

Town of Thorntown
Town Council Meeting
August 23, 2021
7:00 pm

The August 23, 2021, 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 Town Hall, 101 W. Main St., Thorntown, IN. The Council and citizens joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were in attendance:

Bruce Burtner – Council	Amy Nooning, Attorney – via phone	Gary Moody - Utilities
Sara Fairfield - Council	Angie Moody – Comm. Dev. Dir.	Jerry Seymour – Bldg. Inspector
Dave Williams - Council	Frank Clark - Marshal	Bill Whalen - NFP
Shawn McClintock – Council	Derek Babcock – Chief Deputy	Joe Alexander
Larry Truitt – Council	Robby Viergutz - Deputy	DJ Dye
Koren Gray – Clerk/Treasurer	Steve Brock – Therber, Brock & Assoc.	Gary and Jackie Lanpher
		Jordan Moody
		Mona Neese
	Maddie Seymour	Lynn Chambers

Approval of Minutes:

Sara made a motion to accept the minutes of the August, 2021 meeting. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Guests:

Bill Whalen, NFP Property and Casualty Services, was present to explain our Cyber policy renewal. Our premium increased quite a bit due to many different life events. Also we needed to include the utility revenue which also contributed to the increase in premium. We do have a \$1,000,000 policy. Total renewal cost is \$7229.00. The cost will be split between, town, utilities and court. Larry made a motion to continue with the renewal. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Steve Brock, Therber, Brock and Assoc., was present to explain the proposed wastewater rate increase. We have received the OCRA grant of \$700,000 and are waiting for the award date for the SWIF grant. Without other funding we are looking at \$54.49/4000 gal water. If we receive more funding and can bond a lesser amount that rate could decrease. Our last rate increase was 2012, \$29/88/4000 gal water. Thorntown rates are very low compared to surrounding communities.

Jordan Moody, Moody & Company Realtors discussed timing of the Town acquisition of the land from the Lanpher’s for our wastewater project. A motion was made by Dave to go ahead and pay the Lanpher’s from Town funds for 2 parcels of land as this would expedite the process. A second was made by Shawn. Motion passed 5-0. The Town can be reimbursed from the OCRA grant for the 9+ acre parcel. Mr. Moody said the title work would take about a week. Shawn made a motion to prepare a letter to the title company and allow Bruce to sign and it will be recorded. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Comments/Concerns:

Mona Neese had a concern of motor bikes riding down the sidewalks. Frank and the police department will watch for motor bikes.

DJ Dye and his wife live on South Vine St. They are concerned with the traffic on Vine St. The gas station/convenience has also increased the traffic flow. They would like to see a stop sign at the corners of Franklin and Vine.

Maddie Seymour lives in the area of West Plum and C streets. Vehicles from the auto lot drive too fast down Plum St. Several children live in the area. Marshal Frank Clark offered the response that he has spoken with the auto dealer regarding test driving vehicles by patrons. Marshal Clark will advise all shifts to watch the area a little more closely. We cannot require the auto dealer to ask customers to use a particular route to test drive a car.

Lynn Chambers expressed concern regarding dog defecation at the corner of N. Market and Main.

Joe Alexander asked the procedure to apply for Right to Encroach as his property at 216 W. Vine St., Thorntown. They had a boundary survey completed and a part of the property goes into the alley. Mr. Alexander provided a Certificate of Survey to the Council. A legal description will be prepared and presented to the Council. Mr. Alexander would like to prepare the letter and paperwork necessary, have the Town Attorney approve, and have the Council President sign. Sara made a motion to allow the request. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

The Clerk/Treasurer asked who is responsible to clean the streets. An employee was injured by rolling an ankle on the rocks as you step down from the curb. Larry advised the State is responsible for State Road 47.

Reports:

Utility (Gary Moody) 3rd Monday)

Gary reported the price of speed limit signs would be approximately \$120 each. We would need 36 signs. The cost would be \$4320.00. Gary is expecting another quote tomorrow. This is in regard to changing the 30 mph signs to 24 mph. We cannot change the speed limit on the state highways.

Community Development (Angie Moody)

2021 Community Crossings Grant

Angie advised that 225 E. Bow St. requested that a tree not be cut down for the project. The approval of the request would hinder the project. Larry made a motion to continue with the project and tree removal as planned. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

COVID-19 Phase 3 Grant – We have 29 eligible businesses that have applied for the grant. The committee decided to divide the grant evenly. Each recipient will receive \$8405.17. Sara made a motion to award \$8405.17 to each eligible business. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0. A list of businesses will be on file at the Town Hall. Angie will contact the businesses to let them know the award has been approved. Koren will contact Kleinpeter Consulting so they can get the appropriate paperwork completed for the Town to receive the funds.

Angie presented a quote from Calumet for a service drive at the Park. The Park Board was interested in finding out how much a drive project would cost. Three quotes would be needed. More information will be gathered.

Park Board (Angie Bascom (President) Natalie Faudree (VP), Ali Hickman (Secretary), Lisa Vitaniemi)

No Park Board member in attendance.

Advisory Planning Commission (Don Gray, President, Erik Smith, Shawn McClintock, Melanie Gall, Angie Moody, Ben Strong)

Franklin St. red tag stop order situation has been solved.

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

Police Department (Frank Clark) – Call report sent via email.

Marshal Clark reported there has been an abatement notice to a property on Plum St.

West Church Street trailer park, some of the trailers are in the process of being removed.

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

Clerk/Treasurer (Koren Gray)

Rooms (2) have been booked at the West Baden for the AIM conference. Koren will submit registrations for Bruce, Sara and the Clerk/Treasurer.

Requested permission to attend the ILMCT virtual district meeting at \$125.00 registration cost. Sara made a motion to allow the registration. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

The Clerk/Treasurer also requested to attend the IMPACT fall conference. This conference deals with Human Resources. It will be held in Westfield and CT will drive each day. The registration fee is \$200.00. Sara made a motion to allow the registration. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Bruce/Sara talked with Koren about getting business cards for the Council members. Minute Print It could do 100 @ \$35.50, 250 cards @ \$39.00. Shawn made a motion to have the business cards printed at a count of 250. Sara made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

A representative from Consolidated Union from Logansport is asking about providing a renewal quote for our liability insurance. Are we interested? The consensus is not at this time.

We received the updated quote from Adams Electric for the Town Hall work needed. The new cost is \$4555.00 which is \$405.00 more than the quote from December 2020. Dave made a motion to accept the quote. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

ARPA Funds have been received, \$177,510.10. This money is sitting in the bank in the General Town bank account. We need to decide where the interest to be applied. Council recommends depositing the interest into the General Interest account.

The health insurance premium is increasing 1.2%. This is a nice surprise. The CT was expecting a larger increase.

Strategy Execution paperwork provided in Council packets for your reading pleasure.

Unfinished Business:

COVID grant – see above.

No new discussion on 2022 budget.

Speed limits on town streets is being tabled.

New Business:

Shawn made a motion to authorize Whitsitt and Nooning to draft a letter to negotiate the purchase of the Smith building and get two appraisals. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2021-12, Sewer Works Rate Amendment, was read before department reports. The ordinance was read by Bruce Burtner.

Ordinance 2021-11, Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2021-1 regarding Bond Ordinance had the first reading and was read by Bruce. The purpose of the amendment is to recognize the wastewater project increase from \$2,700,000. to \$2,879,000. The maximum aggregate issuance amount of the Bonds and Bans authorized under the Ordinance from \$2,000,000. to \$2,179,000.

There is a new program, Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program, announced by Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch. This program would be cost prohibitive for a small town. We would also need to commit 30% of our ARPA funding. The consensus of the Council was non-participation.

Angie Moody requested street closure, Market to Bow, Main to Plum and Main St.(Angie will get proper paperwork for the state) for the annual Turning of the Leaves Festival, have Town Hall restrooms open, conduct the parade. The committee is also planning a 5K and 10K. The committee is checking into having beer sales during the concert time. Shawn made a motion to allow the events planned for the Festival. Dave made a motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Claims were signed.

Adjournment: Sara made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 pm. Shawn made a second to the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Bruce Burtner
Council President

Koren Gray
Clerk-Treasurer

Date