

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2016

Meeting Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Location: Thornburg Community Building, Library

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Runyon made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of June 13, 2016. Mr. Varga seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Szmul made a motion to accept the Minutes of June 13, 2016 as written. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Borough engineer Ray Antonelli was present to report.

Rockslide update: The design for the fence containment system has been completed. Technical specs should be ready by the end of the month with potential bidders identified by the August meeting. The borough will need to obtain right of entry for two properties in order to do the scaling. Solicitor Means will prepare the right of entry agreements once the specifics have been identified. Mr. Antonelli will arrange a meeting with Mr. Boward and the affected residents to discuss the work that needs to be done.

Storm sewer – A discussion was held regarding council's dissatisfaction with the restoration work performed after the storm sewer repairs were made. Mr. Antonelli will follow up to ensure that the work is done to the borough's satisfaction.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ALCOSAN update - Under the new consent order, all boroughs need to do a demonstration project by August 2017. Solicitor Means described one project involving testing of private laterals, which Mr. Antonelli supported. President Falk requested a draft ordinance for implementing this project.

Property maintenance – Mr. Coppola asked about the procedure for enforcing property maintenance codes regarding the maximum height of foliage, as residents have complained about two properties on Hamilton. A discussion was held. Mr. Perrott moved that council notify the property owners that they are in violation of the property maintenance code with a referral to the code enforcement official if the issue is not resolved satisfactorily. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Signs - Mr. Perrot brought to council's attention the presence of temporary real estate signs in the business district that violate the size restrictions of the borough ordinance. Mr. Means recommended referring it to the zoning officer.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Joan Britten (Columbia), Zane Long (Tech), and Ken Grada (Hamilton) were present to observe.

Pickleball: Linda Froelich (Kenyon) updated council on the pickleball demonstrations. Katie Leyland (Lehigh) expressed support for pickleball as a way to bring neighbors together. A discussion was held. Public works director Rob Murphy will be asked to place chalk lines on the courts Monday afternoons for temporary markings. Council wants to see how many residents will use the courts for pickleball before proceeding with other line marking options.

Wildlife feeding: Lauren Catanzarite (Columbia) asked council to address feeding of wildlife in the borough, which has caused a raccoon issue on her property. Mr. Perrott confirmed that a resident has been leaving food for animals. This resident has been previously notified that this is in violation of borough ordinances. Mayor Mackin will contact the zoning officer. Mr. Perrott will issue a reminder in the next Talk of the Town and will investigate acquiring a vacant property that is contributing to the situation.

Speeding - Gregg Begg (Princeton) thanked council for the increased police presence on Princeton, which Mayor Mackin reported has led to three tickets being issued. A discussion followed, with council expressing strong support for additional speeding deterrents. Painted white lines were approved on Princeton. Mr. Runyon moved that council purchase a temporary radar speed sign. Mr. Caliguire seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for June, with one report of a suspicious vehicle.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Disbursements: Ms. Falk presented the monthly Disbursement Report for July. Mr. Perrot made a motion to approve the disbursements, Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Char Valley District Flood Control Authority – Ms. Falk informed council that a representative was requested for a meeting schedule on July 13. Mr. Runyon will attend.

Garbage contract – The current contract expires in December. Mr. Szmul moved that council advertise for a new garbage contract. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Conservation Park – Ms. Falk informed council that a Land and Water Conservation Fund acknowledgement sign needs to be posted at the conservation park due to utilization of a grant used to purchase the property. Mayor Mackin will post the provided sign.

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): Mr. Varga reported that additional mulch has been installed in the area around the swing set. He will confirm that it will satisfy the childcare inspection requirements before proceeding with additional mulch.

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

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fence on Hamilton: Mayor Mackin will check on the condition of the fence, which appears to be in bad shape.

EIT: Ms. Falk will contact Jordan Tax to get a list of residents who are on the EIT tax roll.

LED streetlight: There is a sodium streetlight at the end of Stanford. Ms. Falk indicated that the recent bill included several sodium lights still in the borough. She will follow up with Duquesne Light.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Runyon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM. Mr. Perrott seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.