

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2020

- Meeting Time:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
- Location:** Pace Pavilion, adjacent to the Thornburg Community Building and the Auditorium in the Thornburg Community Building
- Attendance:** President Sigo Falk (2021) and council members Vinnie Coppola (2021), Mary Ditmore (2023), Zane Long (2023), Mark Perrott (2021), Sam Runyon (2023), and Tony Szmul (2021) were present. Mayor Tom Mackin (2021) was present. Secretary/Treasurer Dorothy Falk and Solicitor Emily Mueller were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Perrott made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of September 8, 2020. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Runyon made a motion to accept the Minutes of September 8, 2020 as written. Mr. Long seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Recycling: Joe Orlich and Mike Aey from Valley Waste were present to discuss the recycling program and answer questions from residents and council members. TC Recycling (TCRecycling.com) in Mars processes Thornburg recycling. They offered tours of the facility to any interested parties.

Duquesne Light tree program update: Mr. Coppola reported that there was a positive outcome from the meeting with Duquesne Light and its contractor, as many trees will be trimmed rather than removed. Duquesne Light agreed to provide a list of property owners who gave permission to cut their trees, so the borough can make them aware of their options. Mayor Mackin will follow up to remind Duquesne Light that they need to provide the list.

Playground update: Resident Sara Mahone (Cornell) asked about the status of the playground renovation. President Falk indicated that it would be included with the community building master plan project. Ms. Mahone indicated that she and several other residents would like to participate in the discussions.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Updated pension ordinance: Solicitor Mueller informed council that the borough pension provider PMRS is required by the commonwealth to restate its plan, which Thornburg needs to accept by ordinance. In her review of the borough ordinances, she discovered that the borough had not amended its code to add a section on pensions when the plan was initially established. She presented a draft ordinance that would do both. Mr. Perrott made a motion that council authorize Ms. Falk to advertise the ordinance for adoption at the November 10, 2020 meeting. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ALCOSAN delinquencies: Ms. Falk reported that there are two residents who continue to be seriously delinquent regarding their ALCOSAN bills. A discussion followed. Ms. Falk will contact Jordan Tax Services regarding their collecting the balances.

Lot readjustment – 1174 and 1176 Harvard: Ms. Falk reported that the Planning Commission had approved the lot readjustment request for 1174 and 1176 Harvard. It has been reviewed and approved by the borough engineer and the county. Mr. Coppola made a motion that council approve the readjustment, which was seconded by Mr. Szmul and approved unanimously.

Hamilton Road sidewalk project update and grant resolution: Mr. Perrott reported that the DCED multimodal transportation fund grant application has been submitted. Ms. Falk informed council that there is another multimodal transportation fund grant available through PennDOT with essentially the same requirements, except that the 30% match requirement is not being waived, as it was for the DCED grant. A discussion followed. Mr. Runyon made a motion that council pass a resolution authorizing Ms. Falk and President Falk to apply for the PennDOT multimodal transportation fund grant. Ms. Szmul seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Meeting days: Ms. Ditmore indicated that meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month present a conflict for her. A discussion followed. Council members were asked to check their availability for 2021 meetings to be moved to the first Monday of each month.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into executive session at 7:57 PM to discuss contract negotiations and legal advice on a proposed contract. Council came out of executive session at 8:10 PM.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for September. There were two alarms (false), one animal call, one welfare check, one medical call with transport, one suspicious persons call (conservation park), one abandoned vehicle, one suspicious vehicle, one possible theft (negative), and one home that was struck by a hunter's arrow.

Roofer: Mayor Mackin met with a roofer to discuss the condition of the community building roof overhang/eaves/soffit/facia. He recommended that each be inspected before putting out a bid as they are costly to replicate. Mayor Mackin will discuss it with Rob Murphy to see if it is something that can be done safely by public works.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Sewer: Mr. Coppola reported that borough engineer Clint Reilly estimated that the sewer repair work identified in the last televising will cost approximately \$44,000, so it needs to go to a public bid. Mr. Coppola made a motion that council authorize Ms. Falk to advertise the bid for the sewer repair project. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, which was approved 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 and asked council to include one additional payment to PSAB in the amount of \$388.73 for unemployment insurance

for 3Q2020. Mr. Perrott made a motion that council approve the disbursements for October, including the payment to PSAB. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

2019 financial audit: Ms. Falk presented the 2019 financial statement and audit, which indicated no major findings. A discussion followed.

Draft 2021 budget: Ms. Falk distributed draft A of the 2021 budget. A discussion followed. The draft will be updated and discussed at the November meeting.

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): No report.

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

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Glass recycling: Ms. Ditmore reported that the recycling bin has been confirmed for October 17-22 for placement near the borough garage.

Streetlights: Ms. Ditmore reached out to residents on Lehigh regarding streetlighting with mixed results. A discussion followed. Mayor Mackin will check it out.

Crafton Children's Corner program - President Falk reported that Crafton Children's Corner was unable to get a strong enough wifi signal to set up the homework program so it will not happen.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 Elections: Mayor Mackin reported that November voting will occur in the library.

Halloween: A discussion was held regarding Halloween activities. There will be no parade this year but trick or treating will occur from 6-8 PM for all who want to participate.

Tree limbs at the park: Mr. Long reported that there are tree limbs extending over the basketball court. Mayor Mackin will ask Rob to prune if possible.

Speeding on Cornell: A discussion was held about vehicles speeding on Cornell. Mayor Mackin will talk to Judy Albenze at Crafton Children's Corner, and Mr. Perrott will put a note in the Talk of the Town.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Runyon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM, which was seconded by Mr. Perrot. The motion carried.