

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

- Meeting Time:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 absent. Solicitor Chuck Means from GRB was present. Borough Engineer Ray Antonelli from NIRA was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Runyon made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of August 8, 2016. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Runyon made a motion to accept the Minutes of August 8, 2016 as written. Mr. Caliguire seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Rockslide update: Borough Engineer Ray Antonelli summarized the lone bid that he received from JG Contracting for \$199,080, which was significantly higher than expected, due to a doubling of scaling costs. Another company was interested but their approach did not meet the bid specs and was even higher. Mr. Antonelli indicated that the contractor who submitted the original bid made a counterproposal to do the work for \$135,000 for two days of scaling, but that additional days would increase the price by \$9,650 per day and the amount of rock to be removed would be reduced to 500 CY from 850CY. A discussion followed. Mr. Szmul made a motion that council accept the counteroffer if the price was lowered to \$120,000 with no additional scaling costs. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Mr. Runyon made a motion to revise the bid specs and rebid the project if JG Contracting does not agree to the lower price. Mr. Coppola seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Antonelli indicated that he will follow up with JG Contracting and left the meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Lateral inspection ordinance: No update at this time.

Police contract: Solicitor Means summarized the proposed police contract renewal received from the new Crafton Borough manager. It is for three years and auto renews for a 4th year unless notice is given otherwise. The annual cost increase is 3%, which is higher than COLA. This will be discussed in October so that Mayor Mackin can review it since he has handled previous renewals.

680 Hamilton – Solicitor Means summarized a letter that he wrote to Celia and Michael Bauer (present at the meeting), who are interested in purchasing the property at 680 Hamilton. The letter

indicates that the borough has no ownership interest in a garage on the property that may protrude into the right of way of Hamilton Road. Mr. Coppola made a motion that Borough Council accept the opinion of the solicitor in his letter dated August 30, 2016. Mr. Perrott seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Solicitor Means left the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Residents Joan Britten (Columbia), Zane Long (Tech), Judy Kimblin (Tech), and June Litzenberger were present to observe.

Residents Kelly, Nico, and Enzo Chiodi (Hamilton) presented council with the results of their three year study of the creek by their house, done in conjunction with the Allegheny College program Creek Connections. They found that the creek is relatively lifeless, with a pH between 4 and 5 and a flow of 80 gallons/hour. The yellow/red deposits are from iron, and the white foam is caused by aluminum. They will be investigating way to revitalize the creek. Council thanked the Chiodis for their efforts.

Resident Karen Cashmir (Tech) asked about the procedure to hold a block party on Tech. She was told to coordinate it with Public Works director Rob Murphy. She also expressed concern about speeding on Harvard/Tech. Council indicated that the borough will be purchasing a portable radar sign to address speeding in the borough.

Resident Frank Losos (Princeton) expressed concern about a dead tree on the Hill property that appears dangerous. Mr. Perrott indicated that he will look into it as Mayor Mackin is out of town. Mr. Losos also asked about the status of the renovation of the storage room as the Thornburg Village Players stores many items there. Mr. Murphy is still working on the project. Ms. Falk indicated that there will need to be a secure area for storing borough records.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin was absent. President Falk gave the police report in his absence. There was one animal call, one public assist (with transport), eight medical calls (six with transport), one suspicious person, and one theft (in industrial park.)

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. Mr. Runyon made a motion to approve the disbursements for September, which was seconded by Mr. Varga. It was unanimously approved.

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): The playground mulch project has been completed. The balance of the mulch cost (approximately \$600) will be reimbursed by Crafton Children’s Corner.

Land Conservation/Resources (Mr. Caliguire): Mr. Caliguire invited council to attend the Wednesday meeting (7:00pm) for residents with dead ash trees on their property.

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

EIT – no update.

Code enforcement -

Council reviewed a draft letter to be sent to residents regarding property maintenance. The letter was approved as written. Ms. Falk will mail a copy to all residents on upper Hamilton.

Council reviewed the status report submitted by the code enforcement officer for several properties in the borough.

Princeton properties – After discussion, council decided to not pursue the delinquent tax properties at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Coppola invited council to the COG meeting that Thornburg will be hosting this Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Varga made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.