

**THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JULY 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), Lauren Catanzarite (2025), Mike Jameson (2027) and Zane Long (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 the reading the Minutes of June 5, 2025. Ms. Catanzarite second the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Falk made a motion to accept the Minutes of June 5, 2025. Second by Ms. Catanzarite. The motion passed.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Sam and Lorriane Runyon (Princeton Road), Celia and Mike Bauer (Hamilton Road), Cindy Kronenberg (Princeton Road) and Chief of Police Richard Ford (Crafton Borough) were present.

The public forum included the introduction of Chief Ford to Council members and residents by Mayor Mackin. Chief Ford was asked what his biggest challenge has been since he was newly appointed on July 4, 2025. He said running a small department in a small community was his greatest challenge along with ensuring that officers are up to date with equipment and technology.

Mike and Celia Bauer wanted to enlighten the Council regarding the heavy equipment noise coming from the area of Crafton across from Hamilton Road. They explained, at least twice, equipment was running into the wee hour of 2-3am with stadium style lights. The frequency of these events has increased to 2-3 times a week. The Bauer's request is for Crafton Borough to restrict this activity to normal business hours, perhaps 7am-7pm. The CPD has been called several times with responses varying from no response, to "they have a special permit to work after ordinance hour." Both President Coppola and Mayor Mackin have received calls from other Thornburg residents with different quitting times being given by Crafton Borough. A discussion ensued. Chief Ford offered to research the issue and express our concerns at a meeting he has with PennDOT on July 8, 2025. Chief Ford will obtain verification and clarification regarding the operations "working hours." Chief Ford will communicate his findings to Mayor Mackin. A discussion ensued to determine if Crafton had Ordinances to control the noise. Solicitor Mueller determined that Crafton regulates noise in their zoning and nuisance property ordinances. Their zoning ordinance has a max of 75 decibels with exception to construction or maintenance projects between the hours of 7am-9pm. This business is not construction. Their nuisance ordinance regulates construction and excavation to 7am-8pm Mon-Sat and 10am-8pm Sunday. There is no decibel max. An ordinance allows for a public health permit, which amends the hours of operation up to 3 days. In the past, Jim Price told Mayor Mackin that Duncan Excavating has a special permit, but no one has seen this permit. President Coppola would like to see the permit. Sigo asked if Allegheny County has a noise

ordinance. Solicitor Mueller said they may have an ordinance, but typically they would not get involved with a conflict between two municipalities. A discussion ensued regarding ownership of the property. Mayor Mackin has a meeting scheduled with Coletta Perry on July 9th. Solicitor Mueller remarked that noise ordinances are hard to enforce. Ultimately Crafton Borough is responsible for enforcing their ordinances. President Coppola suspended further discussion at this time. It will resume after Mayor Mackin's meeting with Crafton officials.

Lorraine and Sam Runyon attended to remark on the trash and personal items left by the water and gas companies working on Yale Road. Mayor Mackin mentioned that the crew needs to return to complete the landscaping. Sam reminded everyone of the 2-year anniversary of the playground and building improvements.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The police report included 4 false alarms. Three in the business district and one residential. A warrant for a Thornburg resident on Baldwin Road. The homeowner is not the named individual on the warrant but a person living in the house. A report of electric wires down on Hamilton, noise coming from Duncan Excavation and a lockout on Princeton.

Grease Trap: Mayor Mackin mentioned that Allegheny County requires a grease trap for all County facilities. Mayor Mackin will ask Chartiers Country Club if a grease trap was installed with the renovation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Road Paving: President Coppola requested a motion to approve the bid of \$70,511.40 plus \$2,664.80 from El Grande Industries to pave Smith Lane and Yale Road. Mr. Jameson made a motion to approve the motion. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Annual Report: NIRA filed the annual report.

Crafton Children's Corner: President Coppola will draft a lease for Crafton's Children Corner that includes a 3% annual increase.

SOLICITORS REPORT:

Solicitor Mueller reported that she sent the Audit Report letter to the Auditors.

TREASURER REPORT:

Disbursements: Ms. Szmul presented the list of disbursements for June. Ms. Catanzarite made a motion to approve the disbursements as presented. Mr. Jameson second the motion. It was unanimously approved. Mr. Falk asked if there were retainers owed to the HVAC contractors, and it was confirmed there are retainers owed.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

- Construction Committee – Punchlist items are still outstanding.
- Grant Committee – Ms. Szmul reported that Thornburg was not awarded the Keystone Historic Preservation grant. Ms. Szmul has a call with the grant coordinator Karen Arnold on July 8 to discuss opportunities to improve and submit again next year. Ms. Szmul will update the council after their conversation. A discussion ensued regarding improvements that are on the list such as a DOAS, boiler, classrooms, entrance and bathrooms, theater, storage and existing bathroom and two new bathrooms. The majority agreed the theater, storage and

existing bathroom should take priority. Mr. Jameson suggested a sign or poster to acknowledge improvements at an upcoming 'status' event.

- Public Relations – nothing to report.
- Human Resources– nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Preliminary drawing for auditorium: This will be discussed after Ms. Szmul speaks with Karen about resubmitting the Keystone Historic Preservation grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

Zoning Variance Application: The owner of 1177 Harvard requested a variance from the zoning hearing board regarding a fence they want to install on Eton Road. The zoning hearing board has 60 days from the date of submission to respond to the homeowner. Emily will reach out to Gretchen Moore about a zoning heard board meeting. Additional members of the zoning hearing board will need to be appointed during the August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Coppola made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:13pm, which was seconded by Ms. Catanzarite. The motion carried.