

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2016

Meeting Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM

Location: Thornburg Community Building, Library

Attendance: Council members Fino Caliguire (2017), Vinnie Coppola (2017), Sigo Falk (2017), Mark Perrott (2017), Sam Runyon (2019), Tony Szmul (2017), and Ron Varga (2017) were present. Mayor Tom Mackin (2017) was present. Solicitor Emily Mueller from GRB was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Mackin administered the oath of office to the newly elected members of Council, Sam Runyon and Ron Varga.

Mayor Mackin asked for nominations for President of Council. Mr. Coppola made a motion to nominate Sigo Falk as President of Council. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5-0, with Mr. Falk abstaining.

Mr. Perrott made a motion to nominate Vinnie Coppola as Vice President of Council, which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Szmul made a motion to nominate Mark Perrott as President Pro Tem of Council, which was seconded by Mr. Coppola. The motion was passed unanimously.

President. Falk made a motion to appoint Lorraine Runyon as Vacancy Chair, which was seconded by Mr. Coppola. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Coppola made a motion to appoint Fino Caliguire as a member of Council due to a vacancy in the office. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perrot and was passed unanimously. Mayor Mackin administered the oath of office to Mr. Caliguire.

Mr. Coppola made a motion that Council pass a resolution appointing Jean Falk as borough tax collector due to a vacancy in the office. Mr. Perrot seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6-0, with President Falk abstaining.

Mr. Runyon made a motion that the following appointments and reappointments be made:

- Secretary/Treasurer – Dorothy Falk
- Solicitor – Goehring, Rutter & Boehm
- Engineer – NIRA Engineering
- Building Inspector – NIRA Engineering
- Zoning Officer – NIRA Engineering
- Auditor – Labriola Neighbors
- Newspaper of Record – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

- Planning Commission – Vinnie Coppola
- UCC Appeals – Malik Tunador
- Zoning Hearing Board – Judy Kimblin

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

Council was asked to consider nominations for the following continued vacancies for discussion at a subsequent meeting: Planning Commission and UCC Appeals Board.

Appointment of Council Committees:

Mr. Runyon made a motion that council members serve on the following committees:

- Administration: Tony Szmul
- Budget and Finance: Sigo Falk and Sam Runyon
- Public Works/ Sewers: Vinnie Coppola
- Community Facilities: Ron Varga
- Land Conservation and Resources: Fino Caliguire
- Public Relations: Mark Perrott

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

Mr. Runyon made a motion to appoint Mr. Coppola as the COG representative and Mr. Szmul as the alternate. Mr. Perrot seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Varga made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of December 14, 2015. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Szmul made a motion to accept the Minutes of December 14, 2015 as written. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Resident Lorraine Runyon (Princeton) was present to observe. She thanked council for addressing the garage/tent on Henrietta Way.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

The police report was not available as the meeting was held earlier in the month than normal.

Mayor Mackin has spoken with the code enforcement officer for Scott Township regarding Thornburg’s search for a new code enforcement officer. They will meet later this week.

The mayor also indicated that the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department has requested that Thornburg resume its monthly contribution. Council declined.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Mitchell garage: Solicitor Mueller summarized the status of the building permit requirement for the proposed garage which requires a variance. The Mitchells have submitted a zoning hearing board application, and a meeting will be held within 60 days to review the request.

ALCOSAN consent order agreement: The consent order has been submitted. The borough will receive a copy once it has been approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Falk presented council with a draft of the year-end financial report for 2015. She will verify that all entries are recorded correctly prior to forwarding the information to the auditors.

Ms. Falk presented council with a list of deposits made since the last council meeting.

Disbursements: Ms. Falk presented the monthly Disbursement Report. Mr. Runyon made a motion to approve the disbursements for January. Mr. Caliguire seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Ethics forms: Ms. Falk distributed hard copies of the financial interest forms required by the state ethics commission. The forms need to be completed and returned by May 1, 2016.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration (Mr. Szmul): No report.

Budget and Finance (Mr. Falk, Mr. Runyon): No report.

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

Community Facilities (Mr. Varga): No report.

Land Conservation/Resources (Mr. Caliguire): No report.

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Storm sewer - Mayor's Alley: A discussion was held regarding the cost estimates for the options submitted by NIRA. Council decided that the options were more extensive than required and opted to repair only the section between 1132 and 1136 Cornell. Bids will be requested in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dangerous trees: President Falk expressed concern about dead trees on private property. A discussion followed. Mr. Caliguire indicated that Rob Murphy has an itemized list of such trees from a survey done previously. He will work with Mr. Murphy and identify specific trees which should be removed. A letter will be sent to the homeowners of the identified trees.

Dog tags: Mr. Perrot presented council with options for dog permit tags. Council opted for red tags which will be ordered for the upcoming permit season.

Signs in yards: Mr. Perrot indicated that a resident had a sign in his yard advertising his business. Mayor Mackin will contact the owner personally to let them know about the sign ordinance.

Speeding: Mr. Runyon expressed concern about cars speeding on Harvard. Mayor Mackin will contact the Crafton Police to discuss it with them.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Runyon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. Mr. Caliguire seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.