

TOWN OF THORNTOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2017

The Thorntown Town Council met on April 17, 2017, at the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Don Johnson.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Council members Don Johnson, Larry Acton, Koren Gray, John Shives, and Mark Garing.

Also present were Clerk-Treasurer John Gillan, Utility Superintendent Gary Moody, Development Director Angie Moody, Planning Board President Frank Small, Marshal Russ Voils, George Gideon of the Utility Board, Chris Retting from IMPA, and Town Attorney Dennis Williams.

Three (3) citizens of the Town were also present.

Larry moved with a second by Mark to accept the March 20, 2017 minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

IMPA PRESENTATION

60 member cooperative. 340,000 population in those cities and towns. Not for profit. 17% nuclear, small % solar, some natural gas, mostly coal for generation. Goal is to have a solar farm in each community served. Would take 10-15 acres. Benefits: 1. Local generation, 2. direct usage, 3. Become tax payer in community, and 4. In house construction.

REPORTS

Utilities: In-flow meter has been moved from pond to farther back. In flow readings have improved due to less turbulence.

Street Department: Estimate for paving Front Street from Church to Bevel Rd is \$13,800. Flags on Main Street need to be replaced. Paint has been purchased for curb painting.

Stalcop: OK

Park Board: Cleanup day was successful. May have movies this summer. Community gardens are progressing. Swings have been replaced. Working on restrooms for trail.

Planning: Need house numbers on houses in town. Do we need ordinance? (Dennis)

Police: Working on ordinance violation list (trash, debris, junk vehicles, building materials)

REPORTS

Mailing will be done to potential violators about cleanup day.

Asked about plan for two extra vehicles. No plan yet.

Don asked about Frank using his take home vehicle to drive to another job. John S said he should not be using to go to another job. Koren said the board did not think about the take home vehicle being used for another job and how much extra gas is that taking. Larry commented that it was not intended to use for another job. Don said it was not right to drive to another job. Consensus the board needs to work on this policy.

Development Director: Mike Klinepeter gave information about doing an income survey. Must be done to apply for other grants. Established 1830 lettering for four entrance signs is in.

Don rescheduled the May 1, 2017, Town Council Meeting to May 8, 2017, at 7:00 PM, in the Town Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

South Pearl Property: Two bids to tear down property. \$35-40 thousand. Engineer is looking at prior use of buildings. Don-accept and don't do anything now, we don't have the money. Do we want them? Mark-looks like Fairfield's are trying to give away so they don't have cost. Larry-Demo will cost more than they are worth. Mark-there would be cost of improvements on top of demo. Koren-Eyesore and dangerous. Where would money come from? John S-Property could have a multitude of uses but what is the cost to accept gift.

Mark made a motion to decline the gift of the buildings. Larry seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Advance Police Proposal: Don-not seeing police enough in Thorntown, how to police Advance also. Dennis-Jamestown doesn't want, Amy (Advance Town Attorney) has not seen any contract, Sheriff does approve town working with Advance, Reserve and Marshal powers come from Town of Thorntown. Koren-can't maintain 24-7 coverage in town. Keep our police force here. Larry-People I have talked to weren't in favor. Mark-Russ should be trusted. Advance could contract through county. Russ-Jamestown was on board, they changed mind. Neilson talked to me and supported but changed mind. If town doesn't want to do, it is fine. Mark-It would benefit the town. More officers more time. Koren-What is liability? Mark-What liability issue?

Don move to not accept the Advance Police Proposal. Koren seconded this motion. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote

Elm Street House: Dennis-Follow procedure in Ordinance. Town Police Officer to provide written report to Town Council on May 8.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning Grant: \$45,000. \$5,000 local match. Income survey required by OCRA. Would require four months and cost \$3,250. Must be 51 % low to moderate income to qualify for grants. Construction grants of up to \$500,000 are available. Survey would require public hearing and is good for six years. Money is available from what was not spent for new police vehicle. Mark moved to go ahead with this survey. Koren seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

REPORTS

Amend Salary Ordinance: Koren moved to add part time Town Maintenance Employee at \$15.00 per hour to salary ordinance. Seconded by Larry. Passed 5-0.

COUNCIL CONCERNS

Parking at Town Hall. Need at least one parking spot for utilities. Angle parking instead of parallel? Grassy area in front of utility barn another possibility. There is no handicap spot. Designated 20 minute parking. Consensus-Gary to get sign for utility parking.

Mark-Can we issue new building permits? Yes. There is no sewer ban. Probably can not put in new sewers though.

Mark-When will new code books be in. Promised delivery in April.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Condition of alleys.

Emily Balint, at 201 S Market presented a petition for a home business. A Public Hearing will be held at the May 8, 2017 meeting on this request.

CLAIMS

ADJOURN

Koren moved to adjourn. Larry seconded this motion and it passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

ATTEST:

JOHN GILLAN, CLERK-TREASURER

Don Johnson, President

REPORTS