

## **THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2016**

- Meeting Time:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.
- Location:** Thornburg Community Building, Library
- Attendance:** President Sigo Falk (2017) was present. Council members Vinnie Coppola (2017), Mark Perrott (2017), Sam Runyon (2019), and Ron Varga (2017) were present. Council members Fino Caliguire (2017) and Tony Szmul (2017) were absent. Mayor Tom Mackin (2017) was present. Solicitor Emily Mueller 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 November 14, 2016. Mr. Varga seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Runyon made a motion to accept the Minutes of November 14, 2016 as written. Mr. Varga seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Residents Zane Long (Tech) and Maura and Jack Pulford (Harvard) were present to observe.

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

Cornell rockslide repair: Borough Engineer Ray Antonelli reviewed the status of the Cornell rockslide repair. The scaling and debris removal have been completed. Mr. Antonelli recommended payment for the work that has been completed to date. Mr. Varga made a motion that council approve payment of \$27,900 to J5 Construction as outlined in NIRA file #47-07-15 Contractors Partial Payment Application dated December 12, 2016. Mr. Perrot seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Sewers: The recent televising of sewers revealed 20 structural defects, including fifteen level 5s and five level 4s. Mr. Coppola and Mr. Antonelli will put together a plan for repairs.

MS-4: Thornburg has previously received waivers from the DEP MS-4 permit requirement. The current waiver expires in June 2018. The DEP has changed the waiver requirements, including establishing an advanced approval application deadline of December 31, 2016. Mr. Coppola made a motion that council authorize NIRA to apply for a continued MS-4 waiver. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Roads: President Falk reported that Public Works Director Rob Murphy has suggested that the alleys be paved for more effective plowing. Mayor Mackin indicated that the Mayor's Alley needs storm sewer work prior to paving. He will discuss the issue with Mr. Antonelli.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Emily Mueller from GRB was present.

Sewer laterals: Borough engineer Mr. Antonelli has reviewed the modified demonstration ordinance and found one typo for correction. Mr. Runyon asked for clarification regarding temporary certificates. This will be discussed further at the January meeting. Ms. Mueller conveyed Solicitor Means' recommendation that the ordinance be advertised early in 2017 to ensure residents and realtors are aware of the new closing requirement in a timely manner.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for November. There were four alarms (all false), one animal call, one call for criminal mischief, one broken window, one 911 call (no ambulance), and one traffic incident (tractor trailer stuck at Harvard/Dartmouth intersection).

Police contract: Crafton Borough offered a new police contract renewal proposal with a three year initial term plus one optional year with no cost increase in the first year and increases of 3% each year thereafter, which is a net decrease from the previous proposal. Mr. Perrott made a motion that council accept the newly proposed contract. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. If Thornburg wants to opt out of the optional fourth year, notice needs to be provided to Crafton by June 2019.

Radar sign: The temporary radar sign has been ordered.

## **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 that council approve the disbursements for December. Mr. Perrott seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

In addition to the J5 Construction partial payment approved earlier in the meeting, Ms. Falk requested approval to pay invoices from NIRA dated December 12, 2016 totaling \$6,908.50, which were not received prior to the printing of the December Disbursement Report. Mr. Varga moved that council approve payment. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Draft budget: Ms. Falk presented the draft budget for 2017. A discussion followed.

Mr. Runyon made a motion that council approve the 2017 millage rate at 5.6 mills, the same level as in 2016. Mr. Varga seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Coppola made a motion to adopt the 2017 budget as presented. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Perrott will contact PMRS to change the borough contribution to the retirement plan to 8%, as included in the 2017 budget.

## **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:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Runyon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM. Mr. Varga seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.