

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2018

- Meeting Time:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
- Location:** Thornburg Community Building, Library
- Attendance:** President Sigo Falk (2021) was present. Council members Vinnie Coppola (2021), Zane Long (2019), Mark Perrott (2021), Sam Runyon (2019), Tony Szmul (2021), and Ron Varga (2019) were present. Mayor Tom Mackin (2021) was present. Solicitor Chuck Means from GRB was present.
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The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Long indicated that the sidewalk repair group was being organized digitally rather than through physical meetings, as indicated in the draft Minutes of March 12, 2108. President Falk read aloud the section of the minutes regarding the issue of feral cats. He asked if there were any corrections. Mr. Coppola made a motion to dispense with reading the remaining sections of the Minutes of March 12, 2018. Mr. Perrott seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coppola made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 12, 2018 as amended. Mr. Perrott seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Residents JT & Kelly Chiodi (Hamilton), Mary Ditmore (Tech), Gina Caliguire (Harvard), and Maura Pulford (Harvard) were present to observe. Local BSA troop members Liam Pulford and Tommy Gordon were present. Several non-residents were also present.

President Falk, as a courtesy to non-Thornburg residents, opened the floor to comments. He suggested that each speaker limit his/her comments to a few minutes.

Donna Priselac indicated that she represented the Homeless Cat Management Team. She stated that the borough ordinances were ineffective in dealing with the cat colony and that there would be more cats replacing those that were removed. She suggested consulting the site www.alleycat.org for additional information. Amanda Coates stated that she had done the trapping and removal of the colony, with most taken to Beaver County. She indicated that more cats have since appeared. Ms. Priselac asked council to consider a donation to Homeless Cat Management. President Falk indicated that council would consider it at a later date and thanked them for their input.

David Jose (Harvard) wanted council to be aware that the Netflix series *Mindhunter* is interested in shooting at least one episode in Thornburg this summer. As someone who works in the industry, he offered to answer questions for anyone approached for use of their home.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Garbage contract: Ms. Falk reported that Waste Management has been missing Dartmouth recycling frequently. Solicitor Means suggested having our WM representative Mike Crist address council if it continues to be an issue.

Conservation easement update: Solicitor Means indicated that the draft agreement is ready. It will be sent to the Allegheny Land Trust for approval in preparation for the new ordinance to be presented at the May meeting. Three original copies will be signed.

Baker property: The petition to exonerate has been approved by the county.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for March. There were seven alarm calls (all false), one animal complaint (loose dog), one disturbance call, one fallen tree (Princeton), and one medical call with transport.

Military banners: Rita DeLuzio has received the banners. The checks were written to the borough instead of Ms. DeLuzio.

PennDOT: PennDOT is doing a study at the traffic light at Sharp Edge. They have indicated that they will do a traffic light study at the Cornell intersection with Steubenville Pike if there are funds available if a light is deemed necessary. Mayor Mackin will see if other municipalities are interested in sharing the cost.

Cornell landslide: Approximately 100 tons of material will need to be removed, mostly mud and trees. A discussion followed. Council asked whether the project could be divided into two parts: removal of the debris and regrading of the hillside. Solicitor Means indicated that as an emergency situation, bid thresholds do not apply. Mayor Mackin will ask the borough engineer to see if anything needs to be removed from behind the retaining fence.

President Falk thanked Mayor Mackin for taking care of the abandoned car.

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 April. Mr. Varga seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

President Falk suggested that council identify upcoming sewer repairs and landslide costs before committing to any street repairs or capital costs.

2017 audit: This item will be tabled until the May meeting. Ms. Falk will be meeting with the auditors to review the report.

Tree removal: Ms. Falk got estimates from two tree companies for the cost of work that was done for emergency tree removal: Blystone (\$2,500/day minimum) and Carrozza (\$2,000-\$4,000). A

discussion followed. Solicitor Means recommended that the fees charged to Mr. Mitchell be related to the borough's cost, incorporating wages, benefits, payroll costs, and administrative fees. Ms. Falk will put together an invoice.

Dog permits: New permit applications will be accepted beginning next week. New orange tags have been ordered.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration (Mr. Szmul): No report.

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

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

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

Community Facilities (Mr. Varga):

School renovation: The committee met with Mr. Morosco, who will be council's main contact. Grants and funding were discussed. Mr. Morosco will give a detailed description of the roof recommendations.

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): Mr. Perrott will send a reminder letter to the railroad about not spraying the trees along Princeton.

OLD BUSINESS:

Garage on Princeton: Ms. Falk reported that the resident has been formally notified that the garage is in violation of the borough maintenance code that it must be brought up to code within 20 business days.

Sidewalk repair: Mr. Long has organized a group of residents interested in sidewalk repair. He will update council as things progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Coppola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm, which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. The motion was unanimously approved.