TOWN OF THORNTOWN

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

April 15, 2024

7:00 PM

The April 15, 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 Amy Nooning, Town Attorney

Dave Williams, Council Frank Clark, Marshal

Bruce Burtner, Council Derek Babcock, Dep. Marshal

Shawn McClintock, Council Gary Moody, Utility Supt.

Larry Truitt, Council Max Allen, USB

Koren Gray, Clerk/Treasurer Drew Guenther, Bldg. Inspector

Peter DeMass – RDC

6 citizens

Guest Speakers: Aaron Strayer – Metronet

Jeff Roeder – Sondhi Solutions

Steve Clark – Sondhi Solutions

**Presentations/Guests:**

Aaron Strayerfrom Metronet was present to discuss the increase in internet to 1g. This will service the Town Hall, Police Department and Utility Department. Our current service is equal to a household of 4. The cost will raise to $249.95 per month, up from $99.95 per month. Larry made a motion to allow the upgrade to 1g. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 4-1, with Dave Williams voting nay.

Jeff Roeder and Steve Clark from Sondhi Solutions were present to discuss technology.   
They are well versed in municipality technology needs. A technician can be present in our buildings as needed. They would be valuable in reviewing our current connections to make sure all is running smoothly. It was decided to have an executive session with Sondhi May 6, at 6:00 pm. This will be a closed session to the public.

**Public Comments/Concerns:**

Ms. Mona has concerns of bicycles, electric vehicles running on the sidewalks.

Thomas Synterra, property owner at 117 S. Vine St., discussed storm water standing in the front of the house. It was noted that the previous owners had parked cars on the sidewalk thus causing it to recess. Sara recommended Thomas to discuss with Gary Moody a way to direct water from the driveway toward the drain.

Becky Harder again complained of the disorderly property of one of her neighbors. Marshal Clark noted that he can only follow the town ordinances.

A gentleman from 617 W. Bow St. advised his neighbor is flowing water from a sump pump into his yard. The Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer will check into the situation.

Shawn spoke on behalf of a resident inquiring the status of a burned-out home.

Shawn also spoke on behalf of Melanie Gall regarding the rezoning of the property in which she lives.

**Department/Board and Commissions Reports:**

(NO REPORTS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH MEETING)

**Advisory Plan Commission:**

Nothing to report

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

Nothing to report

**Fire:**

Derek Babcock, as a representative of the Thorntown/Sugar Creek Fire Dept., discussed adding blue reflectors to the water hydrants. This is a safety measure to help the fire department see the hydrants easier. The reflectors are $10-$12 each. We have 72 hydrants; each hydrant needs 2 reflectors. Shawn made a motion to allow the purchase of the reflectors not to exceed $2000. This will be funded from the Public Safety LIT savings portion. Bruce made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

**Utilities**:

Max Allen, USB, announced they have hired an additional employee. He will start in approximately 2 weeks. Earl Parsons will be promoted to the Utility Supervisor upon the retirement of Gary Moody.

Gary presented quotes for the concrete work for the 2 leaning light poles in the downtown block. IMPA will replace the poles. Shawn made a motion to allow the quote of $2800 submitted by Rob Tyree. Dave made a second. Motion passed 3-2. Sara noted that the Tyree quote did not include a description of the work to be completed. Sara made a motion to resend the previous motion. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0. Sara made a motion to accept the bid from Master Built Construction at $3200, and it includes description of work to be completed. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

**Building Inspector**:

Nothing to report

**Park Board:**

Park Board Chair, Leslie Doctor, submitted a written report to the Town Council. Jeff Lowhorn will be repairing and restaining the gazebo in the near future.

The tennis court is in dire need of repair. Leslie has received quotes for repair at $17,000 and replacement at $120,000.

Leslie has been working with Lynn Chambers, Sugar Creek 4-H Club, regarding the flower pots in the downtown block. The Park Board received the “go ahead” from the 4-H Club to replace the flower pots. The projected date to fill the flower pots is May 15. The Park Board would like to transfer the current flower pots to the prior Community Garden site if possible. Leslie is asking if the utility guys and Drew could help move those. Gary said, yes, they will see what they can do. If the pots don’t move well, they can be taken back to the pond area.

Larry made a motion to allow repair of the tennis court not to exceed $20,000. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0. The funds will come from the ARPA Fund.

**Storm Water Board**:

Nothing to report

**Sanitary Sewer:**

Nothing to report

**Clerk/Treasurer:**

The Clerk/Treasurer announced that since she will be taking over the agenda, she needs agenda items submitted the Monday prior to the meeting. The agenda will be posted on Wednesday prior to the meeting. The CT will try her best to stay on schedule. If something comes up and needs to be added to the agenda, an amended agenda will be presented the evening of the council meeting.

The Clerk/Treasurer has received paperwork from AE Boyce/Keystone in regard to signing for software renewals. At this time, we sign a separate document for each license we have. This new procedure asks us to sign for auto-renewal and we will not need to sign each year.

**Customary Items for Approval:**

Minutes February 19, 2024 -Sara made a motion to approve the minutes with the following corrections: under Other Business, Task Order #7 – paragraph should be removed as this did not happen at the meeting; also, the correction that Dax Norton was asked to obtain quotes for the wastewater master plan. The motion received a second from Shawn. Motion passed 5-0.

Minutes March 18, 2024 -Sara made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction: Mike Martin was not in attendance; Shawn McClintock shared Boone County EMS information on behalf of Mike Martin. The motion received a second from Bruce.

Sara made a motion to approve the minutes from April 1, 2024. Larry made a second. Motion passed 3-0. Sara and Bruce abstained as they were absent from the meeting.

Payroll Dockets and APV Register/Claims were signed by Council.

**Unfinished Business:**

The Employee Handbook final was presented to Council. Attorney, Amy Nooning, entered the final adjustment regarding direct deposit. Current employees may opt to still receive a paper check. All new employees will be required to file for direct deposit. Sara made a motion to accept the Employee Handbook as written. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0. The CT will get those handbooks printed with Minute Print It.

Lagoon fencing specs – tabled

RDC appointments – tabled

Council Policies and Procedures Manual – tabled

Sanitary Hot List – tabled

Discuss Task Order #7 – tabled

Town Clean-up Day – tabled

Metronet contact for internet – See presentations

Amended Agreement for Sub-Recipient – READI MAKEOVER 180 -Correction – construction date is December 31, 2025, not 2026. Shawn made a motion to sign the agreement. Bruce made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

**New Business**:

Resolution 2024-3 Two-Year-Old Checks to Be Void was presented by the Clerk/Treasurer. Dave made a motion to allow the checks to be void. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Hydrant Reflectors – See Fire

**Other Business**:

Shawn reported that Dillon Frederickson has acquired a grant for the Thorntown/Sugar Creek Fire Dept. This grant is in the amount of $300,000.

Gary Moody announced that IMPA will be doing some work and on May 1, beginning at midnight, ending at approximately 4:00 am. The power will be shut off during this time.

**Adjournment:**

With no other business to be presented, Shawn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10. Larry made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

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Sara Fairfield Koren Gray

Council President Clerk/Treasurer

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