

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Runyon made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of September 10, 2018. Mr. Long seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Varga made a motion to accept the Minutes of September 10, 2018 as written. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Recycling: Mike Christ, Rick Davis, and Matt Lind from Waste Management were present to address council concerns over the recycling issues over the last two years. They indicated that the biggest factor was finding and keeping employees. They feel that they are now fully staffed with regular drivers who know the routes, which will improve service going forward.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Stormwater management ordinance: Solicitor Means used the model ordinance provided by the county and added items to address the appeals process and to provide protection for the borough to recover expenses.

Borough engineer Ray Antonelli was present to answer any questions regarding the draft of the stormwater management ordinance. A discussion followed. The ordinance has been advertised for adoption at the November meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Paving: Mr. Antonelli and Mayor Mackin looked at the condition of the roads and identified Harvard (between Baldwin and Eton) as the next area for paving. A discussion followed. A bid will be put out in the spring, when pricing should be better.

Stone wall damage: A truck that should not have been in the borough hit the stone wall at Yale and Cornell. The stone doesn't appear to have been damaged, but the wall moved approximately 1.5 inches, creating a gap. Mr. Antonelli recommends that a high quality grout be used to fill the gap to seal it off. The wall structure does not appear to show distress. The borough should be able to recover expenses for materials and labor.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Resident Judy Kimblin (Tech) informed council that there would be a park clean up on Saturday, October 20, 2018 from 9am-12pm.

Resident David Jose (Harvard) asked if council would consider adding additional streetlights due to the increased traffic and recent break-ins. Ms. Falk will contact Duquesne Light and get costs for new lights.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for September. There were 16 traffic citations, a truck that knocked over a pole (conservation park), five alarms (all false), one incident of road rage, downed electrical wires, one fire call (transformer at Baldwin/Harvard, with Duquesne Light responding), one downed tree, one suspicious person, one possible burglary in progress (nothing missing), and four tractor trailer incidents (two stuck, one needing help turning around, one hitting stone wall).

Mayor Mackin, President Falk, and borough Code Enforcement Officer Bruce Graff surveyed the borough and found three properties in serious violation of the maintenance code. The properties will be cited.

A discussion was held regarding the unpaid tree removal invoice sent to 652 Hamilton. Ms. Falk will send a follow-up letter with a payment deadline of October 31, 2018.

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

Budget 2019: Ms. Falk presented council with a draft budget for 2019. A discussion followed.

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. Long): Mr. Long suggested that the borough consider removing the apparently unused utility poles between the Rutgers garage and the conservation park parking lot. A discussion followed. Ms. Falk will contact Duquesne Light about their possible removal, as well as possible repair for a leaning pole at the turnaround on Hamilton.

Sidewalks: The deadline for the sidewalk repairs is November 15. Ms. Falk will provide Mr. Long with a list of houses that received the formal notification letter.

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council went into executive session at 8:13pm to discuss personnel issues. Council came out of executive session at 8:45pm.

Health care: The current HealthAmerica/Aetna policy will be discontinued on October 31. Council authorized switching to a comparable policy at a lower premium from Municipal Benefits Services (\$10 copay, no deductible) effective November 1. Future increases in premiums may require employees to make financial contributions towards their health care premiums.

Retirement contribution: Ms. Falk informed council that the state assistance towards the borough's retirement contribution was less than anticipated. She will look into it further and report back. For the required 2019 Minimum Municipal Contribution worksheet, she will use the contracted 6% contribution rate pending further information.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Perrott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52PM, which was seconded by Mr. Runyon. The motion was unanimously approved.