

Village of Thurston  
Council Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2019

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  
              Scott Whited – present                         Lowell Hite – present                     Heather Baker - present  
              Mary Boring, Mayor – present                 Aaron Reedy, Fiscal Officer – present

No visitors were present.

Robert made a motion to approve the April 2019 meeting minutes. Scott seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. Scott made a motion to approve the April 2019 financial statement. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Scott made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule and declare an emergency for Ordinance 2019-7 – An Ordinance to Amend the 2019 Appropriations Ordinance and the Declaration of an Emergency. Heather seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Robert made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-7 – An Ordinance to Amend the 2019 Appropriations Ordinance and the Declaration of an Emergency. Scott seconded. 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 PO's as requested in the Chief's reports. Scott seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. Scott made a motion to approve the hiring of Cole Schmucker to the Fire Department. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Chief Hite said they were looking at paving bids for the concrete pads at the fire house. They have a quote from Decker of \$34,855, and one from Leroy's Paving for \$20,000. They will analyze the best solution and come back to Council for approval. They are also looking at quotes for new fire trucks and will be bringing quotes to Council later.

Chief Hite asked council to go into executive session to discuss the demotion of an officer. Robert made a motion to go into executive session at 7:27pm to consider the demotion of a public employee. Heather seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

At 7:45 pm, Scott made a motion to come out of executive session. Heather seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. Jamie asked Council to remove the restrictions on Chief Hite regarding hiring/firing and promotion/demotion of fire department personnel. Council discussed. Scott made a motion to remove the restrictions on Chief Hite regarding hiring/firing and promotion/demotion of fire department personnel. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

**Business from the Safety Committee** – No business to bring forward.

**Business from the Service Committee** – No business to bring forward.

**Business from the Finance Committee** – Didn't meet.

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

**Old Business** – Aaron told Council that Larry Kahle hasn't paid for the water meter replacement on 8110 High St. property yet. He asked if Council what action they wanted him to take. Council discussed. Council agreed the water guidelines need review and updated to include the working that if the meter is broken due to customer neglect, such as freezing pipes, the customer would have to pay for the replacement of the meter before the water would be turned back on.

Scott made a motion to waive the charging of the water meter to Kahle. Robert seconded. Roll Call vote: Scott & Robert; YES, Heather, Lowell & JoAnn: NO. Motion did not pass. It was decided to table until further discussion could be had.

**New Business -** Heather said there were homeless people that lived behind the municipal building. Council later went out and checked and there was no sign except for an old dust broom.

Aaron asked if Council if they wanted to participate in this year's Regional Income Tax Agency subpoena program. They all agreed yes. Aaron asked if Council wanted Sam's Pest Control to spray for mosquitos this year again. The price went up \$5 per spray. They all agreed yes.

Aaron said there is a large utility bill due for the railroad property that Interstate Commodities used to rent. It's currently just above \$1,600. The issue is, the railroad isn't taxed for the property, so there is no use in assessing the property taxes. Aaron is working with the County Auditor for a possible solution. If nothing else, the minimum bill will need to be paid and the next renter will have to pay the bill before water is restored. Lowell instructed Aaron to have the meter pulled.

Aaron said that Walnut Creek Sewer District is looking for Thurston Council's opinion on the Watson property (old Weidner's Corner). They want confirmation that it's understood that the grinder pump/lift station that was installed is approved to be used by other users in the area, not just Watson. Council agreed that is their understanding.

As there was no further business to discuss, JoAnn made a motion to adjourn at 8:29 pm. Scott seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Respectfully prepared by,

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Aaron Reedy