

Town of Thorntown
Town Council Meeting
September 21, 2020
7:00 pm

The September 21, 2020, meeting of the Council of the Town of Thorntown was called to order by Council President, Bruce Burtner, at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Sugar Creek Art Center, 127 S. Pearl St., Thorntown, IN. The Council and citizens joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were in attendance:

Bruce Burtner - Council	Amy Nooning – Town Attorney	Doug Merrill
Sara Fairfield - Council	Angie Moody – Parks/ Comm. Dev. Dir.	Harold Cox – Utility Board
Carol Keith - Council - absent	Frank Clark - Marshal	Bryan Brackemyre - IMPA
Dave Williams - Council	Derek Babcock – Dep. Marshal	Mike Luciani – Boone County Auditor candidate
Mark Garing – Council - absent	Gary Moody – Util. Supt.	1 citizen
Koren Gray – Clerk/Treasurer		

Guests:

Bryan Brackemyre, IMPA, gave a small presentation regarding the Town Electric Utility to extend their contract an additional 8 years expiring 2050. We had the first reading of Ordinance 2020-9 Power Sales Contract. The second reading will be October 19.

Budget Hearing:

The Council President opened the Budget Hearing for the 2021 Budget. Koren Gray, Clerk/Treasurer noted changes to the budget. The Council President proposed a 5% raise for Town employees; we increased Professional Services to \$20,000, increased Publication of Legal Posting to \$500, increased Premiums on Official Bonds to \$600, and added an Education line at \$2,000. All other lines will remain the same as in 2020. Bruce asked if anyone had any comments or questions. With no response, the Budget Hearing was closed.

Midwestern Engineering:

Sara made a motion for us to take the fast track for the wastewater project. This means that we will work with the engineer in anticipation of being awarded the OCRA Grant. Bruce made the second. Motion passed 3-0. We will plan for Mark Sullivan of Midwestern Engineering to attend the October 5, meeting to complete the contract.

Building Inspector:

Jerry Seymour was not present but Koren advised on the state of the electric at the Town Hall. Our breaker box needs updated and our meter possibly needs updated. We also may need a meter installed on the second floor. We need for an electrician to come and look at our situation. The Council agreed for us to call Jim Smith, who has done Town electric work in the past. Koren will call him and schedule a visit.

Utility Board:

Harold Cox presented his resignation from the Utility Board effective December 31, 2020. The Council thanked Harold for his service. Harold will be missed.

Comments/Concerns:

Dave advised that Cynthia's Beauty Salon had contacted him regarding the handicap parking spot in front of the salon. When INDOT did the highway paving project they actually moved the handicap spot a little farther west. This is an issue for the older clientele of the business. Angie will check to see if there are measurement guidelines from the corner of Market and Main and if that is why the parking spot has been moved.

Approval of Minutes:

Since Carol and Mark were absent and Sara was absent from the August 17 meeting, the minutes could not be approved as we did not have quorum. August 17 minutes will be tabled for October 5.

Reports:

Utility (Gary Moody) 3rd Monday) -
Nothing new to report

Park and Community Development (Angie Moody) –

-Park:

-The Park Board won the MIBOR, Placemaking Grant. The Grant will be used to install the Born Learning Trail. This will be installed October 8 in conjunction with the Boone EDC Day of Service Event

-Through the grapevine there could possibly be a stimulus package for Parks. The Park Board is working on a wish list just in case this comes to fruition.

- Community Development:

-Angie advised the 2019 CCG Project is complete and we have \$3,632 left. We can complete some sidewalk work that was left off the original bid on Plum St., we have a location needing gravel, and a possible sign at the corner of Plum and Vine to keep people from parking on the new inlet. Sara made a motion to allow the additional jobs to be completed not to exceed an additional \$3,000. Dave made a second. Motion passed 3-0.

- Requested the Town restrooms be open for the weekend since people will be in town for yard sales and the Lions Chicken Bar-be-que.

-Halloween: Trunk or Treat will be held October 25th, from 4:00-5:15 pm at the school parking lot in Dover, the Library/Museum will hold the magic show, still considering the costume contest.

-The new trash cans are in place on Main St. They are light weight.

-2 additional monitoring wells have been installed

WASTEWATER PROJECT

Angie reported that letters from the community were sent to Mike Kleinpeter, the Environmental Review has been completed. -Angie presented an invoice for \$5,000 for Kleinpeter Consulting for work on the Environmental Review. This \$5,000 does go toward the Town match.

WAVE - We All Value Each-other (Glen Jewell, Lisa Mohler) – not in attendance
Planning Commission (Shawn McClintock)

-Shawn absent but Angie represented the Planning Commission. She reported they have issued several permits this past month. She asked the Council if letters needed to be sent to pool owners in violation of the fence requirement to be in compliance for next summer. The Council advised to discuss with the Town Attorney.

Storm Water Board (Bruce Burtner, Ben Strong, Sara Fairfield)

Nothing new to report.

Police Department (Frank Clark) –

-Report sent via email

Frank reported that our truck has some issues needing major repair. He wants to repair the vehicle and use for a spare. Frank presented 3 quotes on new vehicles. 2021 Tahoe - \$37,420, 2021 Explorer-\$35,188, and 2021 Dodge Pick Up -\$34,000. Frank would prefer the 2021 Tahoe. There is plenty of funds in the Police LIT Fund. Some equipment from the current Dodge truck will be able to be used on the new Tahoe. Sara made a motion to order the 2021 Tahoe. Dave made a second. Motion passed 3-0.

Fire Department (Mike Martin – Fire Chief) – not in attendance

Clerk/Treasurer (Koren Gray)

- Financial reports were included in the Council packet.

-The health insurance premium went up 6.7%. Todd Colvin did obtain a quote for us through IPEP/Anthem. This quote would be an additional \$31,000/year overall. At this time Sara proposed the possibility of also providing an HAS and a policy with a higher deductible, and keeping the current policy with an upcharge to the employee for the difference in the lower deductible cost and the higher deductible cost. Koren also ask if the Council would like to amend the Salary Ordinance and include all spouses. Koren also asked if the Council would consider allowing the Clerk/Treasurer to have individual coverage. Koren advised we have a very tight schedule. Payroll deductions for November insurance need to be done in October. If we do not make decisions by October 5, it will create a lot of extra work on the insurance rep and the Clerk/Treasurer. Also, the Utility Board needs to review the policy changes. Due to two Council members being absent the insurance will be tabled until October 5.

-Koren presented an invoice for American Legal for the Supplement 1 pages for the Code of Ordinances books. The cost was \$2822.00. New pages were distributed to Council and others who have books.

-Calumet has been paid for the 2019 CCG Plum St. Project. They are retaining approximately \$20,000 which is normal. Once all paperwork is completed we may receive a billing for this additional retainage.

-The fire and security has been installed. We had some issues with the internet service. We called Doug Wilhoite to come. He recommended we purchase a repeater (hot spot) rather than run wiring and it will also give Angie better internet service. The cost will be under \$150.00. Koren approved for Doug to install the repeater.

-We need to hire our Handyman to repair some holes in the Town Hall restroom. We had a bat in the office and those holes could be the entrance. Derek said it would be about \$50 plus supplies.

-Something to think about...should we pay the Sugar Creek Art Center for usage of their building for our Council meetings? Angie will talk with Karen Wright to see what would be appropriate.

-Sara mentioned before about having work sessions before a Council meeting so our Council meetings don't last so late. With the wastewater project and possible annexation this would be a good time to implement. The decision was made to give it a try. The Council will meet October 1, 7:00pm. Angie will see if the library has a vacant space.

-Koren advised she needed to call Suzy Bass for some budget help. Suzy is also scheduled for December 30, for year end and year beginning help. More than likely this will be a remote help session.

Unfinished Business:

Golf Carts/UTV/Side by Side – Ordinance 2020-8, had the first reading by Koren and Mark. The second reading was September 21. Sara made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-8, The Use of Golf Carts. Dave made a second. Motion passed 3-0. The Ordinance 2020-8 will be published in the local newspaper.

Quotes for a garage door for the Town Hall building were presented August 17. Quotes were received from Commercial Door of Indianapolis, The Popplewell Company, and Professional Garage Door Systems. The lowest bid was Commercial Door of Indianapolis at \$2345.00. Dave asked if the door sensors to keep the door from shutting on someone were included. Koren checked with the company and yes the install includes activity sensors. Koren reminded the Council we needed to do some wiring in the garage to be prepared for the door opener. Sara made a motion to proceed with the new garage door with total expenses not to exceed \$3,000. . Dave made a second to the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Employee Handbook – The August 4 draft of the Employee Handbook was reviewed by everyone. Bruce noted that under the Drug Policy is said there “would not be random drug testing”. He said it should read to the effect that if suspicion arises the employee may be tested. Koren will work with Amy on the proper language and then will get with Dennis. There are also a few spelling errors and punctuation areas to be addressed. The final draft will be forwarded to the HR Attorney for review. Copies of the final draft will be sent to the Council.

Annexation of property S. SR 75 – Nothing new to announce at this time.

Bids for the LPR and Dodge Charger will be read October 5. The bid notice was published in The Reporter September 17 and will run again September 24.

The Budget adoption is scheduled for October 19. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the 2021 Budget, we need that information by October 5. The Budget must be adopted by November 2.

TABLED ITEMS FOR THE FUTURE

Comp Time Ordinance needs amended to Police Comp Time – Amy will prepare an updated ordinance to be in line with our employee handbook once the handbook is adopted.

Establish a Board of Zoning Appeals – The Planning Advisory Board needs to set up a Public Hearing.

New Business:

Bids for snow removal were presented. We received one bid from Merrill Construction. The bid was \$110/hour. Mr. Merrill did submit the appropriate bid sheet. Dave made a motion to accept the bid. Sara made a second. Motion passed 3-0.

There has been a request for police monitoring speed in the area of W. Bow and Powell Streets. We had discussion regarding putting up a stop sign. Angie believes she has some information regarding erecting stop signs within town limits. We will table and revisit October 5.

Claims were signed.

Adjournment:

Sara made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36pm. Dave made a second to the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Bruce Burtner
Council President

Koren Gray
Clerk-Treasurer