

Village of Thurston  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Mayor Mary Barber. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

Robert Ortman – Present  
Warren Simpson – Present  
Ed Vanek – Present  
Laura Clark – Present  
Vickie Carroll – Present  
Detria Hiles – Present  
Mary Barber – Present  
Aaron Reedy – Absent

Mary swore in Detria Hiles as the newest Council member.

Mary asked if any visitors wished to speak. No one did.

Mike Betts from GGC Engineers was present to give Council an overview of the information he and Mike Carder shared with the Service Committee on June 6<sup>th</sup>. He provided a hand-out with additional information for the village to review for funding on future water feasibility studies or projects.

Ed made a motion to approve the May 2007 meeting minutes. Robert second. All yea.

Motion was made by Ed to approve the May 14, 2007 special meeting minutes. Robert second. All yea.

Mary asked for a motion to waive Council pay for the May 14, 2007 special meeting. No one responded.

Robert made a motion to approve the May 2007 financial statement. Detria had a question about a specific line item that was answered. Laura second. All yea.

Robert made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule for Resolution 2007-10: A resolution authorizing the transfer of funds and the declaration of an emergency. Vickie second. All yea.

Warren made a motion to adopt Resolution 2007-10. Robert second. All yea.

Robert made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule for Ordinance 2007-11: An ordinance amending ordinances 9-24-89, 12-20-90, 2003-5 and 2005-11 by increasing rates charged for water service and the declaration of an emergency. Laura second. There were (4) yeas, with Detria and Vickie opposing.

Robert made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2007-11, but did not receive a second.

**Report from Fire Chief:** Jim Hite was present and submitted his report (see attached). He brought the names of (4) individuals to Council for review to add on to the department: Steve Cossin, Kevin Perry, Terry Amspaugh and Joshua Scheidegger.

Jim will be joining Pauline Ety on July 10<sup>th</sup> for a Budget Meeting.

The Fire Department will be charging residents \$50.00 per load of water to fill pools. Each load is 2,000 gallons and the department will be paying the village \$20.00 per load towards the expense of the water.

The date of the next Firefighter Breakfast fundraiser will be Saturday, June 23, 8:AM – 11:AM.

**Report from the Service Committee:** Robert said they met Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Those present were Laura Clark, Robert Ortman and Michelle Shumaker, along with Mike Betts and Michael Carder of GGC Engineering.

GGC asked if the Village was able to determine how much time is remaining on the FHA/USDA loan and if they have any stipulations that would prohibit the Village from moving forward on the idea of seeking out other water suppliers to accommodate the Village when the current contract is up with Baltimore. They noted that the Village would have the option of re-negotiating with Baltimore, talking with other local municipalities about the possibility of purchasing bulk water or having some tests done to see if it would be feasible to produce our own water.

GGC also touched on some different ways the Village could consider funding a feasibility study or construction, if needed.

Service Committee members looked at and approved the soffit work performed by The Window Man around the Municipal Building. They recommend payment of the final bill, less the amount it will take to replace the light fixture that was broken during the job. An estimate was obtained from Parrott Electric and a letter sent to The Window Man.

Ed made a motion to pay The Window Man, minus the amount of the light repair. Laura second, all yea.

**Report from the Safety Committee:** The meeting was held at the Fire Station on Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Ed Vanek was absent, so member Robert Ortman sat in for him. Also present was member Vickie Carroll, Mayor Mary Barber, Detria Hiles, Michelle Shumaker, Chief Hite, Sonny Dupler, Pauline Ety, Walter Gabriel and (3) staff members of the Fire Department.

The Safety Committee commended the Fire Department for doing a good job and getting the trucks out.

An announcement was made that the department was able to purchase an Easy IO.

Members of the Fire Department followed up on a report that some people received less than satisfactory assistance from their staff. The people they checked back with said that they were happy with the service.

The department discussed an alternate route to get around a train if it is blocking the tracks. When necessary and if possible, they will use the back way behind Royster-Clark.

There was discussion regarding nuisance letters. There are some properties in the Village that are not being mowed by the owners and some neighbors are taking care of it. A letter needs to be sent to the owners advising them to take care of the mowing or possibly receive a bill from the Village if we need to hire someone to do the job.

**Report from the Finance Committee:** Didn't meet. Chief Hite said he would like to meet with Aaron or the Finance Committee soon to find out about moving some money around with in the department budget. The Finance Committee agreed to schedule a meeting for Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Report from the Rules Committee:** Didn't meet.

**Report from the Regional Planning Representative:** Robert said there wasn't anything pertaining to the Village at this time.

**Report from the Village Administrator:** Michelle said the sinkhole on Main Street was repaired by Ricketts Excavating and D & B Paving. It appears to be a result of sand, dirt and gravel settling under the pavement.

Ricketts also excavated a section of the water line on SR 256, just west of SR 37, to install a new full-circle clamp.

David Price has been working on the storm sewer line repair on First Street.

Baltimore has credited Thurston for Mr. Keck's water usage back to when his meter was switched out.

**Old Business:** An update from Bob Clark of Fairfield County EMA states that they are making progress with the repairs to the used tornado sirens.

It was undecided whether or not to move forward with the application for funding of handicap access to the Municipal Building, since it would require the Village to cover the design cost the way it was written. Michelle will get back with James Mako from the Planning Commission.

**New Business:** Jimmy Barber, Jr., was representing his father, Jim Barber, Sr./Barber's Towing, to bring a formal complaint against The Scouler Company for the amount of noise and dust they create at all hours of the day and night. They are requesting that the Village send a letter to the company asking them to please put something down to help control the dust and also be a little more considerate of the neighbors with the noise through the night.

Jimmy Barber, Jr., announced that the Hunter Barber Fundraiser will be moved to the location of Barber's Towing this fall. He asked permission to hang banners to advertise. Motion made by Detria and second by Robert, all yea, to allow banners to be hung. Jimmy also asked to be able to close the section of High Street between Main and First Streets the afternoon and evening of the event. Motion made by Ed and second by Laura, all yea, to close that section of High Street. The residents in that area will be notified.

It is hard to see when pulling off of High Street onto Main, so a letter will be sent to the residents on each corner asking them to please trim their shrubs to allow for a better line of vision.

Detria said if anyone was interested in taking a grant writing course to let her know.

Detria thanked the Fire Department for picking up the extra brackets needed to hang the flags and getting them installed.

Chief Hite said they want to advertise to accept sealed bids for an old tanker truck. They will park it on the lawn at the station with a For Sale sign on it.

It was noted that the Stop sign at Holt Street has been turned around.

The Safety and Service meetings regularly scheduled for July will be cancelled.

Detria made a motion to adjourn at 9:55 PM; Ed second. All yea.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michelle Shumaker, Administrator

