

TOWN OF THORNTOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 3, 2022
7:00 PM

The October 3, 2022, 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	Max Allen – Utility Board
Bruce Burtner - Council	Dax Norton – MS Consultants	George Gideon – Utility Board
Dave Williams - Council	Frank Clark – Marshal	Mike McKenzie – Utility Board
Shawn McClintock – Council	Derek Babcock – Chief Deputy	Judge Don Vaughn
Larry Truitt - Council	Jerry Seymour, Bild. Inspct.	Sandy Gates – Court Clerk
Koren Gray – Clerk/Treasurer		9 citizens
		Anthony Hull – Police Reserve and wife and son

Presentations/Guests:

Officer Anthony Hull took the Oath of Office of Police Reserve for the Thorntown Police Department. Clerk/Treasurer, Koren Gray, presided over the ceremony. Officer Hull’s wife and son were present for the ceremony. Welcome aboard, Officer Hull!

Public Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Eric Hopwood approached the Council regarding purchasing a small parcel of land that is owned by the Town. This parcel was originally platted as a street into the Salem’s Landing addition off Grant Street. The matter is being taken under consideration.

A citizen from the community requested to speak regarding the proposed closure of the Thorntown Town Court. This citizen also asked what Professional Services include on the budget. As a municipality there are certain professional services that are required such as a Town Attorney. Clerk/Treasurer Gray added that a CPA is part of professional services as the State Board of Accounts requires all financial paperwork processed by the Clerk/Treasurer have a second signature. The CPA has authority to enter the Town records posted onto Gateway and the CPA reviews such information.

Judge Don Vaughn stated closing the court will lose revenue for the Town. He requests the reading of the ordinance to be read after the hearing.

Abbie Lee, owner of a business and building in the downtown area, asked if the alley on the south side of Main St. next to her building be closed to trucks. The wall has been hit previously causing structure damage. The Town currently has the alley closed to all traffic until the wall is repaired.

Consent Agenda:

Shawn made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, and September 19. meetings. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Department/Board and Commissions Reports:
(NO REPORTS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH MEETING)

Utilities:

Park Board:

Advisory Plan Commission:

Storm Water Board:

Police:

Fire:

Clerk/Treasurer's Report:

The Clerk/Treasurer requested registration fee of \$125.00 to register for the ILMCT Fall Virtual conference. A portion of this conference is a called meeting by the State Board of Accounts. Shawn made a motion to allow the registration fee. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

The Clerk/Treasurer advised that line 1101001393 Other Services, has expended the planned appropriation. The Town needed to pay in excess of \$10,000 to contracted Building Inspectors since the Town does not have a regular Building Inspector. The CT cautioned the Council to be cautious in this area for the remainder of 2022. We will be able to move funds from unused lines if needed.

Unfinished Business:

Sara read the required title for Ordinance 2022-15 Amending the Compensation of Town Employees. This was the second reading. Bruce made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-15 which provides a wage range for utility laborers, utility superintendent, and billing clerk. Motion passed 5-0.

The Employee Handbook committee had nothing to report.

The Wastewater Master Plan was tabled.

Sara read, for the second reading, Ordinance 2022-16 Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2023. General Fund - \$733,61; Local Income Tax - \$118,000; Local Road and Street - \$70,000; Motor Vehicle Highway \$111,530; Cumulative Capital Development - \$15,000. Bruce made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-16. Shawn made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business:

Sara Read Ordinance 2022-17 Ordinance to Abolish the Thorntown Town Court effective December 31, 2022. This was the first reading. There will be a Public Hearing November 7, 2022, 7:00 pm, at the Thorntown Town Hall.

The Clerk/Treasurer requested to review the PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Tax) from the utilities. The current rates have been in place in excess of 31 years. This would require hiring a consultant to do the proper calculations. The purpose of this review is to bring more funding into the General Fund of the Town. Shawn made a motion to obtain Steve Brock, Therber, Brock and Assoc. to handle this process with the cost not to exceed \$2,500.00. Bruce made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Other Business:

At this time the Council ensued in strategic discussion. Dax Norton, MS Consultants, discussed the list of items mentioned over the past months for the future of the town. We have completed a couple of projects from the list. We need to have another strategic workshop. It was decided the workshop will be Saturday, October 22, 9:00 am, at the Thorntown Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public. Larry asked where we are with the Arbor housing development. Dax advised the Town has received the PUD (Planning Unit Development) and the Petition for Voluntary Annexation. This is a lengthy process. The next step will be holding a Public Hearing. Steve Brock will be working on the Fiscal Plan for Annexation. There are many moving parts for this particular project.

Adjournment:

With no other business to be presented, Shawn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. Dave made a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Sara Fairfield
Council President

Koren Gray
Clerk/Treasurer

Date: _____