

TOWN OF THORNTOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 20, 2023
7:00 PM

The November 20, 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	Amy Nooning, Attorney
Shawn McClintock, Council	Gary Moody, Utility Supt.
Larry Truitt, Council	Don Gray, APC
Koren Gray, Clerk/Treasurer	Mark Sullivan, Midwestern Engineering
Drew Guenther, Bldg. Inspector	Christine Sterle and Barb Lebo – TPL
	1 citizen

Presentations/Guests:

Mark Sullivan, Midwestern Engineering, gave a recap of the issues with the new lagoon. Mark obtained quotes from two contractors with Striegel Construction and Design coming in at \$110,000.00. He also obtained quotes for liners from three vendors with IEC Industrial and Environmental concepts coming in at \$210,160.00. The liner material will be delivered November 22, with construction to begin November 24. Pending legal review, Dave made a motion to to accept the bid from Striegle. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0. Larry made a motion to accept the bid from IEC. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0. IEC was asking for a deposit of 35% the day of delivery. We will work this out as the Town does not have a policy for pre-payments of materials.

Dax spoke on behalf of Braden Nicholson, owner of 111-113 East Main St. Braden has the structure secured and requesting the barricades be removed from the front of the building. Sara made a motion to allow the removal of the barricades. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Christine Sterle and Barb Lebo made a presentation regarding the Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024. They were looking for a site to hold several patrons, They believed the Fire Department site would be a good location. The Thorntown Park Board will be working with the library on plans for the event. If you would like to offer assistance, please contact Dave Haxton with the Park Board.

Public Comments/Concerns:

None

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

Advisory Plan Commission:

Don Gray, President of the APC, advised the Council the need of approval of MS Consultant's proposal for zoning/code updates and permitting.

Sara Fairfield advised that Mr. Gene Doctor was interested in being a member of the APC. Sara made a motion to appoint Mr. Doctor as a Council nominee to the ACP. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Police: (Report previously submitted to Council)
Nothing to report

Fire:
No representative present

Utilities:
Gary reported they are still collecting leaves and has appreciated the help from Drew Guenther. He also reported that he has received the camera project report.

Building Inspector:
Nothing to report

Park Board:
No representative present

Storm Water Board:
Nothing to report

Sanitary Sewer:
Nothing to report

Clerk/Treasurer:
Koren was proud to announce we have been injury free for 14 months!
Koren asked for funds for registrations for meetings to start the new year. She requested \$109 for NEO Training December 9, \$109 for the Clerk/Treasurer's School, and \$309 for Boot Camp in January 2024 (plus lodging in January) The registration fees will be split between General, Sewer, Electric, Water, Storm Water. Sara made a motion to allow the registrations. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Consultant Report:

Dax reported he has worked with the Park Board on the upcoming "A Holiday Walk in the Park", December 3.

Dax also reported he assisted in applying for the READI Grant. This is a 3-way grant ... \$100,000 from the state, \$100,000 from the Town, and \$100,000 from a businessowner. This specific project will be the Order of the Oddfellows apartment building on Main St.

Dax advised the truck for the Building Inspector will be ready for pick up Monday, November 27.

Consent Agenda:

Items on the Consent Agenda were: APV Register, Payroll Dockets, and minutes from November 6. Sara made a motion to approve all documents. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Unfinished Business:

Ordinance 2023-14, and Ordinance Establishing a Capital Asset Policy, was presented for the first read. Dave made a motion to suspend the rules for a second read. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0. Shawn made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-14. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2023-15, Salary Ordinance, was also presented. Koren noted that some language needs to be added regarding the funds paying the Building Inspector/Street/Maintenance employee. The auditors are looking for language for clothing policy which can be added to the ordinance, and stipend in lieu of health insurance. Koren will work with the Town Attorney to sort out these items. The salary ordinance will be presented again December 6. The salary ordinance must be adopted by December 31, 2023.

A professional proposal from MS Consultants for updating zoning and development of a UDO was discussed. The cost of this service is \$40,000 which will be paid from the town ARPA Fund. Sara made a motion to accept the proposal. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Proposals have not yet been received from Krohn & Assoc. or BF & S. These will be tabled.

No members were suggested for the RDC to date.

New Business:

The SBOA has required a typewritten policy/ordinance showing the calculation of utility late fees. This will be Ordinance 2023-16. This will be tabled as the paperwork is still under preparation.

Adoption of the Employee Handbook for 2024 has been tabled until December 6.

A contract for continuing the municipal operations consultation from MS Consulting was presented. It is \$10,000 less than the 2023 contract, coming in at \$30,000. The Council is asked to look through the proposal and we will revisit December 6.

Consideration for an expenditure for a Side by Side UTV is being tabled.

Other Business:

Bruce asked about the park funds and if they had plans for the remainder of their appropriation. Koren responded that, yes, they were having some painting done on the restrooms.

Shawn asked when the sponsors of the Veteran’s Banners would be receiving their banners. The banners are under the direction of the DAR.

Shawn also noted some citizens are not happy that we do not have a policy on burned homes.

Adjournment:

With no other business to be presented, Sara made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5--0.

Sara Fairfield
Council President

Koren Gray
Clerk/Treasurer

Date: _____