. Aye carried. (3-2)
- H. Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-4 entering into a settlement agreement with Lackawanna Energy Center regarding the Borough's appeal to the Environmental Hearing Board regarding the air quality permit issued to Lackawanna Energy Center (LEC) and to authorize the appropriate Borough officers to execute the same. Motion was made by Gregg Betti second by Tom Fiorelli. Aye carried. (5-0)
- I. Motion to issue public statement regarding resolution of the Borough's appeal to the Environmental Hearing Board regarding the air quality permit issued to LEC. Motion was made by Gregg Betti second by Tom Fiorelli. Aye carried. (5-0)
- J. Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-5. Tax Collectors compensation. Rates are as follows: 2.5% for tax and 0% for garbage. Motion was made by Curt Camoni second by Jeff Castellani. Aye carried. (5-0)
- K. Motion to reinvest 12-month CD of \$273,002.36 with Peoples Security Bank to continue the ladder investment. A motion was made by Tom Fiorelli second by Gregg Betti to amend the motion to read motion to reinvest treasury security in the amount of \$134,986.73 with Peoples Security Bank to continue the ladder investment. Motion was made by Tom Fiorelli second by Gregg Betti to amend the motion. Aye carried. (5-0)
Motion to reinvest treasury security in the amount of \$134,986.73 with People's Security Bank to continue the ladder investment. Motion was made by Gregg Betti second by Tom Fiorelli. Aye carried. (5-0)
- L. Motion to purchase decorations for Operation Noel at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.00. Motion made by Curt Camoni second by Tom Fiorelli. Aye carried (5-0)
- M. Motion to amend Jessup Borough's Public Meeting Policy. Motion was made by Curt Camoni second by Jeff Castellani to table until such time Council develops a policy, and the public has an opportunity to review it. Aye carried. (5-0)
- N. Motion to send a letter to Senator Flynn supporting his opposition to the PUC's proposed rate hikes. Motion made by Curt Camoni second by Tom Fiorelli. Aye carried. (5-0)

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- O. Motion to approve the publication of the 2025 Borough Newsletter and associated printing costs. Motion was made by Gregg Betti second by Tom Fiorelli. Aye carried. (5-0)

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Gregg Betti second by Jeff Castellani to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Coleen Watt, Secretary