

Village of Thurston
Council Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2017

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 Jimmy Barber JR – absent
 Garry Boring – present Lowell Hite – present Heather Baker - present
 Mary Boring, Mayor – present Aaron Reedy, Clerk – present

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

Garry made a motion to approve the October 2017 meeting minutes. Heather seconded the motion. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Robert made a motion to approve the October 2017 financial statement. Garry second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

First Reading – Ordinance 2017-13 – An Ordinance to Increase the Salaries of Council Members. This will increase the pay from \$60 to \$80 per meeting.

Garry made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule and declare an emergency for Ordinance 2017-14 – An Ordinance to Amend the 2017 Appropriations Ordinance and the Declaration Of An Emergency. Robert seconded the motion. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Robert made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-14 – An Ordinance to Amend the 2017 Appropriations Ordinance and the Declaration Of An Emergency. Garry seconded the motion. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Business from Fire Chief - Chief Jim Hite was present and presented his report. Robert made a motion to approve the 4 PO's as presented and allow the new vendor of SBH Medical. Garry second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to allow the promotion of Jason Smith to Captain. Heather seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to allow the promotion of Evan Martin to Lieutenant. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Mary asked Chief Hite about a PO for training for Austin Thompson that was requested in October, but the training started in August. As previously instructed to Jim, all PO's are to be approved by Council BEFORE any purchase (or class attendance) is done. Jim said he didn't know about it until after the student started attending a different class. Mary reiterated the purchasing rules and the Chief's limit.

Aaron asked Chief Hite about a payment request the Chief turned in for work done on 2 Toughbooks for the Fire Department. He was requesting they be paid under a PO that was created for a different purpose. Aaron said he didn't find any requests for work to be done on Toughbooks in prior chief requests. Chief said he was pretty sure he did, and will look to see when he did it. Aaron will hold on to the payment request and invoice for \$337.00 until it's confirmed.

Jamie Carroll, Asst. Chief, requested that Jim's purchasing authority be raised since there are times when emergency situations arise and things need to be purchased last-minute. Mary said no, if there's anything over \$100 that needs to be approved in an emergency, she is to be called. Council confirmed. Aaron reaffirmed that purchasing limits and other operations/management limits were put on the chief due to issues in the past. Jamie and Theo Schmidt talked about a couple of other purchases they are going to need to make and can't wait until next council meeting. Aaron said that those should be asked for ahead of time – like now. Council discussed.

Garry made a motion to approve a PO for \$500 to a new vendor called Intubrite for intubation equipment. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Robert made a motion to approve a PO for \$500 to Boundtree Medical for EMS Supplies. Heather seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Business from the Safety Committee – No business to present.

Business from the Service Committee – Garry made a motion to approve purchase of new flag/brackets/poles for Main and High streets in the amount of \$512.00. Heather seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry said the grant for the Long Street waterline replacement project is \$15,000 short of the lowest bid for the project. The Village will need to make up the difference, or declined the \$38,000 grant. Garry made a motion to approve \$15,000 to be paid towards the project; \$5,000 from the water fund and \$10,000 from the street fund. Robert seconded. Council discussed. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry discussed the need to raise funds to have police protection/law enforcement in the Village. There are too many issues going on, and the County Sheriff's department will not help. Garry said the Service Committee discussed putting a policy levy on the May ballot. Council discussed. Heather made a motion to get the process started and ask for a 2 mil levy. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

A request had been made to the water department to combine the 3 separate water meters at the apartments at 8095 High St. into 1 master meter for the entire building. Council discussed. Garry made a motion NOT to allow this change. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to approve a PO for a fire door in the municipal building – upstairs east side for \$1,342 to Precision Overhead Door. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Business from the Finance Committee – Didn't meet.

Business from the Regional Planning Representative – Robert said there was nothing that concerns the Village.

Old Business – Council discussed the private drive past the old Prather property on Long St. There are 5 houses that exist on that private drive. That private drive was installed by Owen Keller several years ago when he build those 5 houses. At a certain point, the wanted to donate the road to the Village. At that time, Council declined for several reasons: 1) he wanted to keep a 1-foot strip on the east side of the road that Council felt would be used to charge back to the Village any utility easements in the future; 2) Council was told that the County didn't approve the original work done on that road and when they came back to do final inspection, the road was already poured, so no final inspection could be done; and 3) the storm sewer flow was in question. Therefore, the road was never accepted by the Village.

Over the last several months, a major part of that private drive deteriorated and crumbled away. The resident expected the Village to fix, but wouldn't since it was a private drive. Emergency Services in the area also shared their concern that it would hurt their trucks if they had to go back into that area. The clerk asked the

Village Solicitor about the situation, and was informed that the Village could not spend public tax money on a private drive. Therefore, they have not. It's been apparent that the original private drive was not in good condition due to that portion of the road sinking and deteriorating. Also, there have been complaints from some of those homeowners that the rain water is flooding into their yards and into their basement due to the slope of the road. The road slopes to the west instead of the east, as it should have been built to do. These facts only serve to confirm the fact that it was not in the Village's best interest to accept that private drive when offered. Before that private drive would be accepted into the Village, it would have to be completely fixed to satisfy the requirements of the Village.

New Business – Mary said the Christmas Dinner would be on Saturday, December 9th at 5pm.

Mary discussed the junk (old and broken furniture) in the hallway that had been in the Council Chambers. The Council Chambers has been being restored over the last several months, and it's almost time to put stuff back in. Some of it is junk and shouldn't be put back in. Heather made a motion to dispose of the junk that we don't need from the hallway. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. Aaron asked about some of the old filing cabinets. Lowell said we should try to sell those first.

Heather asked when Santa will be at the Firehouse this year. The firefighters present said they weren't sure yet. Heather would like to see the old tradition of giving kids rides on the firetruck come back. Chief Hite said it would be a liability. Aaron was instructed to check with the insurance company to see if was acceptable liability. Heather made a motion that if it's acceptable to the insurance company, then it's okay by Council to allow kids to ride on the firetrucks when Santa is there. Garry seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Aaron said that James Mako from County Regional Planning would be at the December Council meeting to provide Fair Housing training to Council. It's required for certain grants.

Aaron said that he's been given a list of taxpayers in the village who have not paid their taxes for several years. There are several of them. Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) is doing some deeper analysis on them, and then will come back with the next steps. Aaron said it will probably be filing with the County on each person and taking them to court. The courts will then find in favor of the Village, and the Village can then work with RITA to have delinquent payer's wages garnished. This would include penalties, interest and court costs. It's in the delinquent tax payers' best interest to get things settled before all this happens.

As there was no further business to discuss, JoAnn made a motion to adjourn. Heather seconded the motion. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. Time is 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully prepared by,

Aaron Reedy