

Village of Thurston
Council Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Mary Boring. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Robert Ortman – present
JoAnn Hite – present
Rita Leiendecker - present
Jimmy Barber, Jr. – absent
Garry Boring – present
Lowell Hite – present
Mary Boring – present
Aaron Reedy – present

Mary asked if any visitors wished to speak. Christina Hedges was present to discuss her past-due utility bill from 2075 Main St. She said after several months of making improvements to the property, they are ready to turn the water back on. But they were told they owe about \$1,200 in back utility payments. She was not aware that they would still be charged if the service was off. They are asking Council if there is anything that can be done – like a allow them to make payments. They would like to get the water turned on so they can move in. Aaron said they had been sending out bills to PO Box 88 for that account up until August of 2011, with bills from March – August of 2011 being returned mail from the post office. Christina said she does know why, she's had that PO box the entire time. Mary decided to refer the issue to the service committee for discussion.

Rita made a motion to approve the August 2012 meeting minutes. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Robert made a motion to approve the August 2012 financial statement with corrections. Garry second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Rita made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule and declare an emergency for Resolution 2012-13, A Resolution authorizing the mayor to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) state capital improvement and/or local transportation improvement programs and execute contracts as required and the declaration of an emergency. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-13, A Resolution authorizing the mayor to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) state capital improvement and/or local transportation improvement programs and execute contracts as required and the declaration of an emergency. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule and declare an emergency for Resolution 2012-14, A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor and the declaration of an emergency. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Rita made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-14, A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor and the declaration of an emergency. Garry seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule and declare an emergency for Ordinance 2012-15, An Ordinance to Create Accounting Codes, to Amend the 2012 Appropriations Ordinance and the declaration of an emergency. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-15, An Ordinance to Create Accounting Codes, to Amend the 2012 Appropriations Ordinance and the declaration of an emergency. Rita second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Robert made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule and declare an emergency for Ordinance 2012-17, An Ordinance to Amend the 2012 Appropriations Ordinance and the declaration of an emergency. Garry second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-17, An Ordinance to Amend the 2012 Appropriations Ordinance and the declaration of an emergency. Rita second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

First Reading of Ordinance 2012-16 – An Ordinance rescinding Ordinance 2012-10 and establishing updated Guidelines and Procedures for the Billing and Collection of Water and Sewer Fees.

Business from Fire Chief – Chief Jim Hite was present, and submitted the report. Jim said the Village is still owed \$19,910.58 from the Walnut Twp Trustees for EMS Transport revenues.

Business from the Safety Committee – No business to present.

Business from the Service Committee – Garry made a motion to send a nuisance letter to the property owners of 2043 Wilson Ave and 2409 Wilson Ave regarding junk and trash laying all over the property. It needs to be cleaned up. Rita second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Gary made a motion to set aside \$1,500 from the General Fund to serve hot dogs, chips & bottled water at the park celebration/dedication which will be held soon. The solicitor has already verified this is okay. Rita seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. A date is yet to be determined for the celebration.

Mary announced that Trick-or-Treat night for Thurston will be on Thursday, October 25th from 6 – 7:30 pm.

Mary said we need to move forward on accepting some bids for the new water plant project. Our engineers, GGC, have gathered some bids for services needing done.

Robert made a motion to accept the bid from Singer Company for property appraisals for \$6,000 on the potential water plant/well properties. Garry seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to accept the bid from Lookwood, Lanier, Mathias & Noland, Inc. for \$7,000 for the surveying of the potential water plant/well properties, contingent on purchasing those properties. Rita seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to accept the bid from Terracon for \$3,950 for the geotechnical investigations at the potential water plant site. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Business from the Finance Committee – Didn't meet.

Business from the Rules Committee – Didn't meet.

Business from the Regional Planning Representative – Robert said there was nothing to concerned the Village.

Old Business – Lowell said that Klamfoth fixed the tile on their property today, and our water main line is now covered.

Aaron brought up the issues of the previous nuisance letters. Mary said she will check the properties. Robert said he would check on the Prather property.

New Business –

Aaron brought up the issue of utility account # 284. A certified letter was mailed to her on August 16, 2012 stating that they needed to repair access to the shut-off valve on that property. It was somehow “graded/moved” to be underneath the sidewalk from the front porch. The owner never picked up the letter, even after being given three notices from the post office. We were informed that the owner picked up the rest of her mail. This office also tried calling the property owner, but phone calls were never returned. The owner had previously told the clerk that her phone doesn’t always work, and that she doesn’t always get her mail. The clerk told her she was making it awfully difficult to reach her.

She recently made a payment to her account, but is still short \$78.26 to be current for August. The secretary mailed her a letter earlier today regarding this, stating that it must be paid by 10am 9/17/12, or the service will be up for shut off (which is not possible until the work as stated above, is done). At this point, it’s pretty obvious that she is avoiding contact with this office.

Garry made a motion that if the work to the shut-off valve is not done by Monday, 9/17/12, then the Village will have someone do the work and assess the property taxes of the owner. If, at that time, her account is not current, we are to shut off the service. Rita seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Council discussed the possible necessity of putting out bids to purchase land for the new water plant/wells.

Council discussed the possibility of charging a higher NSF (returned check) fee for payments made by electronic check online. The service committee will discuss.

Mary said the Neighborhood Revitalization projects are completed. She thanked Garry Boring and Lowell Hite for working with the contractors. She thanked Top Cat concrete for donating the concrete and helping install the playground benches. She thanked Jim Barber for the use of his frontloader for the concrete.

JoAnn made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Rita seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Respectfully prepared by,

Aaron Reedy