

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2021

- Meeting Time:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
- Location:** The meeting was held in the auditorium of the 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 was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Runyon made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of April 5, 2021. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Szmul made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 5, 2021 as presented. Mr. Long seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No report. Solicitor Mueller was not present.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Residents Lauren Catanzarite and Colleen Kamnikar were present to observe.

Master plan update: Marty Powell from The Design Alliance was present to update council on the status of the Master Plan. He identified seven phases of the plan: playground replacement; window replacement; relocating the school to the upper level; lower level toilets/kitchen; theater; corridor/arcade; and upstairs foyer/toilets/library. The phases can be implemented over two to five years at an approximate cost of \$1.9MM to \$2.5MM. A discussion followed. Mr. Coppola made a motion that council accept the Master Plan as a guidepost for future renovation and improvements. Mr. Perrott seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Playground replacement: Dan McDowell from landscape architecture firm LaQuatra Bonci was present to discuss the playground replacement, including connecting the park to the architecture of the building and the setting. A discussion was held on playground design, community involvement, and looking at the condition and design of the entire park. President Falk reported that the retaining wall by the tennis courts is collapsing. If rebuilt, it could be widened for a trail. Further discussion was held on trail design and connecting to trails being developed in Rosslyn Farms. Mr. McDowell will prepare separate proposals for these projects.

Walking trail: Rosslyn Farms resident Derek Luke was present to discuss a potential walking trail connecting Thornburg and Rosslyn Farms. The likely path would involve two parcels owned by Thornburg. He requested council's permission to begin exploratory efforts. A discussion followed. Mr. Runyon will work with Mr. Luke in this project.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for April. There were four alarms (false), one animal complaint, one disturbance complaint, one involuntary exam/treatment warrant with transport, and one missing person call (resolved).

Military banners: Mayor Mackin reported that three new military banners have been received. He will coordinate with Rob Murphy on having them installed.

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 in the amount of \$2,705 to HUB International for the renewal of the Public Officials and Employment liability policy approved at the April meeting. Mr. Szmul made a motion that council approve the disbursements as presented, including the check to HUB. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously

Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Ms. Falk informed council that the borough needed to adopt the county mitigation plan update by resolution in order to qualify for any federal or state emergency funds. A discussion followed. Mr. Perrot made a motion that council adopt the Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan update, which was seconded by Mr. Runyon and approved unanimously.

Hamilton sidewalk replacement: Ms. Falk informed council that the borough received neither the DCED nor the PennDOT multimodal grants. A discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration (Mr. Szmul): No report.

Budget and Finance (Mr. Falk, Mr. Runyon): A discussion was held on how to pay for the Master Plan, including the use of tax-free bonds. Council expressed its desire to continue moving forward with the playground replacement. President Falk will research further.

Public Works/Sewers (Mr. Coppola): Borough engineer Clint Reilly proposed televising a section of sewers at an estimated cost of \$6,500. A discussion followed. Mr. Coppola made a motion that council authorize Mr. Reilly to obtain proposals for televising the proposed section, which was seconded by Mr. Runyon and approved unanimously.

Community Facilities (Ms. Ditmore): No report.

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

Public Relations (Mr. Perrott): A discussion was held on the best way to inform residents about the Master Plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

Glass recycling: Ms. Ditmore informed council that she has spoken to Greentree about partnering with them on glass recycling. Greentree officials indicated that Thornburg residents were welcome to use their existing glass recycling bin.

NEW BUSINESS:

Thornburg Bridge work: President Falk updated council on information obtained from PennDOT regarding the closing of the Thornburg Bridge in the summer of 2022. A discussion followed. Mayor Mackin and President Falk will meet with borough resident/PennDOT representative Zach Kamnikar to express council's concerns.

ADJOURNMENT:

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