

TOWN OF THORNTOWN

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

October 15, 2018

The Thorntown Town Council met on October 15, October 15, 2018, at the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Don Johnson.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were council members Don Johnson, Mark Garing, Bruce Burtner, and Koren Gray-Interim Clerk-Treasurer. Also present were Utility Superintendent, Gary Moody, and Planning Director, Frank Small. John Shives and town attorney Amy Nooning were absent.

The minutes of the October 1st meeting were motioned for approval by Mark Gary and seconded by Bruce Burtner. The motion was passed 3-0.

Reports:

Utilities/Street: Gary Moody – all went well with the Duke power outage October 9. Generators were available in case of need; not one came to use one. Trac Vac will be loaning the vacuum equipment for the leaf pick up. The town will provide the vehicle to pull and we pay for the gas. Leaf pick up will be in November. No end date selected yet.

Park/Development: Angie Moody was absent but did send the council an email. Just a reminder the Community Crossing grant will be awarded in November. There was some discussion regarding the expenses for the Park Movie Nights.

Planning: Brian Freese presented a picture of where he would like to park his RV on his property. This unit will not be used as a permanent resident. The council sees no problems as long as it is licensed/registered.

Police: Interim Marshall, Frank Clark, submitted the monthly police report. Donnie Johnson will be talking with Amy Nooning about the possibility of promoting Frank to permanent Marshall. The necessity of applications will be discussed at the November meeting. The Marshall Contract will also need to be updated. Frank would like to see Robbie and Derek be considered to be on the same pay scale.

Fire Department: no representative in attendance.

Old Business:

Smith building: No work has been done on the building. It is up to Judge Vaughn to assess fines.

Building Regulation Ordinance: We believe we have enough to pursue our Planning Commission. Acknowledgment of those members will be tabled until November when our town attorney will be here.

Old Business continued:

Cook House: The council has received a Quik Claim Deed from David Cook. Mr. Cook is the owner of the house and it is his responsibility to have any paperwork signed.

Health Insurance: George Gideon and the Health Rep will meet with the utility employees to set up plans for the renewal information.

Sewer information update: no new information at this time.

New Business:

Budget Adoption: Mark Garing made a motion that the council adopt the budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Bruce Burtner. Motion passed.

New Ordinance – Travel Policy needed to be in compliance with the Indiana State Board of Accounts. Amy is working on this. This will table until November.

Bonding for Mrs. Gray as Interim Treasurer: Working on this with the insurance agent.

Kevin Hill: NFP – Liability insurance. This will renew January 1. If we have any changes or questions, Kevin is available.

Bringing the books up to date: The town will need to hire someone to come in and bring the book up to date. Susie Bass charged \$125.00/hour when she came once before. Koren has found Retha Hicks who would charge \$45.00/hour, mileage and \$100 toward hotel if she needs to have overnight lodging. She is from Winona Lake. Mark would like for the town to find someone who lives closer. It was also noted that our CPA, Ben Roeger, has not been invoicing the town for his services.

Mark also asked what town records can and cannot be removed from the office.

The decision was made not to fill Koren's vacant council seat. It would be December before a replacement could be sworn in. It is not mandatory to fill this vacancy.

Concerns:

Question from the public if the council knew what was happening with the IGA building. The council does not.

Concerns from the public regarding a house on Franklin. They believe someone is living in a pole barn. After much discussion, it will be checked.

George Gideon advised that we are supposed to have a Storm Water Board. This should be taken under consideration.

The Town is having a Halloween Event spearheaded by the Police Department. Koren will be passing out treats at the Town Hall. The council voted 3-0 to purchase the treats. They were purchased today at the amount of approximately \$80.

While signing claims the vacant property on Bow Street came up in conversation. It seems it would be more economical to have our park mower to mow the Bow St. property. The Marshall has always contacted the person to do the mowing. We should check into this in the spring. Also, what is happening with the structure itself?

The Town also needs to come up with a checks and balances system. Mark would like to see itemized expenses. Koren advised that once the books are cleaned up we will be able to produce such reports.

Donnie mentioned a conversation he has had, and in some other town, they have two signatures on the checks which is a checks and balances plan.

Mark asked if Mr. Gillan's Bond would pay for the hiring of the person to come in and update the books. Kevin Hill was still present and doesn't believe the bond would cover for lack of work done.

We also had discussion regarding bonding for the council. Kevin will follow up on our behalf. His company will also begin carrying our bond coverage effective January 1, 2019.

Claims were signed.

A motion was made by Mark at 8:29 to adjourn. Bruce seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Don Johnson, President

Attest: Koren Gray, Interim Clerk-
Treasurer