

**THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 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. Also present were Mayor Tom Mackin (2021), Secretary/Treasurer Dorothy Falk, and Solicitor Emily Mueller.
- Regrets:** None.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

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

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

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Resolution honoring Mark Perrot – President Falk thanked Mr. Perrot, whose term on council expires at the end of this month, for his service to the Borough of Thornburg. After presenting Mr. Perrott with a gift, Mr. Runyon made a motion that council pass a resolution acknowledging Mr. Perrot’s contributions to the borough, which was seconded by Mr. Coppola. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Perrott abstaining.

President Falk welcomed incoming council representative Lauren Catanzarite, whose term will begin in January 2022.

President Falk outlined opportunities in the meeting agenda where residents were invited to participate. Due to the number of attendees desiring to provide comment, President Falk asked that comments be concise and made during that portion of the meeting pertaining to the subject of their comments, as outlined on the agenda. The meeting will be continued to Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 9 AM if additional time is necessary.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Newspaper of general circulation – Solicitor Mueller researched the newspapers suggested by council and reported that the New Pittsburgh Courier was the only one to meet the definition of a newspaper of general circulation. Ms. Falk will provide a copy of a recent ad to compare costs.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for November. There were four alarms (all false), one disabled vehicle, one welfare check of a resident, one hit and run of a mailbox on Kenyon, one

fraud complaint, one medical call with transport, one vehicle accident, one incident involving marijuana in a car parked at the conservation park, and one domestic disturbance call.

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 as presented. Ms. Ditmore seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously

Authorization to advertise 2022 meeting schedule:

Mr. Runyon made a motion that council authorize Ms. Falk to advertise the regular meeting schedule for 2022, which will be held on the first Monday of each month, except in July and September, when meetings will be held on the first Tuesday due to federal holidays. Ms. Ditmore seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin reported that the paving on Eton will be moved to next year due to contractor delays and cold weather.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE:

Committee Chair Colleen Kamnikar updated council on the status of the playground project. She recently received new design ideas and flooring estimates, which she will review and forward to council. The committee will meet with a goal of having more to present at the February meeting. The issue was opened for public comment. There were no questions.

COMMUNITY BUILDING MASTER PLAN:

Marty Powell and Mark Chachula from The Design Alliance summarized the master plan and the process of implementing it. It will be coordinated with the installation of the playground. Current cost of the building project is estimated at \$2.2MM. The project would take two years to complete or can be completed in phases over multiple years with the building remaining open for use. The electrical system needs to be addressed immediately, as it is out of code and unsafe. Two incoming electrical feeds need to be corrected to one, an emergency shutoff needs to be installed, a new transformer is needed, the wiring must be converted from residential to commercial, and wiring should be moved away from water and sewer lines.

The issue was opened to the public for discussion. Questions were asked regarding changes in utility usage and costs, energy efficiency, access to the building during construction, input from community groups, storage, and security/safety system upgrades.

A discussion was held on which aspects of the plan will be implemented. President Falk explained that each year council will determine what to complete during the annual budgeting process as the various phases are semi-independent. The base building system improvement is considered phase 0 as it must be done for safety reasons, and it will be implemented over the next two years. Other phases will be completed based on total revenues available through borough tax revenues, any grants received, and fundraising. Fundraising was discussed in more detail. A fundraising committee will be formed.

2022 BUDGET:

President Falk gave a summary of borough revenues. Real estate taxes are the largest source of revenue for the borough and have remained essentially unchanged in 20 years, which has resulted in deferred maintenance of the building. Solicitor Mueller was asked to look into the possibility of increasing earned income taxes.

The issue was opened to the public for discussion. Questions were asked regarding prioritizing spending (public safety is the determining factor) and cash balance requirements.

Council discussed the proposed 2022 budget (Draft B). Electrical improvements (\$139,000) were added to repair and maintenance of the community center and the postponement of the contracted paving of Eton (\$88,350) was added to street repairs for 2022. Mr. Runyon made a motion that council adopt the 2022 budget as amended. Ms. Ditmore seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6-1.

2022 Millage ordinance: Mr. Perrott made a motion that council adopt an ordinance setting the real estate millage at 6.6 mills for 2022, which was seconded by Ms. Ditmore. Mr. Long expressed reluctance at raising the millage. President Falk indicated that raising the millage allows for the required electrical repairs in 2022 and that council can reevaluate the millage in subsequent years. A discussion followed. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-1.

PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

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:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Mr. Coppola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM, which was seconded by Mr. Perrott. The motion carried.