

**THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 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), Lauren Catanzarite (2025), Zane Long (2027) and Michael Jameson (2027) were present. Solicitor Emily Mueller, and Secretary/Treasurer Kristina Szmul were also present.
- Regrets:** Mary Ditmore (2027)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Long made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of November 4, 2024. Mr. Falk second the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Jameson made a motion to accept the Minutes of December 2, 2024. Second by Mr. Falk. It was unanimously approved.

REAPPOINTMENTS

President Coppola made a motion that the following appointments/reappointments be made:

- Solicitor – Emily Mueller, GRB
- Engineer – Clint Reilly, NIRA
- Building Inspector - Jarrod D’Amico, Harshman
- Zoning Officer – Harshman
- Code enforcement – Harshman
- Secretary/Treasurer – Kristina Szmul
- Auditor – Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood
- Newspaper of record – New Pittsburgh Courier
- Planning Commission – Vinnie Coppola
- Zoning Hearing Board – Joan Britten
- UCC Appeals – Ken Marino

Mr. Long seconded the motion, Mr. Szmul abstained from voting for Secretary/Treasurer, the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Adam Wilson, Princeton Road, attended to discuss his findings regarding arsenic in his water system. Mr. Wilson has spent several hundred dollars on testing and is willing to pay for water testing for other neighbors to determine the extent of the contamination. It was discussed that arsenic can enter the distribution system through the ground. Mr. Wilson has not contacted the water authority. A discussion ensued. It was suggested for Mr. Wilson reach out to PAWC

regarding the issue since this is a Public Utility Commission issue and not the responsibility of the Borough. Mr. Wilson will fund water testing for 4 neighbors. Two will be asked by Mr. Wilson and 2 Mayor Mackin.

Murry Emamzadeh and his spouse, Kenyon Road, attended to discuss a situation where their indoor/outdoor cat was injured and poisoned. This led to a discussion regarding feral cat complaints on Tech and Eton. Ms. Catanzarite reported that she spoke to a subject matter expert who said TNR programs are available, but they do not work with municipalities. A discussion ensued followed by Murry offering to help if the Borough implements a TNR program.

Colleen and Erin Jameson were in attendance to observe.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin shared the police report which included four false alarms, a missing person who was found, medical assistance with transport to AGH, two men cutting copper wire on Hamilton and a tree across at Harvard and Lehigh.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Mueller reported that she is working on a Right to Know request review for the Borough.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Discussed two letters to resident Dawne Hickton which resolved the issue.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Disbursements: Ms. Szmul presented the list of disbursements for January. Mr. Falk reminded Ms. Szmul to redact names from the Capital Campaign report. Ms. Catanzarite made a motion to approve the disbursements as presented. Mr. Jameson second the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Szmul requested to move \$186,000 from the PNC Operating account to the PLGIT General Fund account. Mr. Jameson made a motion to approve moving the funds. Ms. Catanzarite second the motion. The motion passed.

2025 Retirement Contribution Resolution: A discussion occurred regarding the borough's contribution rate for 2025. Mr. Falk made a motion that the Council pass a resolution to establish the borough contribution rate for 2025 at 10%. Ms. Catanzarite seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Mr. Coppola made a motion that Council appoints chairpersons for the following 4 committees: construction, human resources, public relations and grants. Human resources (to be chaired by Mr. Long), and Public Relations (to be chaired by Ms. Catanzarite). The two remaining committee appointments, construction and grants, will be discussed during the February meeting. Ms. Catanzarite seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing reported.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Falk suggested the Borough apply for the Historical and Museum Commission: Historic Preservation Grant (Planning) which ranges from \$5,000 - \$25,000 with a 50% cash match. The deadline is March 3, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Long made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 7:58pm, which was seconded by President Coppola. The motion carried.