

TOWN OF THORNTOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019
7:00 PM

The Thorntown Town Council was called to order September 16, 2019, by Council President Mark Garing. All council members were present including the Community Development Director, Utility Superintendent, Judge Vaughn, Planning Commission President, and Tom Whitsitt as the Town Attorney.

Carol Keith made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 19, meeting. A second was delivered by Sara Fairfield. Motion passed 5-0.

The Budget Hearing for the 2020 budget followed. CPA, Ben Roeger, explained how the budget is planned and where monies come from to satisfy the budget. It was mentioned that the LIT Fund could absorb many police and fire expenses to keep the expenses from the General Fund at a lower amount. Clerk-Treasurer, Koren Gray, also provided information regarding the proposed budget for 2020 in relation to the line items.

Reports:

Utility (Gary Moody) Gary discussed infiltrators for Bow/Powell Streets intersection. He would like to hear further information from Therber, Brock & Assoc. at the special meeting September 19.

Park and Community Development (Angie Moody) Angie requested that she be able to use General Fund monies to fulfill the \$3075 that was to be encumbered at the end of 2018. Due to transitions in the Clerk-Treasurer the proper paperwork did not get processed to encumber the funds and therefore those funds rolled over into the General Fund. Dave made a motion to allow Angie to continue with her repairs and the General Fund will cover. Second by Bruce. Motion passed 5-0.

Angie has a bill from Meridian Title for some property/deed work regarding the Planning Grant. We can pay for that from the Sewer Fund.

The ladies outdoor restroom needs repair and Angie's office door needs repair. Sara made a motion to allow repairs to be completed not to exceed \$750. Second by Carol. Motion passed 5-0.

Park projects needing to be finished: surfacing basketball courts, tire swing repair, tennis court repair, camera repair work, doggy station, repair picnic tables and paint, and needs to continue to mow and provide restroom services.

The Park Board has received a letter of resignation from Derek Babcock. The Park Board would like to replace him for the 2020 season.

Angie is working with the Boone EDC on a grant with the Boone County Solid Waste Management. Application due September 27.

The last movie for the season at the park will be Friday, September 27. The movie will be Aladdin at 8:00pm. There will be bingo at 7:00 and fireworks following the movie. There may be a food vendor at the park for the evening.

Bruce asked if we know when we will know about when they will announce if we get the 2019 Community Crossings Grant. Angie does not have a date for that.

Angie will be attending an IMPA/OCRA meeting next week and is working on a town Facebook site.

The annual Halloween Parade/contest will be held Thursday, October 31, 5:30 pm. Trick or treat hours will be from 6:00-9:00 pm. Carol made a motion to continue the Halloween event and permit the parade route as usual. Second by Sara. Motion passed 5-0.

Planning Commission (Shawn McClintock) The Commission would like to align our ordinances with state codes. He sees projects happening around town and no permits. Shawn mentioned perhaps we should include a flyer with our utility billing advising some basic information. He mentioned sidewalk obstructions such as the ramp on Main St. Should the property owner make the sidewalk ADA compliant? Frank will talk with the property owner.

Storm Water Board ((Bruce Burtner, Tyler Davis, Ben Strong) A reminder of the special meeting Thursday, September 19, 7:00pm, regarding the Storm Water and Sewer project.

Police Department (Marshal Frank Clark) Frank reported that the Police Department is getting some criticism on social media. Frank has had complaints that he follows kids down Vine Street after school. Citizens are personally blocking the intersection at 47 & 75. Police try to be at the school I the morning and evening. Frank will research and see the legal aspect of volunteers as crossing guards. The Department has 3 new Reserves coming into the Department.

Clerk-Treasurer (Koren Gray) Koren reported regarding her training session with Keystone; absolutely worthwhile. Keystone will be helping with the 2019 bank statements to get them balanced.

Retha is working on a project and will return when she gets the project completed.

Koren has completed a lot of clean up work on Keystone and still has more to do.

Koren also requested to be able to get a town credit card to be able to pay for online registrations for workshops, webinars, etc. Since a prior Clerk had one the Council did not see a problem.

Koren also shared that the Park Board has a Park Donation fund. In the past donation money has been donated to the park and deposited into the General Fund. At this point we have no idea how much money the Park Donation Fund has unknowingly donated to the General Fund.

Koren reported the CPA advised the cost of living increase is 3.5%.

Unfinished Business

Town Logo – Angie presented a logo layout with the Town Hall being featured. A couple of comments were: “We like the fountain better”. Angie will get back with Nicci at IMPA.

Animal Ordinance #6 updates – table until October 7

Employee Handbook – Koren explained the need for the handbook. She also spoke with the Utility Board and they were not fond of paying for the service. Amy Nooning did tell Koren that even if we produced our own handbook we would need to hire an HR Attorney to review.

Post Office step in poor condition – Amy Nooning does have a deed advising the property owner. She will present this at our next meeting October 7. In the meantime, Bruce asked if we could paint the curb yellow as a no parking zone. Gary Moody said, yes the utilities will paint the curb.

Furnace - Mark requested that Angie get the previous quote from Thorntown Heating and Cooling. We will visit this October 7.

New Business

Sewer – Town or Utility Board? Years ago a decision was made that the Utility Board would handle the Electric and Water funds and the Town Council would handle the General and Sewer funds. There is not any legal or particular reason for this decision. Judge Vaughn also presented his story from how this split came about from many years ago. Amy advised there is no legal point to have Sewer under the guidance of either Board. In the end, it seems things will be left as they are.

Snow Bids – We received only one snow removal bid. Doug Merrill, Merrill Construction submitted his proposal. There are different costs for usage of different equipment. A pick-up truck with blade will be \$80 per hour. Dave made a motion to accept the Merrill bid. Second by Bruce. Motion passed 5-0.

Ordinance #9 Amending Title XI and the Town of Thorntown Code of Ordinances was read. Carol made a motion to suspend the rules for the 2nd and 3rd readings. Second by Sara. Motion passed 5-0. Carol made a motion to accept Ordinance #9, with a second by Sara. Motion passed 5-0.

Ordinance #10 Amending Ordinance 2018-11 Setting Salaries for the Year 2019. Bruce made a motion to suspend the rules for the 2nd and 3rd readings. Carol made the second. Motion passed 5-0. Bruce also made the motion to accept Ordinance #10, with a second from Carol. Motion passed 5-0.

Comments/Concerns

Mona asked when the paving would be done on the Pearl and Franklin Streets project. The response, paving should begin this week.

Koren advised a relative of Edwin Belden has found a Bible belonging to Edwin. We are looking for any relative of the Belden's to accept the Bible.

Koren also advised a call had come in from Joanna Kuchler regarding setting a camper on her property at 527 N. Pearl St., and living in it when she is not traveling. She is a truck driver. The Council advised as long as the trailer is licensed it is okay to do so. She may contact the utility office for any hook up she may need.

Angie Moody, Community Development Director requested a raise from \$17.30 per hour to \$18.30 per hour. Her position is classified as part-time and cannot exceed 29.75 hours per week. Koren added that Angie works more than 29.75 hours per week but cannot submit more than the 29.75. This increase would help in covering some of the extra hours spent on the job.

Claims and/or the APV Register were signed.

Bruce made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Sara. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Mark Garing
Council President

Koren Gray
Clerk-Treasurer