

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 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), Mike Dwyer (2015), Mark Perrott (2017), and Tony Szmul (2017) were present. Council member Scott Quinn (2015) was absent. Mayor Tom Mackin (2017) was present. Solicitor Chuck Means from GRB was present.
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The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the October meeting will be read and approved at the December meeting when the continued portion of the meeting are included.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Residents Robb and Meg Alarcon (Dartmouth), Sam Runyon (Princeton), Tony and Gina Caliguire (Harvard), and Judy Kimblin (Tech) were present.

Ms. Alarcon expressed frustration over getting answers to questions regarding building or grading permits and zoning ordinances. President Falk indicated that questions about permits should be directed to the building inspector and that a zoning officer would be appointed later during this meeting to address any questions about zoning issues.

A discussion was held regarding council's responsibility to enforce ordinances. President Falk indicated that Council passes ordinances which delegate the responsibility for enforcement to the building inspector and zoning officer. Mr. Coppola indicated that an individual could challenge a determination by the zoning officer by bringing it to the zoning hearing board or to the court of common pleas.

Solicitor Means indicated that each situation is evaluated on a case by case basis. If the building inspector or zoning officer have questions over interpretation of an ordinance, they can ask the solicitor for a legal opinion prior to issuing or denying a permit. They and the borough are immune from liability in the event of a mistake.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin read the police report for October. There were three alarms (all false), one motor vehicle assist, one fraud report (phone scam), one disturbance (likely target shooting), one suspicious person/circumstance (likely delivery vehicle), one traffic citation, and one unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Hamilton water/landslide update: PAWC has been put on notice regarding the water flow. Investigation is underway.

Mitchell Right of Entry Agreement:

Solicitor Means has drafted a letter and right of entry agreement regarding the work that has been undertaken by the Mitchells without a valid building permit. President Falk has spoken with Mr. Mitchell who indicated that he has since obtained a building permit for the new garage. Mr. Mitchell has removed the dirt from the trees but has not yet planted grass nor installed fencing as requested. Mayor Mackin has received complaints from neighbors regarding the condition of the site. He will call NIRA to verify that a permit was obtained. If there is no permit, council will send the letter drafted by Solicitor Means.

Consent Order update: ALCOSAN solicitors have met with DEP attorneys. The deadline has been extended to December 15, 2015. NIRA needs to advise council by the December 14 meeting as the county Health Department needs to receive approval by the deadline. Mayor Mackin asked about our options if we do not accept it. He will speak with Ray Antonelli prior to the next meeting.

Appointment of a zoning officer:

Mr. Coppola made a motion to appoint Bruce Graff as the borough zoning officer, compensation to be determined. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Check Disbursements:

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to approve the disbursements for October. Mr. Perrot seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Garbage contract:

The borough will request bids for contracts of 1, 2, and 3 years, with biweekly collection of recyclables. Bids will be discussed and a contract awarded at the December meeting.

2016 draft budget:

A discussion was held regarding the draft 2016 budget. Adjustments were made. Mr. Dwyer made a motion that council advertise the draft budget for adoption at the December meeting. Mr. Perrot seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Szmul made a motion to advertise the 2016 real estate tax millage at 5.6 mills. Mr. Coppola seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Ray Antonelli has requested files from Gateway. Mayor Mackin will call Gateway to expedite delivery of the files to NIRA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration (Mr. Szmul): No report.

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

Land Conservation/Resources (Mr. Caliguire):

Carrozza Brothers: There was a question regarding dead trees that were not removed in the work that was done previously. Mr. Caliguire confirmed that the trees were not included in the contract so payment was released. Mr. Caliguire will talk to Public Works director Rob Murphy regarding cataloging additional trees in the borough that may need to be addressed.

Sewers/Public Works (Mr. Coppola):

Mr. Coppola reported that the Char West COG is planning on implementing a departure penalty of one year's assessment fee if members do not provide six months' notice of their intent to withdraw. There will be no dues increase for 2016.

A discussion was held regarding the condition of borough roads. Council would like NIRA to develop a 5 year road plan.

Community Building (Mr. Dwyer):

Mr. Dwyer reported that a flange on the boiler had corroded and required repair. The work has been completed.

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott):

A discussion was held regarding residents' awareness of building permit requirements and zoning ordinances. Mr. Perrot will write something and include the contact information for the new building inspector/zoning officer to address any resident questions.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Falk will call the Allegheny County Elections Division to determine the winners of the three council seats open in the recent election.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM. Mr. Caliguire seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.