

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MAY 11, 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. Coppola made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of April 13, 2015.

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

Mr. Caliguire made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 13, 2015.

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

Mr. & Mrs. Caliguire of Harvard Road were present. They wanted to know if there was an update on the garage next door and the next steps that will be taken. Per the survey, a parking pad was built on their property. Mayor Mackin stated that the garage is now 3' from the property line on either side. Mr. and Mrs. Caliguire are concerned with a drain pipe that is facing their property and most likely will drain onto their property during times of heavy rains. At one point there was a large black tube connected to the pipe but it is now gone. Mr. Caliguire requested written communication from the building inspector. Mr. Caliguire asked who addresses the issue, the homeowner or the inspector. Mr. Coppola stated that Tony can address the issue informally and if his request is ignored then he can take civil action for trespassing.

Solicitor Means corresponded with Dan Felton about the garage being too big for entire lot. It exceeds 40% coverage. This issue cannot be fixed by moving it. Dan Felton will be instructed to send a violation notice addressing the structure size and if he has authority, the drainage issue. Once a formal letter is sent then the legal process starts. Mr. Perrott asked about the timetable. The property owner will have thirty days to appeal the violation or it will stand.

Ms. Laura Irwin of Cornell Road was present. She finds it very frustrating that the homeowner triggered the issue himself by not getting a survey in the first place and he's been given more time and opportunities over several months. She wants the violation letter sent sooner rather than later. She is also concerned with the risks of water runoff into the alley and not his property. She also wanted to

know if the measurements were from the base or the eaves. It is in the code that the measurements are from the base.

Ms. Alarcon will contact Dan Felton to send a violation letter regarding the garage and drainage. Solicitor Means will review before it is sent.

Ms. Judy Kimblin of Tech Road was present. She asked about the fifty trees to be planted on May 16. Mr. Falk stated that Jeff Leithauser has reviewed the master plan. The majority of the trees will be planted to block out buildings.

Mr. Fred Bigham was present from the Chartiers Valley District Flood Control Authority. He spoke about the Army Corps of Engineers plans. The Corps wants to clear cut the water side of the levy and would also like to do so on the land side as far up to the stakes. This is in response to a vegetation rating in 2010. Back then, federal funding was not available for flooding if vegetation was a problem. Since then, this has changed. The CVDFCA will clear cut but leave larger trees. The CVDFCA provided Rob with a sprayer to take care of knot weed. This should be done right before the frost so the roots are killed. Fred Bigham will get President Falk a copy of the contract Thornburg signed in 1967.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin was present. The police report was discussed.

The historic wall on Hamilton was discussed. A resident had to replace a sewer line and the wall was torn down. The wall is on borough's right of way and most likely built when the borough was originally developed. One bid for rebuilding was \$3400. Another bid is forthcoming.

Ms. Bette Moore is concerned about water coming down Harvard – there is no berm in front of Moore's wall and she is concerned that the storm water will deteriorate it. Mayor Mackin will take a look at the road and see what can be done.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Means was present.

Website Contract: Solicitor Means made several changes. Mr. Perrott made a motion to approve to approve the contract. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Perrott will meet with Ms. Holt on Friday, May 15.

Railroad Repairs – Temporary repairs have been made.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's report will be reviewed next month as it was not attached to the email sent to Council in preparation for the meeting.

Seventy four dog permits have been issued to date. Revenue is \$3,340 to date.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

The Engineer's report was provided. Bryan Flaugh of Gateway was present. He updated Council on the Consent Order and distributed a memo dated 5/11/15. The Consent Order expired at the end of March and many municipalities requested an extension. There are two options available – either revised consent order of a Corrective Action Plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration (Mr. Szmul): No report.

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

Land Conservation/Resources (Mr. Caliguire): The rocks falling behind the fence along Cornell were discussed. Ralph used to go behind the fence and clean out. This is dangerous. The better approach will be to take the fencing off, clean it out, and re-fence. This can be done some time within the next five years.

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

Community Building (Mr. Dwyer): No report.

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): The summer helpers will repaint the street name signs.

OLD BUSINESS:**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Coppola brought up the issue with Crafton Children's Corner not abiding by the terms of the lease. He took photos of items blocking doorways, toys in the bathroom, dirty refrigerators. He called Ms. Albenze to voice his concerns. The phone calls are helpful for a period of time but then the same problems resurface. Solicitor Means will draft a violation letter for President Falk to sign. A current certificate of insurance will also be requested.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

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