

**THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

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

Location: Thornburg Community Center, Library

Attendance: Council President Vinnie Coppola (2029), Mary Ditmore (2027), Sigo Falk (2029), Zane Long (2027), Michael Jameson (2027), and Tony Szmul (2029) were present. Mayor Tom Mackin (2029) was present. Also present were Solicitor Emily Mueller and Secretary/Treasurer Kristina Szmul and future Secretary/Treasurer Colleen Kamnikar.

Absent: Lauren Catanzarite (2029)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Coppola shared with Council an incident with the American Flag in the auditorium. To reduce the potential of recurrence, renters of the auditorium will be asked to not touch the Flag.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Long made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of January 5, 2026. Mr. Falk seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Falk made a motion to accept the Minutes of January 5, 2026, with changes. Mr. Long seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin presented the police report for January. There were three alarms: two residents and one in the business area. Police were dispatched to Harvard Road for a propane tank/grill fire. Police officer assaulted by person in black Cadillac after finding drug paraphernalia in the car. Police called for an accident on Baldwin Road after driver lost control on ice. The driver was arrested for warrants after the accident. Police called for tractor trailer back up on Thornburg Bridge. When they arrived, traffic was clear. Police continue to patrol Harvard Road during the morning hours and Conservation Park in the evening.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Coppola reported bids for the sidewalk project were opened by NIRA. It was recommended by NIRA to accept the lowest responsible bid of \$418,599.20 which is the total project cost. Mr. Falk made a motion to accept the lowest responsible bid from Ben Kramer Construction. Mr. Jameson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President Coppola reported that Dan Lugaila had purchased property on Rutgers Road adjacent to his current property and intends to extend their parking lot and construct a building. A discussion ensued regarding wetlands which are on the property. President Coppola asked Solicitor Mueller to reach out to Clint Reilly to discuss and ensure all rules are followed, particularly with respect to any wetlands.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Nothing additional to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Mueller has been helping with the tax collector filing and Right to Know responses.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Disbursements: Ms. Szmul presented the list of disbursements for February. Mr. Jameson made a motion to approve the disbursements as presented. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

2025 Audit Proposal: Ms. Szmul presented the proposal from Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood to perform the 2025 financial report and audit. Mr. Long made a motion that Council accept the proposal from HSMW to perform the financial report and audit for \$5,475. Mr. Jameson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Tax Collector Resolution: Mr. Szmul a motion that council pass a resolution appointing Doug Price as borough tax collector and authorizing him to deputize Jordan Tax Service as the collector of borough real estate taxes. This appointment is contingent upon Mr. Price's bond approval. Ms. Dittmore seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Construction projects:

Ms. Szmul will obtain dates for an internal brainstorming meeting regarding the Auditorium.

Human resources:

Resignation of Secretary Treasurer: Mr. Szmul made a motion that Council accepted the resignation of Ms. Szmul as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Long and passed unanimously.

Appointment of Secretary/Treasurer: President Coppola made a motion that Council appoint Colleen Kamnikar as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Falk, and it passed unanimously.

Resolution for Assistant Secretary: Mr. Long made a motion that Council pass a resolution to appoint Ms. Szmul to Assistant Secretary. Ms. Szmul will retain this position until her resignation or dismissed by Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jameson and was passed unanimously.

Public Relations: Mr. Jameson led a discussion to find a Borough communications tool. This tool may be used by Public Works, Mayor Tom and the Borough Secretary. A discussion ensued regarding the need for the Borough landline. Solutions such as MailChimp, Savvy Citizen and CivicPlus were discussed. Mr. Jameson will continue to work internally to find a tool.

Grants: Scott Dillard (Tech Road) was invited by Mr. Falk to discuss next steps for the Jack and Jane Wright Trail. Mr. Falk reported to Council that Thornburg was not awarded the planning grant. For the project to continue, the project would need to find funding through other sources. Mr. Falk discussed building a bridge with volunteers but first we need the approval of the Allegheny Land Trust (ALT). A discussion ensued regarding volunteers, zoning, engineering studies, building permits and approval from ALT.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Dittmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, which was seconded by President Coppola. The motion was unanimously approved.