

TOWN OF THORNTOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2016

The Thorntown Town Council met on February 15, 2016, at the Thorntown Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice President Mike Hight.

Present were Town Council Members Larry Acton, Mark Garing, Koren Gray, and Mike Hight. Don Johnson was absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer John Gillan, Planning Director Frank Small, Attorney Dennis Williams, Utility Superintendent/ Street Department Gary Moody, Utility Board George Gideon, Marshal Russ Voiles, Deputy Marshal Frank Clark, Fire Chief Mike Martin, and insurance agent Kevin Hill.

Seven citizens of the Town were also present.

Minutes were approved by consensus.

REPORTS

Planning Board: Frank Small reported that two building permits have been issued. Asked that "Welcome to Thorntown" stickers be considered to signs at town entrances. Also asked that a PA system be considered for the council chambers. Also stated that some alleys in town are in bad shape. Gary Moody replied that they are taken care of upon a complaint. Mark moved that Josh Huddleston be appointed to the Planning Board. This motion was seconded by Koren and passed 4-0.

Park Board: Two people have shown interest in serving on the board. Mark moved to appoint Angie Moody and Margo Black to the Park Board. The motion was seconded by Koren and was passed 4-0.

Utility Board: Gary informed the Board that smoke testing of sanitary sewers will begin in the next two weeks. This is to determine where ground water is infiltrating the sewers. A notice will be put in the Lebanon Reporter. Gary Ladd has begun the engineering work for the lift station.

Fire Department: Mike reported that the Fire Department had 15 runs in January.

Clerk-Treasurer: 100R report has been filed with SBOA. 1782 has been received and no cuts were made to the budget for 2016. Working on Annual Report.

Larry moved to accept the Stalcorp report. Seconded by Mark. Passed 4-0

Police: Russ requested the Town replace the 2009 Charger this year and the 2010 Charger in 2017. They have 114,000 and 116,000 miles and need numerous repairs. The Board requested Russ to get quotes from dealers and recommendations from the Sheriff's Department as they have various brands of cars. Russ also asked to bring on another part time officer. The money is in the budget and he has been looking for someone. Council asked that it be someone who has already been to academy. The Marshall's contract needs to be reviewed.

EDC: Larry discussed the differences of what the town would receive between the \$250 level and the \$1,000 level of participation. Mike was of the opinion that the \$1,000 level would help the town more. Koren thought we should start with \$1,000 and see what happens. Mark stated that the town is land locked for expansion and will the EDC be a benefit to draw in new business. Also asked if business owners will use the resources provided by EDC. Mike stated that the Town was at the \$1,000 level when we belonged before. Angie Moody will be making a presentation about OCRA and grants at the next meeting. Decision on this is tabled until next meeting.

AUDIT: No reply from SBOA.

TOWN CREDIT CARD: Looking at getting a credit card for the town. This would be used for small purchases, internet purchases, lessening having to make reimbursements, and to provide a better paper trail. An agreement form has been prepared. Limits will be set and the Clerk-Treasurer will be the only one authorized to use the card. Koren moved that the Town procure a credit card. Seconded by Larry. Motion passed 4-0.

JANITOR: Angie Moody has agreed to clean the Town Hall offices.

ELM STREET HOUSE: Dennis has been investigating the liens. Various banks are involved and some are no longer in business. Will continue to try and sort this out. Could use nuisance ordinance and cite her, but would it benefit the town. Could the town clean up and charge her? Could costs be recovered?

COMPLAINT FORMS: Copies of the complaint forms have been found and they are available at the Clerk's Office.

LIABILITY INSURANCE: Kevin Hill gave a presentation about our liability insurance. Our renewal is May 28. He doesn't look for much change in premiums and would recommend that since this policy covered more and cost less than others considered, that nothing be changed.

ACCOUNTIN SOFTWARE: The current software was developed in 1999 and no longer is being improved. Only tax updates are being added. Also the new fund software will be able to communicate with the billing software at the Utilities and provide real time reports. The current yearly maintenance will transfer to the new product. The cost is \$4,000. Koren moved to purchase this new software system. Larry seconded the motion. Passed 4-0.

ORDINANCE CODEFICATION: Information was passed out on American Legal. They visited the office and looked at what we currently have and will be sending us a proposal. Tabled until next meeting.

EARLY PAYMENT ORDINANCE: Ordinance 2016-1 was presented for first reading. This ordinance allows the Clerk-Treasurer to pay certain types of claims prior Council allowance. This is allowed by Indiana Code 36-5-4-12. Payments are allowed for certain fees, insurance premiums, utility payments, payroll axes, and emergency circumstances. Second reading will be next month.

TRACEY'S BOND: Dennis Williams asked for permission to talk to Jeremy Fetty (Utilities attorney) about perusing the bond for recovery of utility money. Larry moved that this be allowed. Koren seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Mark asked about getting a town web site. The high Scholl was mentioned but several people said they hadn't had a good experience with that. Deric Babcock volunteered to look into.

Larry was concerned about the nascence ordinance and the 24 hour abetment not being realistic in some instances. Mike stated that it would depend on what the nascence is and that common sense should be used.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

George Gideon asked about the signage at N Pearl and the one-way section of road being faded. Street Department will look into. Also the bridge on 47 at Prairie Creek is blocked. The surveyor has been notified.

Review of claims.

Mike moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mark. Passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

ATTEST:

JOHN GILLAN, CLERK-TREASURER

MIKE HIGHT, VICE PRESIDENT