

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 10, 2020

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

Location: Auditorium in the Thornburg Community Building

Attendance: President Sigo Falk (2021) and council members Vinnie Coppola (2021), Mary Ditmore (2023), Mark Perrott (2021), Sam Runyon (2023), and Tony Szmul (2021) were present. Council member Zane Long (2023) was present remotely via Zoom. 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. Runyon made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of October 13, 2020. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Szmul made a motion to accept the Minutes of October 13, 2020 as amended. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Updated pension ordinance: Solicitor Mueller summarized the ordinance, which creates a new section in the borough code for pensions and accepts the restatement of the plan by PMRS. A discussion followed. Mr. Perrott made a motion that council adopt the ordinance as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Runyon. The motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Sewer: Mr. Coppola presented the sewer repair bid information provided by NIRA, which indicated that three bids were received, ranging from \$25,157 to \$42,592. NIRA recommended that council accepting the lowest bid of \$25,157 from Jet Jack, Inc. Mr. Coppola made a motion that council award the project to the lowest bidder Jet Jack in the amount of \$25,157. The motion was seconded by Mr. Runyon and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Community building master plan: Colleen Kamnikar (Hamilton), Julie Simelis (Harvard), and Sara Mahone (Cornell) asked council for an update on the status of the playground. President Falk summarized the community building master plan project with The Design Alliance currently being considered by council and suggested that task forces for the building and playground be formed.

Council discussed the deliverables that would result from the proposal from The Design Alliance. Mr. Szmul made a motion that council enter into an agreement with The Design Alliance for the community building master plan contingent on confirmation that the playground and outdoor areas would be included in the plan. Mr. Coppola seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 6-1, with Mr. Runyon opposed.

Ms. Kamnikar provided council with information she has compiled on local playgrounds. She will send a digital copy to Ms. Falk to distribute to council.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for October. There was one accident, two alarms (false), one found bike, one fraud complaint, one medical call with transport, and one suspicious person/circumstance.

Police contract update – Mayor Mackin reported that Crafton is offering to hold the price constant for a three-year contract extension. A discussion followed. Mayor Mackin will request that future reports include the number of patrols and incidents. The final contract will be discussed at the December meeting.

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. A discussion followed. Mr. Runyon made a motion that council approve the disbursements for November. Ms. Ditmore seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Hamilton Road sidewalk project grant update: Ms. Falk reported that the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund grant application has been submitted. Due to the 30% match requirement, the figures varied from the DCED grant application. The borough is committing \$40,000 to the project and requesting \$126,600. The lower grant request resulted in lower contingency and administrative percentages. Grants will be awarded in Spring 2021.

Draft 2021 Budget: Ms. Falk distributed draft B of the 2021 budget. A discussion followed. Additional funds will be allocated for the Hamilton sidewalk project and the playground renovation. Mr. Perrott made a motion that council authorize Ms. Falk to advertise the budget for adoption at the December council meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. The motion passed unanimously.

Compensation committee: Mr Perrot suggested that a committee be formed to discuss compensation. A discussion followed. The committee will consist of Mr. Perrott, Mr. Szmul, and Mayor Mackin.

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): Mr. Szmul asked about running electricity to the conservation park area. Mayor Mackin will discuss with Rob Murphy.

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

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Streetlights: Ms. Falk reported that Duquesne Light is operating on a four month long backlog of service requests. It will likely be three more months to get the new streetlight on Harvard.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Coppola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. The motion carried.