

TOWN OF THORNTOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
September 19, 2022  
7:00 PM

The September 19, 2022, 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 Noonung, Town Attorney	Jerry Seymour, Bldg. Inspt.
Bruce Burtner - Council	Dax Norton – MS Consultants	George Gideon – Utility Board
Dave Williams - Absent	Gary Moody – Utility Supt.	Max Allen – Utility Board
Shawn McClintock – Council	Frank Clark – Marshal	Mike Martin – Fire Chief
Larry Truitt - Council	Derek Babcock – Chief Deputy	Lisa Vitaniemi – Park Board
Koren Gray – Clerk/Treasurer	Don Gray - APC	Judge Don Vaughn
Todd Colvin – Health Ins. Agent	2 reps – IMPA	4 citizens

**Presentations/Guests:**

Todd Colvin, United Health insurance rep, advised our health renewal will come up November 1, 2022. He was happy to share that the health premiums are going up 8.7% rather than 12% as is the trend. He has worked up quotes for offering an HSA to employees. These plans do have a high deductible. Tri-Motion is a wellness plan that offers funds being added to you HAS in return for wellness participation. Sara made a motion to allow the addition of offering a HAS program. Larry made a second. Motion passed 4-0.

Dylan Frederickson reflected he is aware we have several medical runs. He discussed working with Chief Mike Martin and Witham Hospital to have an ambulance in Thorntown. Chief Martin and Sara Fairfield will research this matter.

Derek Babcock advised there is a plan for helicopter rides during the Festival of the Turning of the Leaves. The helicopter will be using private land for this event.

Sara Fairfield advised that Don Gray, as a representative of the APC, would like to attend the AIM Summit. Due to a misunderstanding the Clerk/Treasurer paid AIM for this registration. Sara made a motion to allow this expenditure. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 4-0.

**Public Comments/Concerns:**

Nothing addressed

**Consent Agenda:**

Bruce had a couple of questions regarding expenditures that were answered by the Clerk/Treasurer. Sara made a motion to accept the claims. Bruce made a second. Motion passed 4-0. Approval of the minutes of September 7, was tabled until next meeting.

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

**Advisory Plan Commission:**

Don Gray advised a Planned Unit Development plan has been received from Planner Oksana Polhuy and Arbor Homes representative, Julie Smith.

**Police:**

A police report was submitted to the Council via email prior to the meeting.

The Marshal announced the Festival Committee wants to close Market St. between 9:00-11:00 am Friday to allow food vendors to set up. There was no objection from Council.

The Police Department is asking for employment phones.

Marshal Clark would like to add some new reserves.

Sara asked if the alley east of Salon on 47 could be blocked for the Festival. The Police Department will take care of blocking the alley to drive through traffic.

**Fire:**

Chief Mike Martin announced our ISO rating is 5.

A run report was provided to Council.

Mike is getting quotes to repair the Fire Department parking lot. Township and Town will pay 50/50. He has one quote of approximately \$17,000.00. Sara made a motion to allow the expenditure to repair the parking lot. Larry made a second. Motion passed 4-0.

**Utilities:**

Utility Board President, Max Allen, discussed the IMPA contract which contracts IMPA to maintain items of the town electric system, engineering staff as needed, day to day operations of the utility. Stan Messenger and Joe Schmidt from IMPA were present for any questions. The Thorntown Utility will continue to disconnect, reconnect, and handle the meter reading. In case of a power outage there is a service center that is staffed 24/7. A 5-year contract is \$120,750.00 with an additional materials fee of \$24,000 annually. Larry made a motion to accept the contract pending legal review by the Town Attorney. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 4-0.

Max brought up Mr. Hopwood being interested in purchasing the land that is platted as Spruce Street off of Grant St. in the Westwood addition. The courthouse told him it was owned by the utilities. The Town Attorney says Mr. Hopwood would need to have the land surveyed if he wants to purchase.

**Storm Water Board:**

Nothing to report

**Park Board:**

Lisa advised the Park Board has applied for a grant for picnic tables.

The park had a good park season.

Trail work has been ongoing, mulch has been installed at the playground.

The large shelter house roof needs replaced and the restroom building with storage on the end needs repair. Three quotes were submitted: Beiler's Construction at \$8,840.00, DW Remodeling at \$12,100.00, and Whitestone Construction at \$29,665.25. Bids can be reviewed at the Clerk/Treasurer's office.

Lisa advised that Marilyn Sheets had done a great job taking care of the restrooms and the park this summer.

Larry made a motion to allow up to \$9,000.00 for repairs that need to be completed immediately. Sara made a second. Motion passed 4-0.

Sara suggested that the Park Board and the Council have a Special meeting to discuss Park needs.

#### **Clerk/Treasurer's Report:**

The Clerk/Treasurer reported that OCRA required a follow up regarding the Business grant our businesses received last year. Out of 29 recipients only 7 did not respond.

The Clerk/Treasurer will be participating in a DLGF webinar regarding Gateway on September 21.

Justin Wright, a volunteer fireman, made a report to the Clerk/Treasurer that he busted a tire as he was traveling on West St. enroute to a fire call. The Clerk/Treasurer did submit a claim to the liability insurance since total damage was not known. In the meantime, Mr. Wright delivered a bill for the tire repair of \$394.06 and no further damage. Shawn made a motion for the Town to reimburse Mr. Wright for the billing of \$394.06. Larry made a second. Motion passed 4-0.

#### **Public Hearing:**

Council President Sara Fairfield opened the Public Hearing regarding the 2023 Budget at 8:28 pm. Council President inquired if there were any comments/questions from the public regarding the budget. With no comments/questions arising, Larry made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Shawn made a second with a 4-0 passage. Council President closed the Public Hearing at 8:28 pm. Budget figures can be found on Gateway or at the Clerk/Treasurer's office.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Ordinance 2022-15 was presented for the first reading. Ordinance 2022-15 is an ordinance Amending Ordinance Establishing the Compensation to be Paid to Officials and Employees of the Town of Thorntown, IN for Calendar Year 2022. This ordinance allows a range for the hourly wage of the Utility Superintendent, Utility Worker, and the Utility Billing Clerk. By allowing a range the salary ordinance does not have to be re-written each time a change needs to be made. The Utility Superintendent range will be \$30.00-\$50.00 per hour based on a 40-hour work week. The Utility Worker 1 and 2 range will be \$20.00-46.00 per hour based on a 40-hour work week. The Utility Billing Clerk range will be \$20.00-\$36.00 per hour based on a 40-hour work week. Ordinance 2022-15 will be presented October 3, for its second reading.

There were no comments at this time regarding the review of the Employee Handbook.

Two bids for snow removal were presented. Bids were provided by Merrill Construction, and Jerry Seymour. The bids included cost per hour for loaders/backhoes, skid steers/bobcats, dump truck/dump trailer, truck with blade, salt spreader. Bids were submitted for each line item. Bids may be reviewed at the Clerk/Treasurer's office. Bruce made a motion to accept the snow removal bid from Jerry Seymour. Shawn McClintock made a second. Motion passed 4-0.

#### **New Business:**

Sara brought up additional compensation to Council since 6 meetings have been added. This will be discussed at a later date with the 2023 Salary Ordinance.

A Wastewater Master Plan will need to be in place to be able to apply for any future SRF loans. We still have infiltration into the ponds. Gary advises we need to run cameras in our tile to see what is actually happening. Gary previously presented a quote in excess of \$212,000.00. The Council asked him to get at least one more quote. The Council also asked Consultant Dax Norton if an engineer from MS Consultants could come and talk to the Council about concerns we may have.

The Town Hall restrooms need attention and if they are not usable should not be used for the Festival. Marshal Clark was called out during the meeting but was planning to check with Jeremy Young about looking at the restrooms.

**Other Business:**

**Adjournment:**

With no other business to be presented, Bruce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 4-0.

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Sara Fairfield  
Council President

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Koren Gray  
Clerk/Treasurer

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