

**THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2022**

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

Location: Thornburg Community Center Auditorium

Attendance: Council President Sigo Falk (2025) was present. Council members Vinnie Coppola (2025), Mary Ditmore (2023), Sam Runyon (2023), and Tony Szmul (2025) were present. Council member Lauren Catanzarite (2025) participated via speaker phone. Also present were Mayor Tom Mackin (2025), Solicitor Emily Mueller, and Secretary/Treasurer Dorothy Falk.

Regrets: Council member Zane Long (2023).

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Runyon made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of July 12, 2022. Ms. Ditmore seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Runyon made a motion to accept the Minutes of July 12, 2022 as presented. Ms. Ditmore seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Residents Colleen and Mike Jameson (Cornell) were present to observe.

Resident Kelly Curran (Princeton) requested use of the auditorium for a Christmas concert to be performed by the OCEAN Celtic Quartet. Tentative plans are for two musical sets with an intermission to be held on December 14, 2022. Tickets would cost approximately \$25, with first priority given to Thornburg residents. A discussion followed. Council approved the request.

ELECTRIC PROJECT BID RESULTS:

There was one bid received for the electrical renovation project for the Community Center. Landau Building Company submitted a bid of \$138,000 for the base project, approximately 15% higher than originally estimated. Landau also included a bid of \$59,600 for the alternate of completing the project with underground wiring. Ms. Ditmore made a motion that council accept the proposal from Landau for the base bid of \$138,000 and reject the alternate proposal for underground wiring. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coppola. A discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously. Due to supply chain delays, work in the building is not expected to begin until January 2023.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

PHMC grant contract: Solicitor Mueller was in contact with Karen Arnold at the PHMC regarding the covenants required to accept the \$100,00 window grant. The PHMC requires copies of the architectural drawings to preapprove future renovations to the building. A discussion followed. Mr. Szmul made a motion that council accept the grant with the required declaration of covenants. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

New tax law change: Solicitor Mueller informed council of a change in the tax collection law that requires tax fees and penalties be waived to new homeowners under certain conditions. She will prepare a resolution for council to consider at the September meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for July. There were five alarms (false), one disturbance call, one report of downed electrical wires, one call for suspicious activity, one suspicious person/circumstance in the parking lot of the conservation park, and a trash bag abandoned in the conservation park.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Ms. Falk reported that borough engineer Clint Reilly recommended approval of a pay application in the amount of \$18,112 from Gary Mancini Construction. This includes \$9,000 from the contracted playground installation and \$9,112 for additional site work. A discussion followed. This will be included with the other disbursements for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Falk presented council with a list of deposits made since the July meeting as well as a balance sheet and P&L report.

Disbursements: Ms. Falk presented the list of disbursements for August, with a correction to the amount payable to Verizon (\$180.11 from 174.07). Mr. Runyon made a motion to approve the disbursements for August as amended. Ms. Ditmore seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Rabies bait: Ms. Falk reported that Allegheny County was conducting its annual rabies bait programs. Signs have been posted around the borough to alert residents.

ARPA funds: Ms. Falk reported that the federal government has changed its identity verification process for the receipt of grants and contracts. The Borough of Thornburg has not been "verified" due to varied name entries and spellings. She is working to get the issue corrected prior to the distribution of the 2022 allocation of the ARPA grant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: No report.

H/R: No report.

P/R: No report.

Roads: Mayor Mackin suggested that council use the excess street paving funds for a section of Harvard near Kenyon. He will confer with the borough engineer.

Sewers: Mr. Coppola will meet with the borough engineer to discuss the next sections of sewer to televise.

Steering: No report.

Playground: President Falk reported that the border materials should be delivered Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. Mulching will then take place over two consecutive weekends, with the anticipated ribbon cutting on Sunday, August 21.

Grants: The LSA grant awards are expected to be announced in November.

Fundraising:

Capital Campaign pledge update – President Falk reported that there are currently 103 pledges totaling \$401,582. Approximately 49% of current residents have pledged and/or donated. President Falk summarized the cashflow for current and future projects.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lighting in parking lot: Ms. Falk reported that Duquesne Light has scheduled the installation of the light for the last week in August.

NEW BUSINESS:

Deer: Mayor Mackin is waiting for confirmation for a representative of the game commission to participate in a discussion of the current deer situation. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in the auditorium on August 10 at 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Ditmore made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 PM, which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. The motion carried.