

TOWN OF THORNTOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
April 17, 2023  
7:00 PM

The April 17, 2023, 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	Amy Nooning	Dax Norton
Dave Williams, Council	Frank Clark, Marshal	
Bruce Burtner, Council	Gary Moody	
Shawn McClintock, Council	Max Allen	
Larry Truitt, Council		
Koren Gray, Clerk/Treasurer		

**Public Comments/Concerns:**

Dillon Frederickson presented his concerns regarding having an ambulance in town 24/7. He also wanted to bring to the attention of the Council that some paperwork has not been properly updated. The matter will be reviewed.

**Presentations/Guests:**

Representatives from Accu-Dig were present to provide an update regarding the sewer camera project. They noted we have about 90% clay pipe and it has not been regularly maintained. They have had to do some extra work beyond the original quote. Therefore, they have used about 96% of the original quote. They may need an additional \$25,000-\$30,000 to fully complete the project.

Cindy Barger from Trust Indiana was present to discuss the Trust Indiana investment program. We can invest however much money we would like. This program was set up by the state for the use of municipalities. All monies are 100% insured. This program does provide a better interest percentage than a typical Certificate of Deposit at a banking institution. Many municipalities around the state do utilize this program.

Colin Sullivan was on site to present the agreement between the Town and DC Construction for the CCMG project. Bruce made a motion to accept the agreement and allow Sara Fairfield as a Council rep to sign the agreement. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0. DC Construction provided a Certificate of Liability Insurance, Payment Bond, Performance Bond, Agreement between Owner and Contractor. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled in a few weeks. Dave Williams and the Clerk/Treasurer will attend.

**Department/Board and Commissions Reports:**  
(NO REPORTS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH MEETING)

**Advisory Plan Commission:**

No representative present

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

The Marshal made note of receiving some complaints about housekeeping with some residents.

**Fire:**

No representative present.

**Utilities:**

Gary reported we have a 1994 and a 1996 bucket truck. The 1994 is in better condition than the 1996 that is why we are requesting the 1996 be designated as surplus.

Max Allen, USB, ask if the USB really needs permission from the Council for decision making. The Town Council has all final say in Town matters.

The USB wants to move forward with investing maturing CDs. This investment process will take place as soon as an Investment Policy and amended Ordinance are complete. Cindy Barger, Trust Indiana, advised we do not need a Resolution to invest into Trust Indiana.

It was noted that if we invest in CDs, 3 quotes will be needed from 3 banks.

**Park Board:**

No representative present

**Storm Water Board:**

Nothing to report

**Sanitary Sewer Utility Report:**

**Consultant Report:**

**Public Hearing:**

The Public Hearing for the CCD tax rate was opened at 7:56. With no comments or questions from the audience, Larry made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:58. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Shawn made a motion to allow the filing of amending the Commulative Capital Development rate from \$.049 to \$.05. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0. The Clerk/Treasurer will take care of the paperwork.

**Clerk/Treasurer:**

The CT had nothing to report.

**Consent Agenda:**

Bruce made a motion to accept the minutes of March 20, with the correction that Resolution 2023-07 was not voted at this meeting, and to accept the minutes as written from the April 6 meeting. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Bruce made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-06, Surplus of 1996 Bucket truck. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

**Unfinished Business:**

Larry the discussion regarding reorganization with Sugarcreek Township. He reported he has found some research from Ball State University regarding reorganization. Sara asked if there would be a cost to the Town. Attorney Amy Noonan suggested a plan for the citizens. Larry advised we need to get the question (regarding reorganization) on the ballot for November 2024. He has spoken with some township individuals but not the Township Trustee as of date. The Town and Townships will both need to approve Resolutions prior to ballot.

READI Grant – Sara presented a creative idea (Strategic Plan) of what we could do with the Smith building if the Town owned it. Sara's comment, "If we are not willing to invest in our Town, why would outsiders? If we have possession of the building, we would have the control as to what happens to the building next". The proposal is for the Town to pay \$20,000 for the building. Dave made a motion to allow the purchase of the building up to \$20,000. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 4-1 with Larry Truitt voting nay. This building could be used as a project with the READI Grant funding.

**New Business:**

The Council took into consideration of a new position and the hiring of a full time Building Inspector/Code Enforcement/Town Facility Maintenance Operator. Larry Truitt abstained from voting at this time. Bruce made a motion to nominate Drew Guenther for the position. Dave made a second. Motion passed 3-1, with Sara Fairfield voting nay and abstinence of Larry Truitt. Dave made a motion to offer the nominee \$45,000 starting pay with a \$3000 increase after obtaining certifications within 90-120 days. This position is salary exempt. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 4-1, with Sara Fairfield voting nay. Dave made a motion to terminate the current contract with a contracted building inspector upon acceptance of above said nominee. Larry made a second. Motion passed 4-1, with Sara Fairfield voting nay.

**Strategic Thoughts**

Tabled

**Other Business:**

Consultant, Dax Norton, advised all Council are involved in the budget process. The Clerk/Treasurer presented the 2024 Budget timeline and will have a draft ready for Council review July 17. The Public Hearing is planned for September 18, budget adoption – October 12, Budget From 3 due October 12, October 29 is the last day for taxpayers to object, and November 8 is the last day to submit the budget onto Gateway. The Council sets the budget for the following year.

Larry passed out copies of paperwork discussing reorganization.

Claims were signed.

**Adjournment:**

With no other business to be presented Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

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Sara Fairfield  
Council President

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Koren Gray  
Clerk/Treasurer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_