

TOWN OF THORNTOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
APRIL 18, 2016

The Thorntown Town Council met on April 18, 2016, at the Thorntown Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Don Johnson

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Town Council Members, Mark Garing, Koren Gray, Don Johnson, Larry Acton, and Mike Hight. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer John Gillan, Utility Superintendent/ Street Department Gary Moody, Utility Board George Gideon, Marshal Russ Voiles, Deputy Marshal Frank Clark, Engineer Gary Ladd, Planning Board President Frank Small, and Park Board President Angie Moody. Town Attorney Dennis Williams was absent.

Fourteen (14) citizens of the Town were also present.

Don thanked the Museum for hosting the Thorntown Birthday Party.

Mike moved to accept the March Minutes. His motion was seconded by Koren and passed 5-0.

## REPORTS

**Park Board:** The tennis court fence has been repaired. A successful Park clean-up was held on April 16. Park Board is still working on a survey to be used to prepare a 5-year plan for the park. The Farm Heritage Trail has been re-named the Big 4 Trail. Question was asked if the cameras at the Park work. Russ said they did.

**Utility Board:** Results from the smoke testing show that there are several laterals (lines from house to sewer) that are defective. Notes have been left and the utility will check back in 30 days to see if they have been repaired. There are two cross connections allowing water into sanitary sewers. This allows surface water into sanitary sewers. Need to have cameras to investigate this situation. The Utility Board recommended installing radio read electric and water meters. Advantages are more accurate readings, time savings, do not have to access

meter pits, no estimating because of ice and snow, and 90 days of stored information to pinpoint leaks. The cost of this project is \$15,000 for the reader, \$51,000 electric meters, \$100,000 share for sewage and \$62,000 share for water for water meters. These funds would come from cash reserves of the electric, water, and sewage utilities. Sewage would have to cash one CD from their reserve funds. The utilities are currently in the third year of a ten year project to replace all meters in town and this project would further enhance that project. No rate increases would be needed for this project.

Koren asked if the money from the CD would have to be replaced. Answer: Any money the utilities have over costs go into their cash reserve fund.

Larry moved that the Sewage Utility be allowed to use a \$100,000 CD to fund the radio read meters. Motion seconded by Mike. Passed 5-0.

Mike moved the the utility hire a company to use TV cameras to investigate the sewer situation at an approximate cost of \$200. Mark seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Street Department: Street signs are in. Bids are being solicited for repaving of Bow Street.

Stalcorp report: Gary reported that this report was acceptable.

Police: Russ reported that He had not received a response from Estes on a bid for a new police vehicle. The quote from Lewis Ford was \$28,500. With equipment it would be \$30,000. Questioned if we should wait for 2017 vehicles to become available. Matt Hankins has resigned as part-time officer.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE CODEFICATION: Questions from American Legal were answered. Mark moved with a second from Mike, that American Legal be hired to re-codify the Thorntown Ordinance Manual. Motion passed 5-0..

EDC: Tabled

WEB SITE: Still don't have access to change any of the content. Would like to know what information the town council members and the police officers would like published on the web site. Robbie Acton and Kay stump have volunteered to help.

SPRING CLEANUP: Community service to help. Utility will provide backhoe and operator. Lebanon has a day for hazardous materials.

MOWING BIDS: Seven mowing bids were received. Mike moved to accept the bid from the Park Board to mow the Park. Motion was seconded by Koren and passed 5-0. Mike moved with a second by Koren to accept the bid of CLC Lawncare to mow the fire station. Motion passed 5-0. Bids for mowing the Trails were tabled due to confusion about what was to be mowed.

LIFT STATION: Plans and specifications are done. Permit application has been submitted. There will be a 5% bid bond but no performance bond (it would add 2-3% to the project cost). Gary Ladd will be doing the bid documents and advertising. Bids to be opened on May 16.

OCCRA: Angie asked what our possibilities are and who do we want to be as a town. Two of the pluses for the town are that we have many assets and we have a comprehensive plan. Questions: can we find volunteers, can we get main street grants, who would we use for a grant writer, are there any USDA programs for a grocery store, and do we want to keep the town alive. Also brought up the idea of having a main street, downtown, revitalization director. Angie was asked to provide more information.

ELM STREET: Chain of title and encumbrance still being worked on.

PARKING ON MILL STREET: Striping has been done and it is working. Question was brought up about up about liability from errant baseball. Consensus was that this is covered by owner's comprehensive insurance as has always been the case for sporting events.

WORK SESSIONS: Koren reported that she had been informed that the Council could have work sessions if the public was invited.

## NEW BUSINESS

HEALTH INSURANCE: Don appointed a committee consisting of Koren and Mark to study the proposal presented by IACT.

DATA BREECH INSURANCE: Consensus that it is not needed at this time.

5K RUN: Hachette Publishing presented information on a 5k run occurring on May 7. They will have waivers and provide insurance.

MARSHA FORD: Marsha's car was struck by a trash can during a wind storm and she was asking the town for compensation. There is some confusion about this since the trash cans are the property of the Lions Club. Don will talk to our attorney and the Lions Club will also be notified.

COUNCIL CONCERNS: Concerns expressed about speeding in town. Also concern about should there be time frames on new no parking signs on Mill Street.

Review of claims.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48: PM.

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ATTEST:

JOHN GILLAN, CLERK-TREASURER

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Don Johnson, PRESIDENT