

TOWN OF THORNTOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
July 15, 2019
7:00 PM

The Town Council meeting was called to order by Council President, Mark Garing, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following council members and committee chairs were present: Mark Garing, Carol Keith, Dave Williams, Bruce Burtner, Town Attorney Amy Nooning, Clerk-Treasurer Koren Gray, Utility Superintendent Gary Moody, Planning Commission President Shawn McClintock, Community Development Director/Park Angie Moody, and 19 members of the community.

The first order of business was to appoint a new council member to fulfill the vacancy. This appointment will fulfill the chair until December 31, 2022. We had three citizens that wanted to be considered for the position, Sara Fairfield, Ben Strong and Eric Smith. Each told the community and Council why they believed they were interested in being on the Town Council. Carol Keith requested to abstain as she is a relative of one of the candidates. Dave Williams made a motion to appoint Eric Smith; however, there was not a second so the motion died. Bruce Burtner nominated Sara Fairfield, with Mark Garing making a second. The motion passed 3-1. Amy Nooning performed the Oath of Office ceremony.

Approval of the minutes for June 17, 2019, was passed 5-0. Carol Keith made the motion to accept and Dave followed with the second. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of the Special Hearing minutes for June 17, 2019 also passed. Carol made the motion to accept the minutes followed with Bruce making the second. Motion passed 5-0.

Glen Jewell, Pastor of the Thorntown Christian Church, represented WAM (We All Matter). The church has agreed the WAM program could be under the church liability insurance. All volunteers will be required to have a criminal history background. Mark asked if a fire inspection will be needed. Angie Moody has previously spoken with Fire Chief Mike Martin. There are some improvements that will need to be made to the Town Hall upstairs including a second exit door. Angie does have donators willing to handle the expense. Attorney Amy Nooning advised that the building will need an appraisal for the rental value. A lease agreement will be implemented. Kevin Hill, the town liability insurance representative, met with Pastor Jewell, Angie Moody, and Koren Gray. He believes all concerns are being covered and handled properly.

Reports:

Utility (Gary Moody) Gary Moody presented two bids for pothole repair. He is waiting on the third bid and will have it August 5. Brad Keyes, Keyes Excavating, has looked at the corner of Bow Street and Powell Street regarding the drainage issue. Gary will also have Hopper Excavating assess the issue as well.

Community Development/Park Dept. (Angie Moody) Angie reported that the July 13th movie night was a success. The fire and police departments provided a little cool water for the kids to play. The Pollination Garden is planted and being watered as needed by Monica Hale. The Park Board is still working on clean-up at the park. The Park Board is still researching pricing for the doggy pick up stations.

Angie reported that she has had two residents speak to her about alley ways being vacated by the town. Amy Nooning advised those residents need to submit a letter and get a legal description of the property and the neighbors. A Public Hearing will need to be held within 30 days of receiving the legal request. How does this affect the utility and medical services?

Paperwork has been submitted to OCRA to obtain funds for the Planning Grant. We placed 32nd of 37 for the SRF loan.

There will be a meeting Tuesday, July 16, regarding the monitoring wells.

INDOT will be coming Thursday, July 18, in regard to providing information regarding the SR 47 project coming up in 2020.

Angie is pursuing the 2019 Community Crossing Grant application. We have dollars in our MVH/LRS funds to meet our requirements for this grant. Mark would like to see us prioritize sidewalk repairs in the town. Mark asked for a motion for Angie to continue to submit the 2019 Community Crossing Grant application. Carol made the motion and a second from Dave. Motion passed 5-0.

Planning Commission (Shawn McClintock) Shawn reported that a pool has been installed in town without a permit. He also noted that mail has been being received by citizens of the town with inquiries regarding the town. He would like our attorney to take a look at the information.

Storm Water Board (Bruce Burtner, Tyler Davis, Ben Strong) The Council reviewed the Rate Study Agreement from Therber, Brock and Associates. Signatures will be needed. Bruce made a motion to allow Mark Garing, President of the Council, to sign documents necessary. A second was made by Carol. Motion passed 5-1. There are steps we need to do in able to proceed with the study to properly pursue our storm water situation. An Engagement letter for Financial Advisory and Municipal Advisory Services will be presented August 5.

Police Department (Marshal Frank Clark) Marshal Clark reported that the police department is looking at pools and fencing to be in compliance with the ordinances. He also provided via email the monthly service report to the Council.

Robbie Hine thanked everyone for his opportunity to serve Thorntown. He will be leaving the Thorntown Police Department and accepting a position with the Lafayette Police Department.

Frank announced that we would like to add Robert Viergutz as a full time officer to replace Robbie Hine. The police department would also like to add Cory Sturm as a Reserve Deputy Marshal. Both positions are requested to be effected July 15, 2019. Amy Nooning performed the Oath of Office for Robert and Cory.

Frank would like to get the body cameras for the department and use Police LIT funds for the expense.

The 2014 Charger will be put up for bids later in the fall

Fire Department (Chief Mike Martin)

No report. No representative present.

Unfinished Business

Town Logo – continuing to table

Animal Ordinance – continuing to work on details

Employee Handbook – continue to table

New Business

Golf Carts – It has been mentioned that golf carts have been seen driving on the sidewalks. We need to be safe to those who are walking on our sidewalks. Please be considerate.

Comments/Concerns

No concerns from the Council

Steve Carter who works with Senator Mike Braun was in attendance. He had very nice comments regarding our community and our meeting. He had praises for those who get involved in our community.

Next meeting: August 19, 2019, 7:00 pm

Claims were signed

Carol made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dave, and passed 5-0.

President, Mark Garing

Clerk-Treasurer, Koren Gray