

TOWN OF THORNTOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

August 15, 2016

The Thorntown Town Council met on August 15, 2016, 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, Koren Gray, Larry Acton, Mark Garing and Larry Truitt.

Also present were Clerk-Treasurer John Gillan, Utility Superintendent/ Street Department Gary Moody, Utility Board George Gideon, Planning Board President Frank Small, Marshal Russ Voils, Town Attorney Dennis Williams, Web site developer Robbie Acton, Park Board President Angie Moody, Deputy Marshal Frank Clark, and Asst. Fire Chief Steve Whitinghill.

Special Guests Sheriff Mike Nielsen, County Attorney Bob Cutter, Representative of Habitat for Humanity Allen Townsend, and Reporter Rod Rose.

Twenty (20) citizens of the Town were also present.

Larry A. moved to accept the July Minutes. His motion was seconded by Larry T and passed 5-0.

Clerk-Treasurer John Gillan swore in new police officers Derek Babcock and Nathan Cox.

Sheriff Mike Nelson gave a presentation on his strategic business plan.

Issues

- Population increase.
- Calls for Service Increasing
- Violent Crime Moving In From Indy
- Drug Use and Drug Related Crime
- Funding
- Finding, Training, and Retaining Personnel
- Jail Population (Over Capacity)
- Reactive not Proactive

Staff at 2004 Levels

Add eight deputies

Ten corrections officers

One administrator

Three court house deputies

One crime scene investigator

One crime analyst

How to Implement

Reserve Funds (Not Sustainable)

Local Income Tax Increase

Alan Townsend gave a presentation on Habitat for Humanity. Habitat is a county organization that builds homes for low income people. A couple has to provide 400 hours of sweat equity for their home and they have a 20 to 25 year mortgage to pay for the home. He reported that of the 65 homes built in Boone County they have had only one foreclosure and one in the process. There are eleven Habitat homes in Thorntown. Question was asked about lack of upkeep on the homes. Alan responded saying that that was a small problem, but that counseling with owners after completion might be a solution.

Angie Moody passed out Festival brochures and reported that the same detours will be in effect, the parade route will be the same, that Market Street will be closed, and that activities will be on North Pearl.

REPORTS

Fire Department: Steve Whitinghil presented the fire run report.

Park Board: Angie reported that the surveys are being tabulated, they are cleaning up the gardens, the tennis court has been repaired, and there will be a Trail meeting on August 17.

Utilities: Still can not pinpoint the infiltration source into sanitary sewers. Suspect field tiles. To buy a camera would be about \$15,000. This was tabled awaiting further information.

Stalcorp report was OK.

Streets: Sign samples for the Town Hall, Police, and Utilities were presented. Cost would be \$145 for each sign from DeVol's. Mark moved to purchase the signage. Larry T seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Planning: No Report

Web Site: Business page is up and running, minutes and agenda are running, and are working on resolution problems.

Police: Russ is back to full-time duty. Gene Lewis Ford is looking for police vehicle. Parking at school is working although there was a citizen complaint about the no parking zone. Question asked about crossing guard at Vine and Main or possibly a crossing light. Question about cost.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 2016-5 establishing part-time community development director:

2nd and 3rd reading of ordinance. Mark moved that the ordinance 2016-5 be approved. This motion was seconded by Larry A and passed 5-0.

Job description to be prepared for next meeting.

Health Insurance: Quotes are still being received.

Re-organization: Consensus that the board needs to act soon. Suggestion that there be a meeting of the Town Board, the Trustees, and the Advisory Boards.

Restrooms: Consensus that they are in need of repair and that they remain closed until that is done.

New Business

Snow Removal: Mark moved with a second by Larry T to advertise for snow removal bids and that the bids be opened on September 19, 2016>

Concerns: Condition of the Town Hall. Question—can we get some community service people to do some of this maintenance work.

Review of claims.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

ATTEST:

JOHN GILLAN, CLERK-TREASURER

Don Johnson, PRESIDENT