

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2015

Prior to this meeting, Council members met with Bruce L. Graff from NIRA to interview him for the position of Borough Building Inspector. Before he left, Mr. Graf promised to send Council a copy of his Fee Structure and a draft Resolution (detailing his engagement as our Building Inspector) for Council's review.

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

Location: Thornburg Community Building, Library

Attendance:

PRESENT: President Sigo Falk (12/17) Vinnie Coppola (12/17) Mark Perrott (12/17) Fino Caliguire (12/15), Tony Szmul (12/17) Mike Dwyer (12/15) Scott Quinn (2015)

ABSENT: Secretary/Treasurer Meg Alarcon

Mayor Tom Mackin (2017) was present.

Solicitor Emily Mueller from GRB was present (sitting in for Chuck Means).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Falk made a motion to appoint Lorraine Runyon as Temporary Council Secretary for the August 10th, 2015 meeting. Her responsibilities would be to take the minutes of this meeting and to complete any tasks assigned to her as a result of this meeting. Mr. Quinn seconded this motion and it was unanimously approved.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Quinn made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of July 13, 2015.

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

Mr. Szmul made a motion to accept the Minutes of July 13, 2015.

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

GEMINI THEATER: Mrs. Runyon distributed copies of Mrs. Cindy Kroneberg's Proposal from Gemini Theater. Gemini Theater performs interactive musical productions geared to family audiences and children ages 2 to 10. This proposal requests permission to conduct 2 afternoon performances of "*Pirates of the Mon – a (Pittsburgh) Pirate Adventure!*" in the Community Building Auditorium on 3 successive Sundays – September 13th, 20th and 27th. Pre-Show Activities (Pirate Face-Painting, Strolling Magician, Pirate Craft Table and Refreshments) would be held in the park adjacent to the Community Building. Gemini would handle all ticket sales and 30% of the ticket sales will be contributed to the Thornburg Community Club. Gemini provides all props and supplies. They do their own set-up and tear-down. Mrs. Runyon told Council that the Thornburg Village Players had no objections to this proposal.

Mrs. Laura Irwin assured Council that the Thornburg Community Club is in favor of this proposal and will work with Gemini to make these performances a success. Mr. Dwyer moved to permit Gemini Theater to hold these performances. Mr. Quinn seconded this motion and it was unanimously approved. Mrs. Runyon will notify Mrs. Kroneberg of Council's decision and ask Mrs. Kroneberg to provide Council with a copy of Gemini Theater's Insurance Certificate.

COMMUNITY BUILDING STORAGE ROOM: Mrs. Irwin told Council that the Village Players and the Community Club personnel have worked to remove unwanted items from this basement room and she believes the hollow panel wall dividing this room can now be removed. Mayor Mackin said he will speak to Rob Murphy about this.

BUILDING INSPECTION ISSUES: Mrs. Irwin asked Council about the status of the two residential garages which have been topics of discussion at recent Council meetings.

- Mayor Mackin answered Mrs. Irwin's query about the garage at 1143 Dartmouth Road. There are questions about the measurements used in the "40% Coverage" calculation. This issue will be re-examined and resolved as needed. Mayor Mackin believes the problem of water ponding outside this garage will be fixed when the alley is re-paved.
- Solicitor Mueller answered Mrs. Irwin query about the garage at 1117 Harvard Road. Please see SOLICITOR'S REPORT.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin was present. The police report was discussed:

- 1 Alarm Call – Officers Cleared;
- 1 Medical Call – Transport to hospital was refused;
- 3 Suspicious Person/Autos/Circumstances – all cleared;
- 1 Service Call – water main break by 22 Rutgers Road. PAWC responded and repaired. Water main is the private property of a commercial business and all repairs and re-paving will be paid for by this business.

President Falk noted that the Parkway West had been closed the previous weekend and GPS Systems were routing traffic thru Thornburg. He asked if the Borough had any plans to handle this volume of traffic when the Parkway is closed in the future. Mr. Caliguire and Vice-President Coppola said when this happened in the past, Rob Murphy posted summer employees at key intersections to direct traffic to use suggested alternate routes (roads not within the borough).

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Mueller was present and answered Mrs. Irwin's inquires about the garage at 1117 Harvard Road. At Council's direction, the process for demolition of this garage is proceeding. The Title Search has been completed and all parties have been notified (none appealed). During the week of July 27th, Solicitor Mueller asked Dan Felton (BIU) to send a Condemnation Notice to the owners. The owners have 20 days (from the day this notice is sent) to appeal this condemnation. Solicitor Mueller was not able to confirm that Mr. Felton sent this notice, so she will contact him again about this. She advised Council to consider charging a fee for this appeal process. Council asked her to send them a draft of a resolution to implement this fee. President Falk asked if Council should pass a Resolution for this garage demolition or if a permit is needed or if bids must be solicited for this. It was decided that the demolition cost will certainly be lower than \$19,000. Thus, the Council is not required to solicit bids for this work.

President Falk announced that he had the Contract for the Purchase of Road Salt for the upcoming winter season. Mr. Caliguire moved that Council accept the terms of this contract. Mr. Szmul seconded this motion and it was unanimously passed. President Falk and Mayor Mackin both signed this Contract and after giving a copy of it to Solicitor Mueller, President Falk will mail it on Tuesday, August 11th, 2015.

President Falk gave the Allegheny County Health Department Consent Contract (for Sewer work) to Mr. Coppola for his review.

Solicitor Mueller left at 7:38 PM.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Due to Mrs. Alarcon's absence, the Treasurer's report for July was not presented. President Falk assured Council he signed the necessary checks for bill payment.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Gateway Engineers was not present, nor did they provide a report.

Mr. Szmul motioned that Council accept Mr. Bruce L. Graff of NIRA as the Borough Building Inspector (pending receipt of the "fee structure" and "draft resolution" documents Mr. Graff will be sending to Council). Mr. Dwyer seconded this motion. It was unanimously passed.

Mr. Szmul moved that Council engage NIRA as the Borough Engineers (replacing Gateway Engineers). This motion was seconded by Mr. Quinn and unanimously approved.

Council directed Mrs. Runyon to email Mr. Ray Antonelli (rantonelli@niraengineers.com) and Mr. Bruce Graff (bgraff@niraengineers.com) to notify them of Council's decisions and to say that formal appointment letters will be sent to them by Secretary Alarcon when she returns from vacation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration (Mr. Szmul): Mr. Szmul noted that the Borough Street Signs are looking worn and wondered if they could be updated. Mr. Perrott said they could be painted (not with a reflective paint) and that would improve their appearance.

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

Land Conservation/Resources (Mr. Caliguire): Mr. Caliguire said Carrozza (the company hired to do the tree removal) has Thornburg on its schedule but no definite date has been set at this time. An email was sent to all Borough Residents on July 16th to alert them to the fact that Carrozza will be in the Borough and to contact Carrozza if they want distressed trees on their private property to be removed.

Sewers/Public Works (Mr. Coppola): Mr. Coppola acknowledged receipt of the Allegheny County Health Department Consent Contract for Sewer Work. He said he is waiting for Gateway Engineers to identify the streets which should be scheduled for re-pavement before he works on this Consent Contract.

Community Building (Mr. Dwyer): No report. The Thornburg Community Club will cc Mr. Dwyer on all emails and correspondence with Gemini Theater regarding their September performances.

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): Mr. Perrott reported that the Borough Website (<http://ThornburgBorough.gov/>) is functioning and available for public review. President Falk said he logged on to it and found a few problems:

- Nothing happened when he clicked on “Jordan Tax Services” to be directed to the Jordan homepage
- The “Use of Facilities” permit did not specify “no smoking, no drinking” on Borough Property.
- The number of acres listed for the Thornburg Conservation Park is “38”. If the hiking trail is included, this number should be “62”.
- The Thornburg Community Club page was not present yet (Mrs. Irwin acknowledged this and said TCC is having difficulty finding someone to maintain this page).

Mr. Perrott assured President Falk these issues would be addressed. Mr. Perrott suggested the appendage “.gov” be amended to “.org” because “.gov” might have additional maintenance requirements which “.org” does not. Council agreed to this change. Mr. Perrott also said the Borough will need to find someone to maintain this web-site now that Ms. Lamier is no longer doing this. Council will put a notice in the Talk of the Town to see if any residents are interested in doing this.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Mackin informed Council that the ad placed on the COG Website for the sale of the old Borough Maintenance Truck yielded one response (interest in the truck bed). But the truck bed was the wrong size, so that sale did not happen. He asked for permission to list the truck on the Munibid List. The Borough will be obligated to accept the highest bid for this sale and Mayor Mackin guessed that bid might be around \$3,000 or \$4,000. Council agreed to this proposal.

NEW BUSINESS:

BONFIRE: Mr. Dwyer said John O’Donnell on Lehigh Road works with a local Cub Scout Troop and has asked for permission to have a bonfire in the Conservation Park on Wednesday evening August 19th. Council discussed this and after learning that Rob Murphy will work with Mr. O’Donnell to insure the presence of adequate fire extinguishing equipment at the bonfire site, Council agreed to allow this.

BIRD WATCHING: Council discussed the popularity of this new activity (on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 PM in the Conservation Park). Mayor Mackin said he attended once and about a dozen people participated.

PRINCETON ROAD: Mr. Perrott noted that one of the trees along Princeton Road Extension (sprayed by the Railroad last year) does not appear to be thriving in spite of the extra care given to it by the summer employees. He will continue to watch it to see if it has to be removed. He also noted that the railroad crossing at the end of Princeton Road Extension is scheduled for renovation (by the railroad) in January 2016.

STANFORD ROAD REPAIRS: Mayor Mackin reported that quite a bit of progress has been made to the repairs of the privately-owned section of Stanford Road. The catch basin has been replaced and pipe

and rebar have been installed. The resident who owns this road is making these extensive repairs on his own.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:01 PM.

Council ended Executive Session and went back on record at 8:11 PM.

COUNCIL SECRETARY/TREASURER: Mr. Dwyer moved that Council accept Meg Alarcon's resignation from the position of Thornburg Borough Secretary/Treasurer effective August 31st, 2015. Mr. Caliguire seconded this motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Quinn motioned that Council appoint Mrs. Dorothy Falk as Thornburg Borough Secretary/Treasurer effective September 1st, 2015. Mr. Szmul seconded this motion. It was approved by all voting Council Members except President Falk (abstained).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Caliguire made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM.

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