

**THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 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 Lauren Catanzarite (2025), Vinnie Coppola (2025), Mary Ditmore (2023), Zane Long (2023), Sam Runyon (2023), and Tony Szmul (2025) were present. Also present were Mayor Tom Mackin (2025), Solicitor Emily Mueller, and Secretary/Treasurer Dorothy Falk.

Regrets: none

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Runyon made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of October 3, 2022. Mr. Long seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Runyon made a motion to accept the Minutes of October 3, 2022 as presented. Ms. Ditmore seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Resident Zac Kamnikar (Hamilton) was present to observe.

Resident Greg Begg (Princeton) expressed concern with traffic safety issues, which have become more pronounced due to the bridge construction. Mayor Mackin has spoken to State Representative Dan Deasy and Chief Sumpter of the Crafton police, who offered use of a mobile speed sign. A discussion was held regarding the bridge work and Cornell closure. Mayor Mackin will coordinate the speed sign placement and talk to Robinson Township regarding a section needing paving near the blue bridge. Mr. Kamnikar will look into traffic control options through PennDOT.

Ms. Falk reported that resident John O'Donnell is starting a new Cub Scout troop. They would like to have a bonfire at the firepit in the Conservation Park on Sunday, November 27, 2022. A discussion followed. Council approved the request. Mayor Mackin will follow up.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Emily Mueller from GRB was present.

Senior tax discount: Solicitor Mueller summarized the proposed ordinance which would change the senior tax discount from 15% to 25% and allow Council to increase the discount amount by resolution going forward. Reductions in the discount would require an ordinance. A discussion followed. Mr. Runyon made a motion that Council approve the ordinance as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. The motion passed unanimously.

Fireworks: Solicitor Mueller informed Council that new state legislation provides municipalities with greater ability to regulate fireworks. A discussion followed. Due to the proximity of residences, Thornburg is already permitted to do so. A notice will go in the Talk of the Town so ensure that residents are aware of the current regulations.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Storm sewer under Community Center: Mr. Coppola reported that the televising of the storm sewer under the Community Center has exposed an issue with the borough storm sewer resulting from work previously performed for the gas company. The storm sewer was punctured with a section of gas line, which was subsequently encased, revealing that the contractor was aware that they had penetrated the sewer line. Solicitor Mueller will provide Council with the proper procedure to follow when dealing with utility-related issues. She informed Council that GRB represents Peoples Gas. Mayor Mackin reported that his business also does business with Peoples Gas.

In addition to the gas line damage to the sewer, the televising revealed approximately \$30k of repair work needed to correct defects in the sewer line. There are different options to address the defects but the gas line repair needs to be done first. Borough engineer Clint Reilly will be in touch with the gas company to get a schedule for the repair work.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Mackin gave the police report for October. There were two alarms, two resident assists, one medical assist, one suspicious vehicle, and one speeding call. A discussion was held regarding multiple false alarms. Mayor Mackin will discuss with Solicitor Mueller.

Mayor Mackin reported that the base repair has been completed from the water main break on Yale. He will talk to the water company about paving the final 10 feet to Harvard as well.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Disbursements: Ms. Falk presented the list of disbursements for October. She asked council to also approve payment to State Pipe Services in the amount of \$9,060.25 for sewer televising and cleaning that was recommended for approval by the borough engineer. Mr. Coppola made a motion to approve the disbursements as presented, including the check to State Pipe. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Draft 2023 budget – Ms. Falk presented Draft B of the 2023 budget. A discussion followed. Ms. Falk will update the draft budget with the suggested changes, which include keeping the real estate tax millage for 2023 at the same level as 2022, 6.6 mills. Mr. Runyon made a motion to authorize Ms. Falk to advertise the budget for adoption at the December 5, 2022 meeting. Mr. Long seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Authorization to advertise 2023 meeting schedule:

Mr. Coppola made a motion that council authorize Ms. Falk to advertise the regular meeting schedule for 2023, which will be held on the first Monday of each month, except in situations of a federal holiday, when meetings will be held on the first Tuesday. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: No report.

H/R: No report.

P/R: No report.

Roads: No report.

Sewers: No report.

Steering: No report.

Playground: No report.

Fundraising: No report.

Grants:

PennDOT Multimodal Funds – Hamilton Road sidewalk – Ms. Falk informed Council that the deadline for the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund grant application is Monday, November 14, 2022. She suggested that the borough reapply for this grant for the repair of the Hamilton Road sidewalk using the same project parameters from the 2020 grant application with updated cost estimates obtained from the borough engineer. A minimum 30% match is required. A discussion followed. Mr. Runyon made a motion authorizing Ms. Falk to apply for the grant on behalf of the borough. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ditmore and passed unanimously.

COVID-19 ARPA Small Water & Sewer – President Falk informed Council that ARPA grant funds are available for water and sewer projects between \$30k-\$500k. The grant requires only a 15% match. He suggested that Thornburg apply for the grant for a project that would repair all level 3-5 defects that have been previously identified but not yet corrected. A discussion followed. Mr. Coppola will ask the borough engineer to get an estimate for these repairs.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Long made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 PM, which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. The motion carried.