

**THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2020**

Meeting Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Location: Thornburg Community Building, Library

Attendance: President Sigo Falk (2021) and council member Mark Perrott (2021) were present. Council members Vinnie Coppola (2021), Mary Ditmore (2023), Zane Long (2023), Sam Runyon (2023), and Tony Szmul (2021) were present remotely via Zoom. Mayor Tom Mackin (2021), secretary/ treasurer Dorothy Falk and Solicitor Emily Mueller from GRB were present remotely via Zoom.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was held.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Runyon made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of April 14, 2020. Mr. Long seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Szmul made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 14, 2020 as presented. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Residents Eileen Mackin (Cornell), Laura Irwin (Cornell), Sarah Mahone (Cornell), and Kris Szmul (Tech) expressed concern regarding the recent attempt by the Robinson Police to arrest a resident on Cornell suspected of armed robbery. A discussion followed. Mayor Mackin will contact the Crafton Police to investigate borough options. He encouraged residents to call the Crafton Police directly if they had any issues or incidents to report. Ms. Falk will contact Jordan Tax to research the payment status of borough taxes.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for April. There was one alarm (false) and one fallen tree.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Sewer televising: Mr. Coppola reported that NIRA had received three proposals to televise the sewer sections previously identified, which ranged in cost from \$5,462.25 to \$6,757.15. A discussion followed. Mr. Coppola made a motion that council accept the lowest proposal in the amount of \$5,462.25 from State Pipe Services. Mr. Perrott seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Falk presented council with a list of deposits made since the last council meeting, a profit and loss report, and a current balance sheet.

Disbursements: Ms. Falk presented the monthly Disbursement Report. Mr. Szmul made a motion that council approve the disbursements for May. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Salt: Ms. Falk informed council that Cargill Salt was extending the deadline for the purchase of salt from June 30 to December 31 due to the mild winter. Mr. Coppola made a motion that council accept the extension and amend the contract to reflect the new purchase deadline, The motion was seconded by Mr. Perrott and approved unanimously.

Property & Liability renewal: Ms. Falk presented the proposal from MRM for the renewal of the borough's property and liability insurance coverage, at an annual premium of \$15,776. Mr. Runyon made a motion that council accept the proposal for the renewal, which was seconded by Mr. Perrott and approved unanimously.

Real estate discount extension: A discussion was held on recent state legislation permitting the extension of deadlines for discounts for municipal real estate taxes. The borough discount deadline has already passed. No action will be taken.

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 (Ms. Ditmore): A discussion was held on the recent guidelines offered by the Pennsylvania Recreations and Parks Society.

Mayor Mackin reported that Crafton Children's Corner was planning to reopen on June 1. He would let them know that voting for the primary elections on June 2 would be held in the library this year due to social distancing concerns, so the center cannot be open on that date.

The Community Club's Memorial Day celebration will not be held this year, with a tentative event to be held over Labor Day weekend instead. The reunion has been rescheduled for Memorial Day 2021.

Land Conservation/Resources (Mr. Long):

The Army Corps of Engineers is doing a major clearing of trees at the levee at the Conservation Park. A discussion followed. Mayor Mackin will contact Fred Bigham with the flood control authority as soon as possible to see what can be done.

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community building roof update: Mr. Perrot updated council on the status of the roof work. There are soft spots on the chimneys so Arch Masonry will be consulted. The project is progressing smoothly. Mayor Mackin indicated that the company seems to be responsive and doing a good job.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hamilton Road Park hillside stabilization proposal: Council reviewed the proposal from Garvin Boward and Beitko to do a preliminary engineering study on the Hamilton Road hillside to identify options to address the undermining of the road at an estimated cost of \$11,400. A discussion followed. Council expressed an interest in promptly addressing the section from the tennis courts to the steps. Mr. Szmul made a motion authorizing Mayor Mackin to negotiate with GBB to perform the engineering required to stabilize the hillside by the tennis courts in an amount not to exceed the proposal estimate of \$11,400. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Ms. Ditmore and Mr. Perrott will continue investigating grant options, which would include the engineering work just approved.

Greenways/Trails/Parks program – Ms. Ditmore thanked council for their feedback. She will pursue this in 2021.

Railroad spraying – Mr. Perrot informed council that he will send the annual letter to the railroad to prevent the spraying of herbicides which caused severe damage to the trees by the tracks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into executive session at 8:35 PM to discuss potential litigation. Council came out of executive session at 9:05 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. The motion carried.