

THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 5, 2025

In attendance:

Council Members: Sigo Falk, Vincent Coppola, Michael Jameson, Mary Ditmore, Zane Long, and Lauren Catanzarite (*arrived at 7:47 p.m.*)

Public: Scott Dillard, Sam Runyon, Guy Trulli

Absent:

Anthony Szmul

President Coppola called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Long moved to dispense with the reading of the April meeting minutes. Mr. Falk seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Ditmore inquired why the meeting was being held in the library. Mayor Mackin and several members of council responded to the inquiry.

Public Comment

Grant Opportunity:

Mr. Falk provided an overview of a new state grant opportunity that could be used to fund a trail design/drawings for potential trails in the Borough. If awarded, the grant funds would total \$22,100, with a Borough contribution of \$3,900 (15%) to the total of \$26,000. Mr. Falk obtained a proposal from Sarah Thompson with Pashek+MTR to prepare the design/drawings. Visitor Scott Dillard explained work he has done to rejuvenate portions of existing trails in the Borough, but suggested that certain parts of the trails will need to be built/re-built by professionals and potential use of heavy equipment. Mr. Falk moved to authorize a resolution to apply for such grant. Mr. Coppola seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Trash Issue:

Resident Guy Trulli referenced a pile of trash that had been left by a former Borough resident outside of a home. He asked whether the Borough removed the trash, and if the Borough intended to attempt reimbursement for such work. Mayor Mackin replied that the Borough removed the trash as a courtesy to the public, and that the Borough incurred no out-of-pocket expenses. Mr. Coppola stated that (1) if the Borough is able to determine the identity of the person responsible for the property, and (2) someone confirms that the Borough waste hauler was not otherwise required to remove the trash in the first place, and (3) Council is provided with the address of the former occupant, then the Borough would consider sending a letter to the responsible party about the incident.

Mayor's Report

Police Report:

There were numerous calls responding to false alarms caused by recent storms.

One noise complaint regarding a company conducting certain digging work in Crafton Borough

One report of harassment made by a resident against a recently terminated employee.

Sanitary Sewer Issue:

Sanitary sewer at Cornell and Hamilton overflowed. The Borough engaged Robinson Pipe Cleaning to address the issue, which Mayor Mackin believes to have been caused by a large ball of grease that likely came from Chartiers Country Club. The mayor asked whether the Borough should attempt to seek reimbursement for the amount paid to Robinson Pipe from the Country Club; Council declined on the basis that it would be difficult to prove that the grease originated from the Country Club. Mayor Mackin suggested exploring the option of installing a grease trap in the sanitary sewer to prevent any grease originating with the Country Club from entering the Borough's sanitary sewer system. Council agreed to this suggestion. Mayor Mackin will investigate this option, to include an inquiry to Robinson Township to determine if the installation of a grease trap was required at the time the Country Club remodeled its kitchen.

Mayor Mackin noted that a defibrillator will be installed inside the Borough Building near the main entrance to the building.

Mayor Mackin noted that Smith Lane and a small section of Yale will be among the Borough's 2025 paving projects.

President's Report

Mr. Coppola reminded everyone to turn in their Statement of Financial Interests forms to Kris Szmul.

Engineering Report: Nothing to report.

Sidewalk Project:

Field survey for sidewalk project has been completed. The next step is to bid for geotechnical report and recommendations. The Borough engineer will contact 3 geotechnical engineering firms for such proposal.

Sewer Televising:

The Borough received three proposals for the sanitary sewer televising project, which ranged from approximately \$7,000 to \$12,000. The Borough engineer recommended awarding the contract to the lowest bidder, State Pipe, in the amount of \$7,668.90. Mr. Falk moved to accept the bid from State Pipe in the amount of \$7,668.90 for the sanitary sewer televising project. Mr. Coppola seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Coppola presented the secretary's report in the absence of Kris Szmul.

Disbursements:

Mr. Falk mentioned that Marty Powell with the Design Alliance has approved the following invoices to be paid relating to the HVAC project: \$26,496 to Busse and \$72,517.50 to East West

Mr. Falk moved to approve the list of bills payable, including the two additional invoices mentioned above that Mr. Coppola. Mr. Jameson seconded the motion, which passed with the abstention from Ms. Ditmore.

- Ms. Szmul has not yet received the police contract. Mayor Mackin will follow-up with the Crafton Police Department.

Committee Reports

Construction projects:

Brief statement summarizing the recent phone conference on pending projects was provided

Grants:

Already provided during the public comment segment.

There were no other committee reports.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mayor Mackin reported that Crafton Borough inquired about whether the Borough was interested in participating in a joint grant application regarding a traffic study, which Council had declined in the past. Council confirmed that it remains uninterested in participating in this joint grant application.

Mr. Coppola moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Falk seconded, which unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.