

## **THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**

- Meeting Time:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
- Location:** Thornburg Community Building, Library
- Attendance:** Council president Sigo Falk (2017) was present. Council members Fino Caliguire (2015), Vinnie Coppola (2017), and Tony Szmul (2017) were present. Council members Mike Dwyer (2017) and Scott Quinn (2015) were absent. Mayor Tom Mackin (2017) was absent. Solicitor Chuck Means and Emily Mueller from GRB were present.
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**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

### **READING OF THE MINUTES:**

Mr. Coppola made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of August 10, 2015. Mr. Caliguire seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Perrott made a motion to accept the Minutes of August 10, 2015 as written. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Resident Lorraine Runyon (Princeton) gave council an update regarding the Gemini Childrens' Theater performances, which were held yesterday with 22 in attendance. Costumes will be stored here until the next performance on October 5.

As historian of the Thornburg Community Club, Ms. Runyon offered to organize the borough's building permits in binders listed by year and street. The permits would be made available to residents but kept under lock and key. President Falk requested that procedures to access the files be placed in the community club directory. Council approved her request.

Residents Robb and Meg Alarcon (Dartmouth) asked for clarification on the building permit process affecting the construction of the Eles/Berdi garage at 1143 Dartmouth. President Falk stated that the building inspector at the time indicated that the work was under compliance. The Alarcons indicated that they had sent an e-mail to Mayor Mackin regarding verification of additional impermeable surfaces which were being added to the property. Solicitor Means suggested that the Alarcons put their concerns in writing and copy the zoning officer who approved the project. Any additional grading questions should be addressed to the new borough engineers, NIRA. He also indicated that a property owner with a complaint can bring their own enforcement action in court or that bringing an appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board might also be an option.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Mackin was not present. President Falk presented on his behalf.

No police report was available.

Truck bid: The old borough truck sold at auction for \$8,750. Mr. Coppola made a motion to accept the bid, which was seconded by Mr. Caliguire. The motion was approved unanimously

Water main break on Tech: There was a water main break on property located at 225 Tech (Kimblin). It has been repaired, but there is another leak located near 229 Tech. There may be additional problems on upper Hamilton.

Army Corp: Work is being performed in an attempt to keep the levee from disintegrating from the roots of vegetation for flood control. They may be infringing on Thornburg property.

Stanford: The DiPasquales have finished their work. There may be an issue with a PAWC valve which offers continued flow to prevent one of the Stanford houses from getting brown water. The new DiPasquale pipe doesn't use the old channel. We may have to divert the flow.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Resolution appointing engineer: Solicitor Mueller summarized a resolution appointing NIRA as the new borough engineer and building code official, with corresponding fees indicated. A discussion followed. Mr. Caliguire made a motion that council pass the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. It passed unanimously.

Resolution for appeals fee: Solicitor Mueller summarized a resolution establishing an appeals fee. A discussion followed. Mr. Perrott made a motion that council pass the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. It passed unanimously.

Mitchell garage: The Mitchells have removed a garage which had burned. Without obtaining a permit, they have removed significant amounts of additional soil and dumped it on borough property, which is now sliding down the hillside and putting several trees at risk. A discussion followed regarding acceptable options to remediate the problem. Mr. Coppola will draft a friendly letter on behalf of council requesting that Mr. Mitchell remove the soil to the borough's satisfaction or that the borough could do it and send the Mitchells the invoice. Solicitor Means will draft a separate letter indicating that a permit must be obtained within 30 days for the grading and/or rebuilding of the garage. Mr. Szmul made a motion that council authorize the sending of the two letters to Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Perrott seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

DEP update: President Falk reported that the June extension of the sewage consent order was through September. It has been extended to November.

Update on garage demolition: Solicitor Mueller updated council on the demolition of the garage at 1117 Harvard, which is currently owned by Fannie Mae and serviced by Safeguard. They have approved a bid for demolition to borough specifications. She will update council on the progress.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Falk presented the monthly Treasurer's Report. Mr. Perrot made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

#### Check Disbursements:

Mr. Perrot made a motion to approve the disbursements for September and ratify payments made since the August meeting. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Ms. Falk requested that Council start thinking about issues affecting the 2016 budget for the October meeting.

#### **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Council reviewed the report provided by Bryan Flaugh from Gateway.

A discussion was held regarding the two bids received for the sanitary sewer repairs. Mr. Coppola made a motion that Council accept the bid from Insight Pipe for a MH to MH liner in the amount of \$12,495 and the bid from Robinson Pipe Company for 2 spot liners in the amount of \$7,140. Mr. Perrot seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved. Ms. Falk will call Mr. Flaugh to inform him that council has accepted the bids and that this will be the last project overseen by Gateway as NIRA is the new borough engineer.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Administration** (Mr. Szmul):

Street signs: All have been repainted.

Park updates: Mr. Szmul has been asked about the possibility of new park update and playground equipment. A discussion followed. Mr. Szmul will contact the community club to see if they are interested in spearheading a project.

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

**Land Conservation/Resources** (Mr. Caliguire):

Carrozza: Mr. Caliguire indicated that Carrozza continues to postpone tree removal. A discussion followed. Progress will be monitored.

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

**Community Building** (Mr. Dwyer): No report

**Public Relations** (Mr. Perrott):

Website: The new site is up and running. Mr. Perrot will send in the final payment. The borough secretary will assume maintenance of the site following training.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Caliguire informed council that resident Joe Mercurio is interested in donating bocce ball court.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Perrott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 PM. Mr. Caliguire seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.