

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2017

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. Szmul made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of September 11, 2017. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Varga made a motion to accept the Minutes of September 11, 2017 as written. Mr. Caliguire seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin introduced Thornburg's PA House Representative, the Honorable Daniel J. Deasy. Mayor Mackin thanked Rep. Deasy for his work helping Thornburg secure a \$40,000 grant from the Keystone Communities Program, which was used to help rebuild the Cornell rock fence damaged in last year's rockslide.

Mayor Mackin read the police report from September. There were three alarms (all false), one medical call with transport, one false medical alarm, one resident call for running water in the home (negative), and one call for potential shots fired on Princeton (fireworks).

Mayor Mackin notified council that a borough resident was visited by police based upon a non-resident's unfounded suspicion that a lost dog might be present. A discussion followed.

Mayor Mackin reported that a resident suggested that Thornburg consider placing military banners on borough telephone poles. Solicitor Means indicated that an agreement with Duquesne Light would likely be needed. A discussion followed. No action was taken.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Residents Eileen Mackin (Cornell), Maura Pulford (Harvard), Gina Caliguire (Harvard), Judy Kimblin (Tech), Jean Falk (Hamilton), and Joan Britten (Columbia) were present to observe.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Records preservation ordinance: Solicitor Means reviewed the ordinance that would allow several of the borough's fragile minute books to be stored at the Heinz History Center. A discussion was

held. Mr. Perrot moved that council approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caliguire, and it passed unanimously.

Conservation easement: Solicitor Means updated council on the status of the easement. President Falk will meet with Roy Kraynyk at the Allegheny Land Trust next week.

Sewer: Solicitor Means has been contacted by a solicitor for ALCOSAN regarding a PA EDF lawsuit regarding overflows into the creek that was settled in 2004, with the result that any overflow would be eliminated by ALCOSAN by 2019. ALCOSAN is meeting with each of the defendants in the suit. Solicitor Means will update council as more information is available.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Paving: Borough Engineer Ray Antonelli informed council via e-mail that the alley paving would be done the week of October 23 and should take 3 days.

A discussion was held regarding NIRA fees for the 2017 Road Program. Mayor Mackin will discuss with Mr. Antonelli.

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. Coppola made a motion to approve the disbursements for September. Mr. Varga seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Council indicated an interest in holding a hard to recycle event. Ms. Falk will investigate.

PMRS contribution for 2018: Ms. Falk informed council that she needed to submit the Minimum Municipal Obligation form to PMRS. A discussion was held. Mr. Perrot moved that council resolve to set the 2018 PMRS contribution rate at 10% to maximize the state contribution. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

2018 draft budget: Ms. Falk presented a draft of the 2018 budget. A discussion was held. Council will review and discuss further at the November meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration (Mr. Szmul): No report.

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

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

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

Community Facilities (Mr. Varga):

Community building renovation: Mr. Perrott introduced Jerry Morosco, who will be conducting an analysis of the community building, approved previously. The initial project will determine the current state of the building, identify what parts are historic, and what potential plans may be for it.

A discussion was held. Proposed drawings will be finished by the end of the year. The next phase will be determined after the initial drawings are done.

Sidewalks: Ms. Falk indicated that letters to homeowners whose sidewalks require repair are being mailed this week.

Playground: Mr. Varga proposed a new configuration, which incorporates a tire swing as requested at the last meeting. A discussion was held. The Thornburg Community Club has indicated that it will help with a fundraiser. Mr. Varga will email a list of local installations for council to visit.

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): Mr. Caliguire will take the lead on the junior council program.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Mackin will look into getting a new Crime Watch Liaison, as Barb Larimer, the previous liaison, has moved out of the borough.

Thornburg will need to appoint a new tax collector as Jean Falk has indicated that she will does not want to serve again. Since council contracts tax collection to Jordan, the new tax collector will need to deputize Jordan to continue its services.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Coppola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm, which was seconded by Mr. Caliguire. The motion was unanimously approved.