

TOWN OF THORNTOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
August 7, 2023  
7:00 PM

The August 7, 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	Dax Norton, Consultant
Dave Williams, Council	Frank Clark, Marshal
Bruce Burtner, Council	Mark Sullivan, Midwestern Eng.
Shawn McClintock, Council	25 citizens
Larry Truitt, Council	
Koren Gray, Clerk/Treasurer	

**Presentations/Guests:**

Mark Sullivan, engineer from Midwestern Engineering, was present to share findings regarding the new lagoon for the wastewater. It has been determined there is a possible leak but they have not found the precise area at this time. Additional water standing in another area has been collected and sent for analysis to determine if it actually is coming from the new lagoon. Mark Sullivan, the contractor, Monte Striegel, and Utility Superintendent, Gary Moody will continue to partnership in determining the issue.

Council Member, Larry Truitt, presented an update on the town/township reorganization topic. The Council meeting had several citizens from both townships and the town attending. Larry announced there were 52 citizens at the August 1, meeting held at the Sugar Creek Art Center. Larry advised that if Sugar Creek Township Trustee and the Township Trustee Board decline to participate in the reorganization, then the citizens of the township could obtain a petition signed by approximately 50 residents in favor of the reorganization and it would be presented in court. This petition could ultimately allow the question of reorganization to be put on the voting ballot and presented to all voting residents. Council Member, Sara Fairfield, asked what value does this reorganization have for all citizens. Larry responded that currently the township government has no authority over zoning. It is all handled by the County. More people would be allowed to run for Town Council and other Boards. The Town Council would enlarge. A committee of Town representatives, Sugar Creek Township representatives, and Washington representatives would need to form to meet and study the pros and cons of a reorganization to all involved. The Town of Avon has a great section on their website depicting the Reorganization Process ([avonindiana.com](http://avonindiana.com)). There was quite a bit of conversation among meeting attendees. Dax read Resolution 2023-11. Shawn McClintock made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-11, Committee to Study Potential Reorganization of the Local Government of Northwest Boone County. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Steve Imel, owner of Thorntown Auto Repair, addressed the Council regarding a tree that GIS shows is on unvacated property. Said tree had a portion fall on his property and fence in a recent storm. He asked the Council if they would consider removing the remainder of the tree so it cannot cause further

damage. The Clerk/Treasurer had 2 quotes available, one for \$2000 (Coy's Tree Trimming), and one for \$2500 (Rob's Quality Construction). Shawn made a motion to accept the quote from Rob's Quality Construction Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Bruder addressed the Council concerning an alley way in poor condition. Council President, Sara Fairfield, said she would speak to Gary Moody about the issue.

**Public Comments/Concerns:**

**Consent Agenda:**

None

**Public Hearing:**

None

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

**Advisory Plan Commission:**

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

**Fire:**

**Utilities:**

**Park Board:**

**Storm Water Board:**

**Sanitary Sewer:**

**Clerk/Treasurer:**

Nothing to report

**Consultant Report:**

Nothing at this time.

**Unfinished Business:**

Sara nominated Drew Guenther to the APC. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0. The Clerk/Treasurer will swear in Drew in the office this week.

Update on the status of proposals for Park Impact Fee Plan, General Obligation Bond, Road Impact Fee Plan, and Utility Capacity Impact Fee plan was tabled to August 21.

Update on Arbor Homes project was tabled until August 21.

**New Business:**

The scheduled Town Council meeting for September 4, will be moved to September 11, 2023.

The proposed budget for 2024 was presented to the Council by the Clerk/Treasurer. The CT and Dax worked on the budget and Dax created a spreadsheet showing the cost to run each department. The CT advised the police fuel line had been increased due to the cost of fuel, in the wage line funds have been earmarked for additional clerical help in the Clerk/Treasurer’s office in the future, and a few other line items had been amended as well. The CT advised a salary increase of 5% was figured for the police department and the Clerk/Treasurer. In the case of the Clerk/Treasurer this increase was calculated as the Council added 6 additional meetings to the year which the CT must also attend, prepare documents prior to the meeting and follow-up and file documents after the meeting. The CT advised the Council gave themselves a 33.3% increase when these extra meetings were added to the schedule and gave no consideration to the duties of the Clerk/Treasurer. The Public Hearing for the 2024 Budget is scheduled for September 18.

The Clerk/Treasurer reminded the Council that the plan for ARPA spending needed to be completed by December 31, 2024. The CT gave a listing of several items that have been discussed over the past several months that could benefit from these funds.

The Clerk/Treasurer announced that confirmation has been received from Smith Trash Service for a Town Clean-up day, for Saturday, September 9, beginning at 8:00 am.

**Strategic Thoughts:**

Discussions regarding the wastewater and the reorganization were the Strategic discussions for the evening.

**Other Business:**

**Adjournment:**

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

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Sara Fairfield  
Council President

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Koren Gray  
Clerk/Treasurer

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