

Town of Thorntown
Town Council Meeting
January 21, 2019

The Thorntown Town Council met on January 21, 2019, 7:00pm at the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Koren Gray, followed by the pledge of Allegiance.

Present were council members Koren Gray, Mark Garing, David Williams, Bruce Burtner, and Mikada Davis- Clerk-Treasurer. Also present were Utility Superintendent Gary Moody, Attorney Amy Nooning, Boone County Council member Kevin Van Horn, Thorntown Marshall Frank Clark and Deputy Marshall Robert Hine, and Angie Moody Community Development and Parks.

Seventeen members from the community were present.

Mark Garing made a motion to approve December 17th, December 29th, and January 3rd meeting minutes. Bruce Burtner 2nd the motion. Motion was passed 4:0.

First cause of action was to appoint the vacant council seat. Koren Gray nominated Eric Smith; she spoke highly of his experiences with utility work and construction, his knowledge for the town's website and town matters that could be a great asset to the board. Mark Garing stated that we had a passed election and at that time no one placed their name on the ballot, now we have a seat to fill and there is interest, that being said the town needs new and fresh ideas Mark stands firm on his nomination for Carol Keith. David Williams gave appreciation to all four candidates and encouraged those that will not be selected to keep interest and continue coming to the Council meetings, the more ideas we have benefit the Town more, and in two years we have an election and encourages each one to campaign at that time, David nominated Eric Smith. Bruce Burtner thanked all the candidates and encouraged them to continue to come to the meetings, then stated that we have two valuable candidates and he has not yet made his mind up.

Koren Gray made a motion to nominate Eric Smith to fill the vacant council seat. David Williams second the motion. Mark Garing and Bruce Burtner opposed, Clerk-Treasurer Mikada Davis opposed the nomination for Eric Smith. Motioned failed 3:2. Mark Garing made a motion to nominate Carol Keith to fill the vacant council seat. Bruce Burtner second the motion. Koren Gray and David Williams opposed, Clerk Treasurer agreed to the nomination for Carol Keith. Motion passed 3:2.

The Town Council congratulated Carol Keith and Town Attorney Amy Nooning swore her into the Office.

Boone County EDC Contract Economic Development- Molly Whitehead and Rachel Huser

Molly Whitehead spoke on behalf of the EDC Organization. EDC is a public private nonprofit organization under contract here in Boone County. They have multiple private investors; construction companies, utilities, attorneys, and industrial partners. EDC mission is to increase assessed value of the property in Boone County and reduce that burden on residential tax payers by drawing in small and big businesses. The town then will be able to provide the basic need for the community and over time this will help with the town's wants. The EDC is partnering with Thorntown to help make the community wants and needs a reality.

Kevin VanHorn spoke high and praised Molly Whitehead and other members of the EDC Organization, of their accomplishments. That we are to take comfort with EDC, they listen to what you would like to see for Thorntown and what you do not want for this community.

Mark makes a motion to accept the contract with the EDC Organization. Motion was second by David. Motion passed 5:0.

Reports

Utility/Street

Gary reported Stal Cop is fine, renewal of the Solar Bee contract, option three which saves the utilities five hundred dollars. He has received the draft for the waste water permit, it states utilities has to start testing for metals twice a year no longer quarterly, not sure of the reason behind this, also suggested to get an engineer in to look into this to see if we are damaging our sewer pond. Gary is concerned that the testing has increased. Gary Ladd was suggested for the engineer, Mark ask that we get a proposal from Gary Ladd. David asked if the metals have increased from the past years, Gary was not sure of that answer. There is no pretreatment being done at this time. Gary is getting quotes from Midwestern and Gary Ladd.

Park & Development

Angie wanted to confirm on her budget for park cost is \$10,000. Koren responded yes that is what the 2019 budget states. Park department had money left over from 2018 and a few jobs that did not get done last year and would like to use the roll over money for stump removal by Keyes Excavating \$975, roofing on the restrooms and the lean to building for the vending machines quoted Dunwoody at \$2100.

Mark made a motion to ratify the approval of the 2018 left over park money. Carol second the motion. 5:0 motion passed.

Angie talks about the restoration and modifications going to take place at the park; basketball court, roofing, water fountain, tire swing, and drive path to the shelter house. Angie informs the board of the training in February she will be attending and the expenses that will be covered by the Park Board. They are planning to do movie nights in the summer again. Trail Board meeting to discuss getting the trail to stretch from Colfax to Zionsville. Community Crossing Grant has been received and now signed by Council President Koren Gray and Clerk Treasurer Mikada Davis to return for submission. Gary Ladd has submitted the advertising in the Lebanon Reporter for Project Manuel. All the bids will be into the council by February 4th and the Council will have to make a decision by February 18th. Received an email from INDOT we have to get our Asset Management Plan updated or we cannot apply for 2019 Community Crossings money, up to \$1000.00 not to exceed.

David makes a motion to accept Ladd Engineering contract. Bruce second the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Angie talks about getting a quote from Ladd Engineering Asset Management Plan for sidewalks and alleyways. Mark suggests that we hire someone else or come up with a plan to do the sidewalks ourselves, we would only be looking at the sidewalks that need the attention first. Koren suggest coming up with a strategic plan for the sidewalks, to go ahead and incorporate a professional to give us input, and asked Angie to go ahead and get a few prices.

Angie has been in contact with Midwest Engineering about the Planning Grant. Midwest Engineering is finishing the final adjustments to the plan that they received from OCRA. Midwest would like to meet with the Utility Board and Town Council to go over financing. Angie Moody spoke with the grant writer Mike and thought was to combine the water cost and sewer cost to get the points towards the grant.

Angie request to attend the Rural Water 2 day event, it's very educational especially since she is still new on the job.

Mark makes motion to send Angie to Alliance of Indiana Rural water training. David second the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Dollar General has called Angie asking about Business Permits, which we do not have. Amy Nooning spoke up and said that Thorntown does not require one.

Angie brings up maintenance for the Town Hall furnace replacement, water heater, women's outside restroom door stuck shut, the 2 drains that are still backing up, glass door closure for her office is broken. Mark agrees with the maintenance on the building and to get a couple quotes.

Mark brings up sewer project, a few meetings ago Angie said she was going to have an engineer come up and explain the difference between pond mechanical systems and pricing and when that will happen, Angie says she will schedule that for our next meeting. Mark is not 100% convinced that purchasing land and building a new pond is the best for the town.

Mark makes a motion to approve local roads and bridges plan agreement. Bruce second the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Planning Commission

Amy Nooning stated it was time to assign term periods for the planning commission Shawn McClintock, Melanie Gall, Eric Smith, and Don Gray.

Mark makes a motion that Shawn McClintock and Melanie Gall hold a four year term, and Eric Smith and Don Gray hold a three year term. David second the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Amy mentions there is a vacant seat on the Planning Commission and that seat need to be filled by an elected or appointed official, or an employee of the Town. Angie nominated herself to fill the vacant seat.

Mark makes a motion to appoint Angie Moody to fill the vacant seat of a four year term on the Planning Commission. Bruce second the motion. Motion passed 5:0

Storm Water Board

Amy explains to form this board you have to have three members in order to solidify the storm water fee, we have to establish who that board would be. The Storm Water Board will have to hold a public hearing on what the fee will be and when it will start. Koren ask George Gideon if the utilities would take on the responsibility and he responds they will take it under advisement. David recommends that there are plenty of people from the community at this meeting that could form a board, it would be better to have more people out of the town that are thinking of the town, instead of giving the Utility Board more responsibility. Tyler Davis, Bruce Burtner, and Ben Strong came forward to create the Storm Water Board.

Koren makes a motion to form the Storm Water Board with Ben Strong, Bruce Burtner, and Tyler Davis. Mark second the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Koren ask will the Storm Water Fee be applied to both in town and out of town, or just in town. George Gideon answers that just the in Town Businesses and Residents. Thorntown sewer does not have jurisdiction out of town limits.

Police Department

Town Marshall Frank Clark informs the concerned citizens of the past Friday incident, a car speeding through Town at eighty-five to ninety mph and he admitted he did have to increase his speed to catch up to the car, the man crashed just out of Town by himself, the man was intoxicated and combative. Frank apologizes to those that may have thought he was going too fast through Town.

Frank has been making visits once a week to the Town businesses to touch base and see how things are going asking if there are any complaints. He would like to have one on one meetings with the concerned citizens once a week at the library for those that would feel more comfortable than bringing it to the Council.

Koren ask that Frank email the police report instead of printing each member of Council a copy to save on paper.

Fire Department

Nothing to report.

Old Business

Kevin Smith Building

Tabled until February

Sewer

Already Discussed

New Business

Amend the 2018 Salary Ordinance

It was Tabled for February's meeting.

Website

Mark provided a quote from Immense Impact for updating our town website. The quote for the annual fee \$479.00. Mark states the purpose for the website is to post the town minutes, ordinances, and events the website keeps the community updated. Robbie Acton redesigned the website and had the experience to keep the page updated, he joined the Army leaving the site in our hands, however it is in code and we need an expert to be able to run the town site. We want more people to gain access to update their own departments with ease. Immense Impact is simple and easy to learn. They will take our previous website and transfer it to theirs so we will not have two sites we will just have one. Angie agrees with Mark, when she sat through the seminar it is not complex. Koren states that she notices the company is stationed out of Arlington, Texas, and wants to know if there is someone local from the company. Mark says that Immense Impact has their website full of tutorials and hostings, and believes this would be easier; he does not want to make a decision on this contract and get more feedback first.

Marshall Contract

Frank has received his copy and is reviewing the contract. Koren instructs the rest of the Council to review their copy of the contract and see if everything is good without any discrepancies. We will revisit this on the February 4th meeting. If Frank finds anything he disagrees with we will have to hold an executive meeting to discuss the changes to be made.

Ben Roeger Invoice (CPA)

Koren informs the rest of the council that Ben is the Town's CPA and has not billed for an entire year and now the time has come for them to bill us. Mikada states that she spoke with Sandy Gates on how to split the invoice and Sandy said this is the Town's bill. Koren ask how the bill was paid before and Mikada tells her that it had not been paid before but would look again. Mark lets the Town know that the amount of the bill is \$15,378 and yes we do have to pay this amount it's a part of the past mess we are cleaning up and we do want reimburse somehow. Bruce ask about the previous amount on the invoice and comments that even before his time on the council he does not remember the use of the CPA. Mark states that the Town hired Ben to help get John Gillan acclimated to the Clerk Treasurer position, the Council in the past approved four visits and was not approved more than that. Angie speaks up and says that Donnie told her she could just call and ask him questions, to get help on the Grants. Koren says that she had to have his help on the last quarter of the year.

Internal Controls

Koren address that because the council does not touch money but deals with money we have to view this Internal Control video and sign off that we watched the video, when signed hand to Mikada for her to save in her binder.

Request to Speak Forms

Koren lets the Town know that she would like to implement the Request to Speak Forms by February the 4th. If you have a concern and want to address the board you will have to pick the form up at least by the Friday before the meeting and turned into Mikada to enter it into the agenda for the meeting. Koren ask if we would be able to place a draft of the minutes on the website. Mark said that when he received the minutes before, yes he would put them on the website.

Mark makes comment to Koren about the speak forms that he does not agree because if someone does not know about these forms and does have a concern or something happens over the weekend and they cannot talk because they didn't turn in a form to get on the agenda, it's like we are trying to stifle public comment and that could be a bad message to send. Koren states that many Towns do have these forms, it gives us the time to research their concern and see if we can solve it verses just coming in and dumping it on us at a meeting and we are like ok.

Mikada ask Kevin VanHorn what the Boone County Council does for public concerns. Kevin says that they and Lebanon allow public comment. The Boone County Council does not have a time limit. Lebanon has a three minute per person limit. He really likes the way the County does it and agrees with Mark's thought about the forms, it is open to the public and if something does come up where there is an issue that just happened and it's brought up at the meeting, you let that citizen know that we will look into the situation and get back with them on that.

Public Comments

Eric Smith congratulates Carol Keith on filling the vacant seat. Sara Fairfield comments that she would love to see the website grow and be a priority, there are so many awesome things that happen in our community and there are people that are not on Facebook. She would love to see that brought forth so everyone can see the awesome things the Council is doing. Kevin VanHorn admires the turn out from our community turn out for our Town meeting tonight.

Mikada's Bond

Koren shows the Council the confirmation that Mikada does have her Clerk Treasurer Bond.

Claims

The community leaves while the board continues on to sign claims.

Mark and Koren discuss the bill paying ordinance for the Clerk Treasurer and decide that Mikada will go ahead and pay any bill that is due before the meeting but will hold the checks for those that are due after or do not have a due date.

David asks who the Storm Water Board belongs to, utilities or the town. Koren informs him the town is in charge of the Sewer and the Sewer bills.

Mikada confirms with Koren that the town has never paid Ben or the company he works for C.L. Coonrod & Company.

Mark questions the new emergency generator for the Fire Department, was there a meeting or did we ever give approval, just the fact that it's a \$17000 generator you would think to run it by the Town, but Mark does know it was much needed and a wonderful thing in case of emergency to help the community during an extreme power outage. Koren believes the Council does not have to give approval.

Right of Way for Monitoring Wells

Angie gets the Council's attention one last time to bring up the right away for monitoring wells, she came up with the permit, she has the \$25 check and the \$1000 bond she just needs the Council to approve.

Mark makes a motion to approve the Right of Way for Monitor Well drilling. Koren second the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Adjourn the Meeting

Carol makes a motion to adjourn the Town Council meeting. Mark second the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Meeting Adjourned.

Koren Gray, President

Attest: Mikada Davis, Clerk-Treasurer

