

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2021

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

Location: The meeting was held remotely via Zoom

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. Szmul made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of March 1, 2021. Mr. Long seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Long made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 1, 2021 as presented. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Franchise agreement renewals: A discussion was held regarding franchise renewal agreements with Comcast and Verizon. Council authorized Solicitor Mueller to negotiate the agreements.

Noise ordinance: A discussion was held regarding a noise complaint in the industrial park. Solicitor Mueller informed council that enforcement of ordinances is at the discretion of the Borough, provided it is done uniformly. Council opted not to take action on the complaint.

Property donation: Mayor Mackin informed Council that a homeowner wants to donate property to the borough with the condition that nothing be built on it. A discussion followed. Solicitor Mueller was authorized to order a title search and to prepare an agreement of donation contingent upon a clean environmental study due to potential previous mining activity.

Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: A discussion was held regarding the update to the county hazard mitigation plan, which the borough needs to adopt to be eligible for emergency funding. Solicitor Mueller expressed no concerns with adopting the update.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Master plan update: Marty Powell and Mark Chachula from The Design Alliance shared feedback from the steering committees and proposed a three-year timeframe to implement the identified phases of the project, beginning with the playground/community space. A discussion followed. The Design Alliance will provide Council with a list of landscape architects for the playground project. Ms. Falk will recirculate the playground presentation previously provided by Colleen Kamnikar and provide a link to the CoStars program for playground equipment vendors. Additional playground input will be solicited from residents.

Eagle Scout project - Aidan O'Donnell (Lehigh) from Boy Scout Troop #158 provided Council with additional information regarding his Eagle Scout project to create a Veterans Memorial Grove. Three types of trees will be planted: saw tooth aspens, sugar maples, and NJ tea shrubs. He hopes to start this week. A discussion followed. Mr. Runyon made a motion that Council approve the project. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Resident John O'Donnell (Lehigh) requested permission for members of Boy Scout Troop #158 who are assisting with the approved Eagle Scout projects to camp in the conservation park to practice low impact camping (no fires) prior to going to Philmont. Council gave its approval. Mayor Mackin will coordinate with the Crafton Police.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for March. There was one vehicle accident, one animal complaint, three reported cases of debit card fraud, one tree incident, and one service call regarding settling an estate.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

No report.

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. She asked that council also approve a check to Jet Jack for the 2020 Sewer Lining project in the amount of \$24,895.60 which has been completed and approved by NIRA. Mr. Runyon made a motion that council approve the disbursements as presented, including the check to Jet Jack. Mr. Perrott seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously

Public Officials/Employment Practices Liability renewal: Ms. Falk summarized the proposal from HDH to renew the current liability policy, at an annual premium of \$2,705. A discussion followed. Mr. Szmul made a motion that Council renew the policy, which was seconded by Ms. Ditmore. It passed unanimously.

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): Mr. Perrott informed Council that he would be sending the annual reminder letter to the Ohio Central Railroad to forego spraying herbicide near the Thornburg railroad crossing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Glass recycling: Ms. Ditmore reported that Rosslyn Farms is not interested in participating with glass recycling bin rental. A discussion followed. Ms. Ditmore will follow up with Greentree, who has a permanent bin on site.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rescheduling meetings: President Falk informed Council that there are potential scheduling conflicts with the first Monday in July and September due to holidays. A discussion followed. Council approved changing the monthly meeting for July and September to the Tuesday following the first Monday (July 6 and September 7). Mr. Szmul made a motion that council authorize Ms. Falk to advertise the schedule change, which was seconded by Mr. Runyon and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Coppola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM, which was seconded by Mr. Long. The motion carried.