

**THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2025**

Meeting Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Council President Vinnie Coppola.

Location: Thornburg Community Center

Attendance: Council President Vinnie Coppola (2025) was present and chaired the meeting. Mayor Tom Mackin (2025) and council members Sigo Falk (2025), Tony Szmul (2025), Mary Ditmore (2027) were present. Solicitor Emily Mueller, and Secretary/Treasurer Kristina Szmul were also present.

Regrets: Mike Jameson (2027) and Lauren Catanzarite (2025)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Long made a motion to dispense the reading the Minutes of March 3, 2025. Mr. Falk second the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Long made a motion to modify the Treasurer's report in the minutes by adding clarity when referencing changes to the Ordinance Code, with the changes, Mr. Long made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 3, 2025. Second by Mr. Szmul. The motion passed.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Colleen Jameson was in attendance to observe. Mark Parrott was in attendance to share two sign options which would remind guests that pets are not allowed in the park, per Borough ordinance. Council decided to proceed with the version with white type on a green background. The signs will be placed back-to-back on the cyclone fence near the school. Mr. Falk made a motion to purchase the signs for \$116 and have the signs installed on the cyclone fence near the school. Ms. Ditmore seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Mr. Parrott applauded the Council for all the hard work they do for the Community.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The police report included 6 false alarms. Three in the business district and 3 residential. A park generator overheated. The police were called to an animal complaint in Conservation Park where by 2 German Shepherds were off leash and in the Park on a Sunday. The owner and dogs left but the license plate could not viewed.

Mr. Szmul attended the Flood Control meeting for Mayor Mackin. Mr. Szmul had nothing of substance to report but commented that Carnegie Borough is planning for a boat launch in town.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Coppola reported the survey of the sidewalk and hillside is in progress which will allow NIRA to begin the bid process. President Coppola reported that an RFP will be issued as planned for sewer televising. He also reported that two neighbors called to complain about a garage on Hamilton that is in disrepair with a hole in the roof. The hole is only visible from the neighbor's yard. Any further damage to the hole will only cause damage to the owners' property that is in the garage. It was discussed the neighbors could call code enforcement to investigate. A discussion ensued resulting in Council sending notice to resident about the issue.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Mueller reported she is working on finalizing both the Comcast and Verizon Franchise agreements. A discussion ensued regarding the franchise fee the result was no change from the current fee.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Disbursements: Ms. Szmul presented the list of disbursements for April. She asked the council to also approve payment to F.J Busse in the amount of \$9,270.00, that was approved by the borough architect. Mr. Falk made a motion to approve the disbursements as presented, including the check to F.J Busse. Mr. Szmul second the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Officials Bond/Employment Practices Liability renewal: Ms. Szmul recommended that Council renew the current policy with Greenwich Insurance Company, which expires on May 31, 2025. The annual premium will remain unchanged at \$2,949. Mr. Falk made a motion that Council renew the existing policy, which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. The motion passed unanimously.

PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant Resolution: President Coppola made a motion to Council to apply for the 2025 PA Small Water and Sewer Grant (\$202,094). Mr. Falk second the motion, which passed unanimously.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

- Construction Committee – nothing to report.
- Grant Committee – nothing to report.
- Public Relations – nothing to report.
- Human Resources– nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Ditmore initiated a discussion around notification of large projects, like pools, to neighbors and/or Council. Ms. Mueller mentioned that Building and Zoning permits are posted as notifications and are regulated by the State and not local government. A discussion ensued around fencing around pools. Borough Zoning Ordinance and State Building Code requirements will be reviewed to determine the current requirements applicable to swimming pool barriers.

Mr. Falk initiated a discussion pertaining to collecting and using donations to the Borough in memory of Jane Wright. Mr. Falk suggested the funds are used to construct a walking trail from Thornburg to Rosslyn Farms. Additional funding would be necessary through promotion and perhaps grants. Mr. Long is aware of a resident who is interested in trail maintenance. Mr. Long will reach out to this resident to see if they are interested in helping with this initiative.

The 2025 Crafton Police and Fire contract has not been received. Mayor Mackin will follow up

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Falk made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 7:41pm, which was seconded by Mr. Long. The motion carried.