TOWN OF THORNTOWN

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

September 23, 2024

7:00 PM

The September 23, 2024, meeting of the Council of the Town of Thorntown was called to order by Council President, Sara Fairfield at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Thorntown Town Hall, 101 W. Main St., Thorntown, IN. The Council and citizens joined together in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were in attendance

Sara Fairfield, Council Steve Whittinghill – Fire Chief

Bruce Burtner, Council Frank Clark, Marshal

Larry Truitt, Council Max Allen, USB

Dave Williams, Council Gary Moody, Ut. Supt.

Shawn McClintock, Council Sarabi Wallace – Park Board

Koren Gray, Clerk/Treasurer 2 citizens

Guest Speakers: Dan Cutshaw – MS Consulting

Todd Colvin – health insurance representative

Chris Wheatly & Colin Sullivan – BFS Engineering

**Presentations/Guests:**

BFS Engineering reviewed bids from 4 contractors that were received by Council September 9, for the downtown alley stormwater project. BFS made a recommendation to accept the bid from Newby Excavating, $25,468.00. Sara made a motion to award the alley project to Newby Excavating. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Todd Colvin discussed the upcoming health premium renewal. He and the Clerk/Treasurer have been working on this for several weeks. Todd recommends the Town move health coverage to Anthem. Moving to Anthem will save $ 13,922.88 on the annual premium. Dave made a motion to switch the health coverage to Anthem. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

**Public Comments/Concerns:**

None

**Public Hearing:**

The Public Hearing regarding the 2025 Budget was opened at 7:16 by Council President, Sara Fairfield. The Clerk/Treasurer noted no figures have been changed since the presentation in July. With no comments from the Public, the hearing was closed at 7:18 with a motion from Shawn McClintock. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

**Department/Board and Commissions Reports:**

(NO REPORTS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH MEETING)

**Police:** (Report previously submitted to Council)

Marshal Clark advised the 2021 Tahoe is still out of service for repair.

**Fire:**

Fire Chief, Steve Whittinghill, noted the Fire Department has had 338 total runs through the end of August. Sara asked if Steve could break down the number of Town runs versus Township runs. With the help of a grant award (applied for by Cody Seymour of the Sugar Creek/Thorntown Fire Dept.), the Fire Department will be getting new air packs. The current air packs are 20-25 years old and cannot get replacement parts any longer. The Department needs an additional 10 packs and 25 additional bottles. MES (Municipal Emergency Services) has provided a quote of $93,000.00. This will be split 50/50 between Town and Township. Sara made a motion to allow the expenditure. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0. Steve also noted the Department has received 15 sets of new fire gear and 15 air packs due to a grant.

**Advisory Plan Commission:**

Don Gray reported a Public Hearing will be held October 14, in regard to some updates for Westfall Place.

Two members are needed on the APC who are town employees.

The APC is reviewing information for a fence in Merrill Court.

**Building Inspector**:

The Council would like to post for the Building Inspector position with applications due October 18, 2024.

**Utilities**:

Max reported they have received a quote of approximately $2,000,000 for electrical services to serve Westfall Place.

The Water Utility needs to dig a new well and add on to the water plant. This will benefit all residents.

Max would like to revisit the Water Capacity fee. Sara made a motion to contact Krohn’s regarding the Water Capacity fee with payment coming from the ARPA Fund.

Gary Moody noted the quote for a leaf vac is $16,900 from Midwest Manufacturing. Sara made a motion to allow the purchase with the funding coming from MVH or ARPA. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

**Park Board:**

Sarabi Wallace, Park Bord member, noted Leslie Doctor has submitted her resignation from the Park Board effective October 1, 2024. Thank you, Leslie, for your service. The Park Board is requesting Tyler Smith be added as a member. Sara made a motion to appoint Tyler to the Park Board. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0. The Clerk/Treasurer led the Oath of Office for Tyler and welcomed him to the Park Board.

Sarabi shared the Park Board has a grant opportunity from Indiana Arts Commission through Ball State. These funds could be utilized for the trail heads and the Lions Park section of the trail. Sarabi and Kirsten Wamsley from the Library will be attending grant and leadership training which is required for the grant application.

The Park Board would like to use grant funds from Boone County Solid Waste for baby changing stations in the park restrooms and new waste receptacles at the park.

The Park Board would like to continue a Christmas (or Holiday) Walk or Holiday Walk on Main, using the Lions Park and include businesses along Main St. They are also considering a tree lighting ceremony in the Lions Park including a dedication of the Lions Park. Sara made a motion to allow the holiday festivity. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

**Storm Water Board**:

Nothing to report

**Sanitary Sewer:**

Dan Cutshaw reported Accu-Dig has completed the hot spot repairs. However, the repairs increased from $107,000 to $115,000. Sara made a motion to allow the extra expenditure. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

**Customary Items for Approval:**

Minutes from September 9, were presented for approval. Bruce made a motion to accept the minutes. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

APV Register for claims and Payroll Dockets were also signed.

**Clerk/Treasurer:**

Financial Reports were available for review.

The Clerk/Treasurer advised she will be taking vacation October 10-20th, therefore she would not have an agenda published prior to the meeting October 21.

**Unfinished Business:**

Dickerson’s Elevator had asked the Town if they would pay for supplies if Dickerson’s provided the labor to install a catch basin on the NE corner of Plum St. Dave made a motion to allow. There was no second, therefore, the motion failed.

**New Business**:

A proposal from Krohn & Associates was presented for services. This is a proposal allowing the Town to make inquiries on an as needed basis to be billed at an hourly rate. Sara made a motion to allow the proposal. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 4-0 with Council member Dave Williams voting nay.

Sara made a motion to allow the Snow Bid to be advertised in the paper and website. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0. Bids are due October 18, and will be opened at the October 21st, meeting.

Ordinance 2024-11, an Ordinance Establishing Rages and Charges from the Customers served by the Thorntown Waterworks Utility, was read by Council President, Sara Fairfield. A Public Hearing will be held October 21, 2024.

Dan Cutshaw provided a quote from Peerless Midwest, Inc. for well drilling. The proposed total is $148,005.00. Dan explained the process of searching for water for the well. Arbor Homes requested a model study of our water plant.

**Other Business**:

Council member Larry Truitt will end his term December 31, 2024. As no citizens are on the ballot for the November election, a Council member may choose to remain on the Town Council. Larry has submitted notice he will not continue beyond December 31. Sara thanked Larry for his 10 years of service to Thorntown.

**Adjournment:**

With no other business to be presented, Sara made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 pm. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

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Sara Fairfield Koren Gray

Council President Clerk/Treasurer

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_