

**THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2015**

Meeting Time: The meeting was called to order at 7 PM.

Location: Thornburg Community Building, Library

Attendance:

PRESENT: President Sigo Falk (12/17) Mark Perrott (12/17) Fino Caliguire (12/15) Vinnie Coppola (12/17) Mike Dwyer (12/15), Tony Szmul (12/17)

ABSENT: Scott Quinn (2015)

Mayor Tom Mackin (2017) was present.

Solicitor Chuck Means from GRB was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of March 9, 2015.

Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Szmul made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 9.

Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Ms. Gina Caliguire was present to discuss a property dispute with her neighbor at 1143 Dartmouth Road. The garage that was erected on the Alarcon property was moved to the Caliguire side and appears to be encroaching. She also discussed a drainage tube and parking pad that appear to be on their property. Mr. Tony Caliguire talked to property owner and asked about a survey. Mr. Berdi, husband of the property owner, prepared a survey based on drawings in his possession and feels he is correct within 3-4 inches. President Falk suggested Mrs. Caliguire have a survey done.

Ms. Laura Irwin of Cornell Road was present. Her property lies below the garage and she submitted a letter to Council in January 2015 concerning storm water management. She did not ask for follow up at this time as the subject may become a moot point.

President Falk stated that Council's position is that this issue is between the neighbors. Mayor Mackin and Building Inspector Dan Felton met at the garage on April 13 at 10:30 to discuss with Mr. Berdi but no one came. Mr. Felton will follow up with Mr. Berdi and Ms. Eles.

Ms. Gina Caliguire also inquired about the status of the garage on the other side of her property. The wall is falling in and a danger. Mr. Felton will submit a violation letter to the property owner to have it torn down.

Ms. Gina Caliguire also asked about the electric fence installed on the alley corner of Yale and Cornell. Mayor Mackin will ask the residents about the voltage.

The spring behind Pulford's driveway was also discussed. It appears to be deteriorating the alley. The catch basin behind Mackin's driveway was there for spring. Mayor Mackin will take a look at it.

Ms. Laura Irwin would like to come up with a plan for dealing with the deer problem. President Falk suggested Mr. Tony Szmul ask the COG to get county involved. Municipality by municipality does not work. Some residents continue to feed deer. The Code Enforcement Officer can and has sent violation letters.

Ms. Laura Irwin brought up the problem of people parking illegally in front of the school. It is dangerous and impossible to get through intersection. Mayor Mackin talked to the preschool and they will put cones out in morning blocking the yellow curb.

Mr. Dirk Horstman asked about Stanford landslide as it is declining. President Falk informed him that the borough vacated that portion of the street and it belongs to the homeowner at the end of Stanford (Mrs. DiPasquale). Mayor Mackin said Rudy her son, Rudy, will be fixing the road when weather gets better.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin was present. The police report was discussed. Last Thursday 28 unlocked cars in lower Thornburg were broken into and money and other small items were stolen. One vehicle with keys left in it was stolen. The police were able to do some fingerprinting but as of now no one is under arrest.

Mayor Mackin asked about selling the old borough truck. The value is around \$4,000. Solicitor Means advised of a provision in the code that requires advertisement/bids to get rid of property if the fair market value exceeds \$1,000. An electronic auction can be done. If the property is sold to another public sector then the sale can be done outright.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Means was present.

Mr. Coppola moved to approve Ordinance #406 amending the building code to require a permit for any structure over 200 square feet. Mr. Perrott seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Ms Alarcon will send Solicitor Means an executed copy and proof of publication.

Website Contract: Solicitor Means reviewed the website contract and made suggestions. Mr. Dwyer moved to approve the contract in principal subject to Solicitor Means and Councilman Mark Perrott working out the final details for \$3,170. Mr. Caliguire seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Railroad Repairs – Solicitor Means will continue to contact the point person until he answers. If there is no response he will write to their lawyer. Currently one can only drive 5 mph over the tracks or they will bottom out.

Borough Engineers – Council will stay with Gateway for now and make decision in summer about changing engineers as there is nothing urgent. Councilman Mike Dwyer suggested interviewing another firm in May. The timeline will be to have a final decision by August so budgets can be prepared in September for the roads & sewers.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Ms. Alarcon presented the Treasurer’s report. Mr. Perrott made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report. Mr.Szmul seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Ms. Alarcon presented the 2014 Audit. There were no issues and the summary of revenues and expenditures will be publicized in the Suburban Gazette.

Ms. Alarcon distributed Statement of Financial Interests that are due by May 1, 2015.

LED light installation is complete. The cones can be adjusted. The cone shape cannot be adjusted.

Dog Park permits are available on the Thornburg website.

Senator Matt Smith will be visiting 4/23 from 5:30-7.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

The Engineer’s report was provided.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration (Mr. Szmul): No report.

Budget and Finance (Mr. Quinn & Mr. Falk): No report.

Land Conservation/Resources (Mr. Caliguire): Jeff Leithauser wants to plant more trees. In the past the expense has been \$2-3K and there’s \$700 in budget. A few residents have made donations to cover the cost. Mrs. Judy Kimblin has set aside May 16th for planting and clean up the park day. “Tree Vitalize” is willing to give out trees. Councilman Fino Caliguire will investigate.

Dangerous Trees: The Karozza Brothers coming this week and will provide quote.

Sewers/Public Works (Mr. Coppola): No report.

Community Building (Mr. Dwyer): No report

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott):

OLD BUSINESS:

Tennis Court Bids: Mr. Coppola will confirm colors then sign contract.

Crafton Ambulance Situation: Crafton is going with Northwest and they will be leasing part of firehouse. This is somewhat different from what Mayor Bloom discussed. Robinson EMS provides Thornburg's ambulance service.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Mackin mentioned there is a sign in the park about bird watching every Wednesday from 7-8 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr..Dwyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Mr. Caliguire seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.